

The Farmer's Advocate

and Home Magazine

"Persevere and Succeed."

Established
1866.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1876.

Vol. XLIV.

LONDON, ONTARIO, SEPTEMBER 16, 1909

No. 886

EDITORIAL

Cultivate the farm home-life. No effort will repay us better.

Longing for distant fields, we miss the treasures in those about us.

Be of good cheer. As a farmer's country, the equal of ours is yet to be found. Believe in it, uphold it, and we are more likely to get our full share of the richness it has in store for us.

The care and development of a foal or other young animal is a race against time. A month lost means a serious setback and a permanent reduction in the size ultimately attainable. Keep it growing—not hog-fat, but loose-skinned and thrifty. It pays.

Pasteurization of whey has the support of scientists and dairy experts, as well as farmers, in both Canada and New Zealand. Dr. W. T. Connell, Queen's University, and Bacteriologist of the Kingston (Ont.) Dairy School, as the result of original investigations at factories, tells us, in an article contributed to "The Farmer's Advocate," that heating in bulk of whey to 155 to 158 degrees destroys over 99 per cent. of the bacteria.

Economy and celerity have displaced in Great Britain the characteristic features of the old-time harvests. The London Times estimates that the harvest outlay now would run from 5s. to not more than 10s. per acre, whereas, in the old days, what with the vast amount of hand-labor, and the querulous and incessant calls for beer, it was a slow and risky process, costing £1 per acre for cutting and stooking alone. This great improvement has been achieved largely by the advent of the self-binder.

The simple principle is overlooked by protectionists, that, if a nation, by tariffs or otherwise, excludes a certain product of a foreign country, thereby encouraging home production of that commodity, the country must finally produce correspondingly less of some other article, which otherwise would have been exported to pay for imports of articles produced abroad. And since the exotic industry encouraged at home must, in the great majority of cases, be less adapted to the resources of the country than the industries which its people would pursue under a state of unobstructed trade, it stands to reason that protection, as a general and permanent policy, must stultify and injure the community that adopts it.

It is a common belief among some of those who live in the semi-arid regions of the West, that, with the advance of the cultivated area, the annual amount of rainfall increases. Relying upon recollection, they contend that the annual precipitation has increased, say, five inches over what prevailed twenty, thirty and forty years ago. Richard H. Sullivan, of the Weather Bureau, Kansas, in a paper published in the Yearbook of the United States Department of Agriculture, asks, "How do they know?" He goes on to say: "They do not know; they rely upon memory." Man has changed, the face of the country has changed, but not the climate. There occur series of years when the rainfall is light, followed by other series in which it is greatly increased, these changes occurring with a measure of regularity. But the records of thirty to forty years show that there has been no permanent change in wind velocity, rainfall, or relative humidity of the atmosphere.

Tree-planting in the West.

When settlers from the wooded East first began to take up land in the West, the greater part of the country was a treeless plain. Coming, as they did, from a land that had once been unbroken forest, and in which clumps of timber are still everywhere to be seen, a land where trees are the most conspicuous feature of the landscape, it is small wonder if they felt keenly the bareness and exposure of the country, and longed for the time when their homestead could be surrounded by a wind-break of living green. Many settlers took with them, or had sent to them afterwards, from the East, bundles of small trees from the forest or nursery, which were planted with some care, but with very little success.

Under the circumstances, it is not surprising that when the Experimental Farm, at Indian Head, Sask., was started, in 1888, experiments in tree-growing were considered more pressing than any others. It was desired that suitable, hardy varieties of trees be found which would grow in any part of that vast country. Under the superintendency of Angus MacKay, wonderful things have been accomplished. The Farm itself has been transformed from a bare prairie into a bower of trees, almost a thicket. Shady avenues, dense wind-breaks, beautiful clumps and fine single specimens of trees are found there in profusion, giving, to the passing settler convincing evidence of the possibilities of tree culture in that region. But much more was intended than merely showing that tree-growing was possible; it was from the first planned that from the Farm nursery settlers would be supplied with trees for planting free. Since 1893, when tree-distribution began, from 75,000 to 100,000 trees have been thus sent out each year.

The success which has been achieved in forestry work at the Indian Head Farm, has not been secured without difficulty. At a special meeting of the Canadian Forestry Association, held at Regina, Sept. 3rd and 4th, Superintendent MacKay gave some of their early experiences. Over 39,000 trees, of 30 different varieties, were planted in 1889 and 1890. A large portion of these were dead in 1900. The winters were too severe for all but eleven of the thirty varieties. Those hardy enough to stand, and still living, were: Scotch Pine, White and Norway Spruce, Cedar, American Elm, White Birch, White Ash, Native Maple, Ash Elm, Poplar, and Birch. Since then, Russian Poplars, American Cottonwood, Willows, Mountain Ash, Larch, Balsam, Poplar and Oaks have been added.

The Native Maple and the Ash have been more largely planted on the Farm than other varieties, and free distribution has been almost wholly of these sorts. This was owing to the fact that in the early years seed from them was easily collected, and that they proved to be very suitable for wind-breaks, and stood transplanting well.

The Dakota Cottonwood, one of the most rapid-growing trees, and easily propagated from cuttings, has so far proved a good avenue or shade tree on the Experimental Farm. Both the Native and the Cut-leaf Birch are hardy, the latter being the most beautiful tree to be found in all Canada. Another beautiful tree is the Mountain Ash, which, though extremely tender in the early years, has now become quite hardy.

In the twenty years of tree-growing on the Experimental Farm, dependence has been placed upon cultivation for success. Water has never been used, even in the driest seasons, except in a few cases. The land has always been prepared the year before planting, and failure to grow

has been unknown when trees were in good condition at the time of planting.

The best time to plant deciduous trees has been found to be the latter end of April or the first two weeks in May, while evergreens succeed better when planted towards the end of May.

The Experimental Farm at Indian Head, which, until last spring, had supplied the whole country west with trees for planting, has discontinued sending them to Alberta, as that Province has now two experimental farms of its own from which trees may be procured.

Economy in Breeding the Best.

How much does it cost to raise a colt up to the age of three years? Neil McKinnon, of Wellington Co., in our issue of August 5th, answers \$70, or, including service fee, \$82. S. B. Armstrong, of the same county, goes higher, and says \$100, agreeing very closely with W. F. Kydd, of Norfolk Co., who puts it at \$98. But these are among the lowest figures given, and from this point they range to \$133, by A. J. Dolsen, Kent Co.; \$140 by J. A. Couture, Que., and upwards, until the estimate of Dr. Standish, of Bruce Co., is reached, which is close to the \$200 mark—\$194, to be exact—one unnamed contributor placing it a little higher still, his figures being \$196. Such are some of the estimates given and published in "The Farmer's Advocate," in response to the question as to cost of colt-raising. Speaking roughly, they run from \$80 to \$200—a wide margin, truly.

How can these different opinions as to cost be accounted for? Partly, no doubt, because different sorts of animals are in mind by different writers, some thinking of heavy drafters, thrifty and well fed right through, others of horses of more moderate weight, not so highly fed. Again, in some of the higher estimates, account is taken of interest on value of mare, interest on service fee, annual depreciation in value of mare, average mortality of mares and colts, and veterinary expenses, which total up, according to one set of figures, to over \$53, while in other estimates of cost none of these items are included. There is a wide divergence of opinion, also, as to the amount of grain food necessary for the growing colt, four pounds per day in winter being mentioned by some, while others would feed twice that amount. It will have been noticed, too, that lower values are placed upon grain, hay, etc., by some than by others. Farmers usually value home products lower than do those who have to pay hard cash for them, and on some things which cost money to buy—straw, for instance—no value has been placed at all.

The estimates given will, on the whole, seem to many of our readers rather high. But as R. P. Stericker, of New Jersey, says, in his letter on the subject, "When a man begins to dot down the cost of keeping a colt each season, figures up the total, and has it staring him in the face, he is likely to experience a sort of jolt that he was not prepared for." There is no wisdom in shutting our eyes to the truth, however; it is well to face the cold facts, and the full discussion of this subject in our columns is in the best interests of horse-raisers.

Much can be done by farmers who are skilled in feeding towards reducing the cost of raising a colt, without lessening his value. Feed counts, but is not everything. By judicious use of the coarser fodders as part of the ration, hay can be saved, and considerable economy in the grain ration recommended by some could be practiced without harm. But no economy which stunts the colt of food necessary for growth and development