

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

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DOMINION.

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of one line exclusively. The latter is, in our opinion, justifiable in but a few extraordinary cases. Whereas, one advantage of the specialty system is that it enables one to economize labor—another way of saying it enables him to employ labor to the best advantage—still following one line exclusively defeats this aim; it makes the work monotonous and irksome, and it results in excessive daily or seasonal rush. If dairying, for instance, is the exclusive line, it becomes a serious problem to get the milking done within reasonable time by the requisite force of farm hands, and the chores become a drudgery which no hired man will endure if he can help it. With exclusive sheep farming, the spring would bring an undue amount of work, resulting, usually, in neglect and loss. So with almost everything else, from poultry to horse raising. Again, it is indisputable that a large quantity of a certain kind of stock on a given area does not do so well, relatively, as a smaller amount, whether because the ground gets saturated with particular forms of bacterial life inimical to that class of stock, or whether from other causes, we will not stop to argue. A similar principle applies in the growing of excessively large areas of certain crops on the one farm. In short, the growing of one crop only, or the keeping of only one kind of stock, is wasteful of time, wasteful of fertility, wasteful of by-products; it entails drudgery, and robs farm life, to no little extent, of two of its prime attractions, variety and interest, besides being extremely precarious, owing to irregularities of prices.

To our mind, the true policy is a sort of medium or combination. Do not follow one line only, but have a specialty—some one thing that your circumstances determine is best for you. Go in for that, and make yourself and your farm noted for that one thing; try to keep abreast of the times in that thing anyway, and produce a superior article at a minimum cost. Then group around this specialty such subordinate lines as will work in with it, and give the by-products, if any;

sustain the fertility of the farm, employ help in what would otherwise be slack times, and help out the farm revenue in seasons that turn out bad for the main line. Every farmer must, of course, size up his own situation for himself, but the principle, we believe, is of wide application, that specialization is the key to system and success.

### Our Western Letter.

The farmers are at present doing their best with the Seed Grain Special train. The attendance has been large, the interest keen, and the farmers go away from the meetings filled with new ideas and good intentions. But what then? That is the question. The great trouble in the West to-day is that too many farmers are suffering from the curse of accumulated acres. They have gone on purchasing land and increasing the area in crop, until they are unable, in the cramped condition of the labor market, to do justice to their work, and the result is that much is neglected, weeds creep in, and the yield per acre is greatly reduced. The future of the West as a great wealth-producing nation rests not so much on increased acreage as in greatly increased attention to improvements in methods of cultivation. The West will really settle down to better business when the fever for acres has somewhat abated.

The inauguration of the two new Provinces will cause some shifting in the work of the Agricultural Department, and it is probable that the Provinces will take over the management of what have heretofore been known as the Government creameries. These have done a good work. They have produced a uniform product which has found a ready market, and in this way have done much to relieve the local market from congestion. With efficient management and carefully-trained men in charge they have also served as centers of education in dairy matters. Canada's farthest West has a splendid future ahead of it in the dairy business.

Calgary is laying wires for the next Dominion Exhibition to be held west of the lakes, and no doubt the great show will come her way, for the other Western towns seem to favor the idea. This will give the people of the outside world a chance to see the Central West.

A noticeable feature during the past few months is the breaking down of the old barriers of prejudice that existed among many of the Western towns. This is as it should be; the country is large enough for all, and the pity is that the same feeling exists, to a certain extent, between the East and the West. Really, the ignorance of the people of the East about Western conditions is colossal. It is no uncommon thing to pick up a paper from the "cent belt"—the cent belt is the East in the language of the Westerner—and find some appalling instance of what we shall term, for dignity's sake, a lack of knowledge. "CANADIANS, KNOW YOUR COUNTRY," is the motto that should be placed in many a home, both East and West, and if we knew it better we should certainly love it better, and the more thoroughly would we do our little share of work for Canada's sake in the coming year.

And what of the coming year? It is already here; we have made a start on it. This year will be the greatest yet. The farmers are improving, the rancher has had a prosperous winter, and in every thriving town throughout the country building operations are going on, despite the winter, and everybody is on the hustle. Perhaps the "Khan" had the right idea when, at the conclusion of a recent poem on 1905, he said:

"Next year we'll all do better still,  
In nineteen hundred and six,  
We'll all go up, not down the hill,  
In nineteen hundred and six,  
We'll give each other a helping hand,  
We'll be a loyal, earnest band,  
We'll boom our beautiful native land  
In nineteen hundred and six."

And let us hope that the "Khan" was right, and that it may be so. R. J. D.

### A Colt's Life Saved.

Dear Sir.—Your knife is as good a friend as your paper, in which I intend to advertise a farm soon. I notice ads. of farms don't last long in your columns. I received knowledge through your paper that saved a young colt's life. I thank you for so promptly remitting premium. All who have seen it say they will get a new subscriber soon. J. T. COSTELLO,  
Wentworth, Ont.

## HORSES.

### Clydesdales in Canada.

From the Scottish Farmer.

A question of considerable importance to breeders of Clydesdales is to be raised at the forthcoming Agricultural Spring Conventions in Canada. It concerns what are called "short" pedigrees in Clydesdale horses imported from this country into the Dominion. Here the standard is three registered crosses; there it is five registered crosses, and the question is being asked, why should the Dominion admit, duty free, animals which, on the face of their pedigrees, are not as well bred as the horses bred in the Dominion and registered in the Canadian Studbook? The question, if we put ourselves into the position of the Canadian breeder of pedigree stock, is perfectly natural, and in view of the number of what he considers short-pedigreed Clydesdales imported, his determination to have this kind of import business stopped need not surprise anyone. In dealing with Shorthorns, Americans, Canadians, and the breeders of Argentina have adopted a drastic formula. They will not accept as pure-bred any animal whose successive crosses do not find their base in Vols. I. to XX., inclusive, of Coates' Herdbook. If a parallel rule be enforced in connection with Clydesdales going to Canada, the home Clydesdale Horse Society will need to strain every effort to meet the situation.

The twenty-eighth volume of the Clydesdale Studbook is in the press, and the minimum standard of admission there is practically the same as for the eighth volume. So far as tightening the limit of eligibility is concerned, the Clydesdale Horse Society has made no advance for twenty years. There is a good deal to be said for the policy of allowing pedigrees to grow naturally, but the response to the invitation to register from the rank and file of breeders has been by no means so hearty as it ought to have been. Had the opportunity afforded for registration been fully taken advantage of, there would to-day have been but few short-pedigreed animals to export to the Dominion. As matters now stand, the probability is that the Canadians will refuse to admit, duty free, animals with pedigrees showing anything less than five crosses. This will operate greatly to the disadvantage of those who have got most benefit from the recent demand for Clydesdale fillies. A large proportion of those exported had only the requisite three crosses, and in some cases, in which much fuller registration could easily have been given, the fact that it was not indispensable was made the excuse for allowing the back crosses to lapse. This is all wrong, and the bad effects of such a policy are about to be seen.

The point now made is not included in the remit to Provost McConnell's Committee, but the question remitted to that committee has a very strong indirect bearing on the whole matter. The outlanders are the most likely to have the short-pedigree animals, and the Canadian agitation is, therefore, a powerful argument in favor of registration being, in some way or other, made compulsory. The difficulty is to discover the "some way or other." The prime mischief still is, after nearly thirty years have gone, that so many breeders in this country do not recognize that registration is really as indispensable for a breed of draft horses as for any other class of stock. If this were thoroughly understood and the belief acted upon, we should have a great influx of new members to the Clydesdale Horse Society, and careful attention paid by all breeders to the registration of foals year after year. The Canadian movement will do good. There is great room for improvement here, and Scotland cannot afford to ignore what its best customer for Clydesdale horses insists on.

### Does Not Favor the Act.

To the Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":  
Referring to the copy of "The Act to Protect Horse-breeders of the Province of Manitoba," recently published in "The Farmer's Advocate," I have, personally, no use whatever for such an act, believing that clauses 3, 4 and 5 would be annoying, troublesome, and, to a certain extent, costly, and that, too, to a very large number of stallion owners, but I would be prepared to lay aside my own views or opinions if the farmers and breeders would be benefited by the passage of any such act. My opinion is that most farmers and breeders fully understand what the diseases mentioned in clause 6 amount to, and can detect most of them as well, and, for instance, would consider it a very great hardship to be debarred from using a stallion having, say, a splint or thick wind. Writing hurriedly, would say there does not appear to me any strong reasons why such an act should be passed in this Province, unless it be that clauses 3 to 13 lead up to 14, 15, 16 and 17, which, while not unreasonable, are scarcely necessary in Ontario, or, at least, such is my experience. WM. SMITH,  
Ontario Co., Ont.