

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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1. **THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE** is published every Thursday. (52 issues per year.) It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
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Now is the Time.

Our subscribers attest the general reliability on all practical subjects, and the clean tone of "The Farmer's Advocate." Particularly do they appreciate the Home Magazine and its Literary Department as being the very best obtainable. The price of the paper for 1907 remains at the low rate of \$1.50 per year—a little over three cents per week—with a handsome Christmas Number to boot. Is "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine" worth this to you? Then, may it not be worth as much to some of your friends. We wish to help you in every way, and we should like you to help us in spreading the gospel of good farming and promoting a better home-life. Show the paper to your neighbors and friends, and call their attention to its special merits. The more you help us, the more we can help you. The more subscribers we have, the more we will be warranted in spending upon improvements. If you are a subscriber now, by sending us two bona-fide new subscribers and \$3 you can get your own subscription extended for one year without further cost; or, for one new subscriber at \$1.50, we will extend your subscription for six months.

The Horse Discussion On.

Now that the Horse Commissioners appointed by the Ontario Government have concluded their inquiry and sent in their reports, the general public is waking up to a realization of its purport. Correspondence on the subject is pouring in briskly, voicing a great variety of opinions about the now widely-discussed idea of a Provincial stallion license and lien act. Always believing in the full and free discussion of such topics, we hold our columns open to all views, favorable or adverse, so long as they are creditably expressed and contribute some one or more points of consequence to the debate. In arriving at conclusions on the subject, personal interests should be subordinated

and a broad view taken, with the single aim of promoting or conserving the ultimate welfare of the horse-breeding industry. There is time yet for further consideration of the pros and cons, and we are certain the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Nelson Monteith, will be disposed to attach due weight to all reasonable argument in framing whatever legislation he may see fit to introduce, based on the facts which the Commission were able to gather.

Our Maritime Letter.

"It strikes me, Father Burke, that this Province, as I see it, being so free from the very bad weeds which are everywhere noticeable in the Upper Provinces, should be the very best place to grow seeds of all sorts. It would make a grand seed nursery." 'Twas J. A. Ruddick, Dairy Commissioner for Canada, who spoke those words as we conferred together here in September, and they are certainly worth pondering over for a moment.

The movement for pure seed, which has spread through the land from Ottawa, whilst it has effected much good and gradually enlarged the circle of votaries, is not nearly widespread enough; nor can we rest satisfied with its extension until it includes every farmer in its ranks. We may labor incessantly to accommodate ourselves to the latest ideas in field culture—the proper system of tillage, the best sort of soil enrichment, the most economic rotation of crops—and if we have not good seed, the very bottom is out of our endeavor. Good seed is at the base of agronomic success; bad seed, even inferior seed, must rivet the chains of agricultural bondage.

We will leave it to statisticians and economists to approximate the gross toll which impure seeds impose. One can easily see that if the committing to the earth of good seed should cause an excess over ordinary return in grain of even a few bushels to the acre, the aggregate must be immense in a year's operating in a large agricultural community. The toll of the weeds, the toll of the insects, the toll of defective seeds, make it difficult for the sluggish farmer to prosper. The immense advantage which the alert, intelligent, industrious, persistent seed-selector possesses over his careless neighbor is so palpable as to awaken even him to the fallacy of his position, and instil into his sluggish heart a desire to emulate his brother. Then, special breeding and careful selection so much improve on the average work, so much advantage the specialists, that, scrutinizing the results, all within the range of observation become easily convinced; and the man convinced of the error of any industrial system, who refuses to correct it and put himself in the way of reaping better returns, is unworthy any profession, much less that of agriculture.

The Canadian Seed-grain Association, in offering generous prizes, in co-operation with the organizations which are formally pledged to advance husbandry, in any division of Canada, is doing an immense good in the land. Its membership is extending in all directions, and we find that its members are all enthusiastic in their work. Not only will they compete in the shows, but originate or select much valuable seed for the betterment of the crops in their settlements. The seed of good promise, planted in such a laudable cause, already produces excellent fruit, and, under present influences, it will be quickly increased a hundred-fold. Those competitions, and the didactic instruction accompanying them, are truly invaluable. If there is a promising note, more so than another, running through present-day organization, it is the perfection to which the good-seed movement reaches out so splendidly.

At Amherst, where we have the distinguished honor of chairmanship the work of the Seed Department, there will be every care given to the proper development of this important interest in the coming fair week. The exhibits, for two years past, whilst encouraging enough, have been largely tentative. This year a new department is created, and, working hand in hand with the sterling headmen of the Seed Division, Ottawa, it is to be expected that an enormous extension will have been effected, and a stimulus given to the good-seed movement which will arouse even the slowest coach in the land. Ontario has, under Zavitz and his experiments, done much for good seed. The Division and the men, whose hearts are fired with the desire to put every farmer in the line of sane seedling, will make our Maritime farmers growers of their own seed ultimately, and developers of something better in seeds than what they have now got to sow. Thus, we will do our duty—our little part in the great plan of extension in all scientific effort going on

about us. It is an entrancing occupation, too, this seed-selection; the man who commences it, and understands, as far as is permitted him, the matter in hand, feels conscious pleasure in his well-doing, and also possesses the knowledge that his time is being expended in profitable endeavor.

There were many entries in the general classes of grains, seeds and roots at Amherst—too few, however, from Prince Edward Island, this Province, of all others, which, as Commissioner Ruddick says, should raise peerless seeds. This defect must be remedied this year; we want to see the Island numerously represented. In the sections for the Canadian Seed-growers' Association alone, the entries were a tithe of what they should be last year. Let us hope to see a great increase this. Everybody will benefit by competition of this sort, for the good-seed movement reaches, in its beneficial results, every single soul in the land.

A. E. BURKE.

HORSES.

Stallion Inspection and Lien Act.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been reading with a good deal of interest the different articles in your paper on this subject. I heartily approve of the stallion inspection act. I think the tendency at least will be to improve the horses of Ontario; but I am opposed to the lien act. It goes without saying that the man who will take advantage of the stallion man will take advantage of any other man. Now, suppose A is the man who will take that advantage. He breeds his mare and gives a lien on her. The stallion man, in most cases, will not be in a great hurry to push him as long as the mare is a good, young, useful animal. The next year he breeds his mare to another horse, gives another lien to another man, and may repeat it a third time, and then sell her to B, and the result is trouble. The same might be said of a lien on a colt. I think it would be better to let the stallion man look out for his customers, the same as any business man.

I think that if the Government would buy a few good Clydesdale stallions, and place them here and there throughout the Province where they are needed, they might wonderfully improve the horse business, without being at any serious loss. I am sure if a good one of a ton weight, with good feet and legs, and carrying his head and neck in a way that made him look as if he were going some place, were placed in our locality, it would be highly appreciated and well patronized at of fee of, say, \$15.00.

Brant Co., Ont.

H. BUCHANAN.

Interference with Private Rights.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

On the proposal to enact a lien and license law in regard to stallions, I would, by your permission, give my views, and the almost unanimous views of the farmers who are and have been breeding horseflesh in this county.

A meeting was held in the Village of Fisherville on Nov. 7th, in the evening, where the Commissioners appointed by the Government gave their views; also a number of owners of stallions who came from a long distance. Owing, however, to the insufficient advertising, only a small number of farmers were present. After some discussion, a vote was taken, which was carried by a small majority, while a number did not vote at all. The vote which carried was in favor of inspection, and the matter of licensing and a lien law was not put for a vote before the meeting. I have, since the meeting, made an honest effort to ascertain the feeling of the farmers on the subject, and have never met one who thinks such an act to be in the best interest of the farmer-breeder. Nearly every one seems to regard such a law as a direct interference in domestic affairs. They claim that, with long experience, aided by Institute lectures, and the aid of agricultural journals, the present generation is well able to take care of itself, and desire no law or supervision that is intended to restrict their liberties in matters which only concern themselves. Those views I heartily endorse. The weeding out of some sires would, no doubt, be welcomed by those whose horses successfully passed inspection; but is that fair? The farmers need a lot of horses for their own use, and they choose such stallions as, in their opinion, will be most likely to produce the class of colts they desire. Whatever may be said of the eventual benefit accruing from breeding from imported stock, liberty of action in such matters should not be denied to those thinking otherwise. "Eternal vigilance is the price of liberty." If a Government supervision of horse-breeding is enacted, why not also of cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, and all the rest? I oppose the proposed legislation because:

1. It is not in the best interest of farmer-breeder.

2. It is not in the best interest of the public.

3. It is not in the best interest of the horse-breeding industry.

4. It is not in the best interest of the horse-breeding industry.