

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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mal, or chafing it in any part. By taking measurements and using good material, this can be accomplished without involving undue weight of the package. The shipper's business card should be tacked on the crate as an advertisement and an evidence that he is not ashamed to let it be known the stock is from his herd or flock, but rather that he takes a pride in the class of stock he sends out.

In a country where the distances are so great as in ours there is vast room for the extension and expansion of mail-order business in live stock, as in other commodities, and if prosecuted in a fair and conscientious manner, on the lines of "the golden rule," business, as a rule, may be successfully transacted in this way, to the mutual satisfaction of seller and buyer.

It goes without saying, however, that in a case where the stock shipped is, by the receiver, in a reasonably short time, and for a good reason, declared unsatisfactory, it is at least good business policy to make the transaction satisfactory, either by having the stock returned or allowing a rebate on the price, for a dissatisfied customer is the worst advertisement a breeder can have, and may do much harm to his reputation, even though there may not be good grounds for the grumbling.

When Silence is Golden.

One of the biggest nuisances in a community is the man who takes it upon himself to set the world right on all subjects, according to his own sovereign opinions. Sometimes he has good ideas, more often he is somewhat of a crank. In any case his views would be more likely to receive consideration if less pendantically asserted. Example alone generally counts more than example and preaching combined. If you have an idea that would benefit your neighbors, it is all right to tell them about it, but after that, the best missionary work will usually be accomplished by letting them quietly perceive its value, and adopt it in their own good time and way. Particularly

against prejudice is argument futile. The best way to treat a narrow-gauged, cross-grained, soured man is to let him be unconsciously influenced by your own tolerant attitude. Concession disarms, opposition stimulates prejudice. The really persuasive person is he who is free to admit his own error, slow to criticize his neighbor, and more anxious to learn than to teach.

There are some truths that may be very effectively left unsaid.

Our Maritime Letter.

The season, as it lengthens, enables us to view much more approximately the results ultimately in store for Maritime agriculture. It was thought by many at the start that the lateness of the spring opening, and the long and continued cold rains attendant upon it, would adversely affect the crops as a whole. On the other hand, some thought they saw an exceptionally promising year looming up before them, with plenty of moisture—a prime factor in this sandy country—and a sufficiency of such warm weather as would mature the growing crops in the opportune moment. Looking over the ground, at the extreme end of July, we believe a middle course in prognostication the right one now to pursue.

Hay is in the coil everywhere as we write (late it is, indeed, for the operation), and so far as we can judge it will be an average crop at least. The new meadows are, in many cases, very heavy, not so heavy as they promised in early spring, but heavy enough in all truth; and the late ones, which were supposed to be exceptionally thin, have, under the influence of heat and moisture, developed a thick bottom. The show of alsike and white clover has been phenomenal. The roadsides and fence places are full of it. "A country that can grow clover like that on its highways naturally," said a professional agriculturist from abroad to us recently, as we sped over the road in our own section, "need never despair of its agriculture." There seems to be little red clover sown now compared to what there used to be, but what there is looked remarkably fine. Some parts of Prince Edward Island have better hay than others. It seems to be light enough in the hilly, middle country, which should never have been stripped of its forest; and in the low sections of heavy land, where the persistent cold rains hardened and the afterspell of heat baked the ground considerably. The marshes are good; an abundant crop of broadleaf will be housed on the great marsh ranges of Nova Scotia and along the river bottoms of New Brunswick. We have not much of it here, but wherever the marshes obtain the crop will be heavy. In Nova Scotia the upland hay is, for the most part, splendid; the Annapolis Valley is gathering in a record-breaking return. New Brunswick, too, in general, will rejoice in a good hay harvest.

In referring to our success with alfalfa last letter, we said that for Nova Scotia Prof. Cumming, of the Agricultural College, could, doubtlessly, give valuable information. He has written us, on reading "The Farmer's Advocate," and given the benefit of his observations, which, although not intended for publication, will, nevertheless, be equally welcome to the public:

"I notice in your last letter to 'The Farmer's Advocate' that you hint at the desirability of our making a report on the possibilities of alfalfa for Nova Scotia. I may say that I hesitate to do this for another year, for the reason that I do not want anything reported from the College which may be of a doubtful nature; and, as yet, we feel that the alfalfa question remains to be proved. Our own seeding killed out pretty badly, but that is not to be wondered at, for even the red clover, on the adjoining plot of land, killed out last year. This year we are experimenting on a larger scale. We have seeded part of our land in the spring, and part will be seeded in the course of a week or so. Some of the land will be treated with lime, and some with wood ashes. In addition, alternate strips have been seeded with inoculated seed, and another with uninoculated seed. We also have a large number of farmers growing some plots this year. Of those who grew it last year, two have reported very favorably. One of these seeded an acre of land to the crop—half with inoculated and half with

uninoculated. His report is extremely favorable, and especially so in regard to the part of the field seeded with inoculated seed."

It will be seen that they have to persevere in Nova Scotia as elsewhere, to get good results with this valuable plant. There will certainly be a much more heavy seeding to alfalfa here next spring. We want to succeed; and, generally, reward crowns persistent effort. Can Col. Campbell, Mr. Peters or Mr. Gilman speak for New Brunswick?

With plenty of hay, then, what are the prospects for grain and roots in the Provinces? The early wheat, all will agree, looks fine. We said before that an experiment was being made this year in planting potatoes in the cold, rainy period before the sod-lands—which in our system are the oat-lands—were dry enough to work. Whatever is to blame—and long lying in cold ground could explain it—the potatoes have "missed" badly. Some say that the tubers heated last winter in the caves; others that the sets heated in the piles; others, again, that cutting and planting at once, many failed to lime, and the sets rotted easily. At any rate, we have but a half crop of potatoes; which, however, may be better than a whole crop when the digging comes around. Northern New Brunswick is in our position exactly, but Nova Scotia makes no complaint on this score so far. The Colorado beetle—that pest which, with the horn fly, entomologists were to have had pass hence long ago—is worse than ever. The Paris green, despite the proffered analysis, is poor stuff, too; and the potato-raiser has his trials these days, and no mistake. Potato patches—what is left of them—look splendidly now, though, wherever cared for at all.

Late oats, and it is nearly all late with us, required the recent showers to make it promise much. The early fields, wherever discernible, are as good as the wheat. The main crop, however, will be late; but we expect a good enough return from it in the end. The weather is admirable—plenty of heat, with refreshing showers at intervals—and the barley, buckwheat, turnips, rape, and minor crops, are coming on admirably. Corn has but a short season, indeed, this year, and there is little of it to be seen, but, wherever grown, it has a fine, rich and flourishing appearance. Fruit will not be as heavy as anticipated. Late varieties—the more important apples—were hindered by rain in the fixing time. But we will have a good deal of fruit withal; and all things considered, too, we will be well able to thank Providence for a bountiful harvest in Maritime Canada.

A. E. BURKE.

"Why Don't You Speak for Yourself, John?"

A man must surely be most prosaic if the passing of the harvest arouses in him nothing of either the poet or the philosopher—for it does not require that a man should live on bread and lentils and dress in sackcloth in order that he should be a philosopher, nor that he should "send the viewless arrows of his thoughts—Like Indian reeds blown from his silver tongue—from Calpe to Caucasus," in order that he should be a poet. Sitting calmly by the back "kitchen" door of an autumn evening, with the blue smoke-wreaths curling upward from his pipe, serene in the consciousness of a summer's work ended and a goodly harvest in store, the farmer may philosophize as deeply as did ever Old Stoic on the "impregnable fortress" of contentment, the pearl of great price of "tranquility." Looking on past the orchard to the open door of the barn, where the mows bulge outward with the pale gold of oats, and wheat, and barley, noting the exquisite gradations of light and shade, the blue, cloud-flecked sky above, the greenness of the grass and the great tawny stretches of the shorn fields below, he may feel, if he cannot express, all the emotions that have found expression by the pen of the poet.

But the true philosopher must realize that there are harvests and harvests. If a man will reap, he must also sow; and the farming world of Canada has for long enough been sowing only the endeavor that makes clean fields and full barns, good roads, numerous schools, the moral stamina that