

# The Farmer's Advocate

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### EDITORIAL.

#### Barn Building.

As at this season farmers contemplating building new barns, or remodelling old ones, will be considering plans for the same, some observations upon general principles regarding that work may be helpful at this time, and at a later date we hope to be favored with plans and specifications for publication from those who have had experience in modern barn-building, as we have had in former years. As barns built nowadays are generally constructed on firm foundations, and calculated to stand for generations, it is important that careful consideration be given to their location, with a view to their relation to the dwelling, to convenience of access, economy of space and labor, and to appearances from the viewpoint of good taste. In many instances, in rebuilding, there are certain permanent improvements existing in connection with the location of the old barn, such as wells for the water supply, sheds that may be necessary for sheep pens or pigpens, apart from the main barn, which make it almost imperative that the old location be retained for the new buildings, and in many cases this settles the case of site. But where these are not considered insurmountable difficulties in the way of choosing a more suitable location, it is well, where the surroundings are suitable, to place the barns in the rear of the house, at a moderate distance, for security in case of fire, and not at so great distance as to involve a weary walk between the house and the barn, which bulks large in a lifetime. An entrance door to the stables from the end or side of the building nearest the house, and a good gravel, cement or plank walk between the two, will add very greatly to the comfort of those who have occasion to make the trip many times a day, it may be, for many years. The moving of frame sheds, such as we have referred to, is not a very expensive operation, and may, in the long run, be well worth the cost, and windmill power is now so moderate in cost that water may readily be forced from the old well to the new buildings, but if a spring be convenient from which water may be brought by gravitation through pipes or forced by means of a hydraulic ram, it may be found more satisfactory to apply these methods. Drainage from the foundation is important, and should be considered in the choice of a location, which, if possible should be slightly elevated. Since cement concrete or stone basement walls for the stabling is now commonly used, plenty of good-sized windows should be provided for, as good light and good ventilation are essentials to the health of stock closely stabled, and plenty of doorways of a good size should also be planned for, as the use of horses in removing the manure, as a labor-saving method, must be more generally adopted. The bank barn, or building in a hillside for convenience of approach with loads of grain or hay, is not popular now, owing to the dampness and darkness of stables which accompany that style. Where the land is level, it is not always easy to make a comfortable approach, but by means of an arched root-house under the approach the filling up with earth for that purpose is greatly reduced, or if the root-house is not required, this may be effected by building a wall some twelve or sixteen feet from the basement, and bridging that distance with steel rails and planking.

Care should be taken that the elevation of the foundation and floor of the stabling is sufficient to give a good appearance to the building, and to insure a good fall of water from the door sills.

We have seen fine barns sadly marred by failure to observe this precaution, the water from melting snow running in through the doorways, making the stable damp and uncomfortable. Cement floors are now considered an essential for their durability, for the saving of liquid manure, and for sanitary reasons. In arranging these, it is well to make the stands shorter from manger to gutter, in some part of the stable, for young or small cattle, and in any stable it may be well to have the stands shorter at one end of the row of stalls than at the other, so that the larger cattle may be tied at one end, and the smaller at the other end. This may be done by gradual slant, without hurting the appearance of the stand.

Box stalls in plenty should be provided, and these should be of good size, not less than 12x12 feet, as a rule, and larger if space can be spared. Small boxes are very hard to keep clean, and they cramp the animals unduly.

The desire to stable all the stock, horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry, under one building, for convenience, is of doubtful wisdom. It is indeed, a mistake, from the consideration of healthfulness. We should prefer to have only cattle under the main barn, and separate structures running out from the barn for the other classes of stock. Horses may be stabled in one end of the basement, if separated from the cattle stable by a close partition, and the whole stable amply ventilated, but it is preferable, from a sanitary point of view, to have them in a separate building.

There is wisdom in taking a year or two to prepare for building, by teaming stone, gravel, sand, etc., thus dividing the labor and time required, and avoiding the rush that is inevitable where the work is all compressed into a few months, but it is surprising how large an amount of this kind of extra work can, with a little co-operation on the part of neighbors, be accomplished in a few months by the application of will power and push.

#### The Golden Fleece in Canada.

An old story which fascinated us in our childhood was that of the Golden Fleece. How it had been taken from the ram Chrysomallus, which had conveyed Phryxus through the air to Colchis, and of how Jason, with his fifty-four bold companions, went to Colchis in the ship Argo to recover it. To-day there still goes on the search for the Golden Fleece, and, if indications be worth anything, it is evident that many of our twentieth-century Argonauts find their Colchis in the northern portion of North America. Unlike Jason, however, but few of these ever sail away again, but remain to swell the census reports of their Colchis, the Dominion of Canada, Britain's greatest and happiest dependency.

Canada has, without doubt, entered upon her Golden Era. Statistics—which are ever hard, dry facts of a matter—for the past few years prove that, and among these statistical pages, perhaps not the least interesting are those which tell of the immigration into our country. We are just in receipt of the immigration report for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1904, from the Superintendent of Immigration, and from it have compiled a few items which may be found of popular interest.

For that period, we find a grand total of 130,331 souls who came to Canada with the intention of remaining in the country. Of these, the greatest number, 42,188, came from the United States, England following closely with

36,003. Scotland came next, with 10,552; then Galicia, with 7,729. The Italians sent us 4,445; the Hebrews, 3,727; the Irish, 3,128; Germans, 2,966; Swedes, 2,151; Russians, 1,955; Bukowinians, 1,578; French, 1,534; Norwegians, 1,239; Hungarians, 1,091. Other countries contributed the balance, Brazil coming lowest, with two; while Bermuda Islands and Egypt came next, with three. In all, people came flocking to Canada during the year from no less than forty-seven different countries, scattered throughout every portion of the globe.

Of the total number who arrived during the year, 53,564 registered as farmers, 22,152 as general laborers, 16,150 as mechanics, 4,770 as clerks, etc., 3,814 as miners, and 3,588 as female servants, while 26,343 were not classified.

During the months July, August, September and October of 1904, a total arrival of 40,880 has been registered in Canada, 29,954 coming through the ocean ports; while 10,926 came from the United States, the total increase over the corresponding months of 1903 being 2,088.

And yet, in the great uninhabited areas of the Northwest Territories and New Ontario is there room for millions more. The Golden Fleece has not yet been all claimed.

#### Timber on the Farm.

People are slow to realize the rapidity with which the wooded areas of older Canada, from Cape Breton, in the east, to Windsor, Ont., in the west, are being reduced and decimated. In so far as caring for what is still left standing is concerned, not to mention planning new sources of supply, the farmer, as a rule, is literally taking "no thought for the morrow." The timber is an asset easily converted into cash, and so it goes en bloc or by piecemeal for firewood, square timber or lumber. Very rarely is the bush-plot fenced, and the stock roam through it, browsing off the seedlings and tramping bare the roots of the trees, large and small. When the average man stops to think about the matter, he perhaps consoles himself with the idea that iron and cement will be the building material of the future, and that he will have coal for fuel, forgetting that the value of timber is increasing at a rapid rate, and also the per capita consumption. A great deal of waste and worse than waste has been going on for a great many years in the public timber domain.

It is because we deem the subject of vital importance that it is so frequently dealt with in the "Farmer's Advocate," and this is why we have urged the establishment of a Forestry School in connection with the Agricultural College at Guelph, the reasons for which were very cogently set forth by a correspondent in our last week's issue. Not only would the right class of men for the forestry service be found there, but the Agricultural College would, through the presence of the school, become a more powerful center from which influences would radiate through every farming district of the country, hastening the forestry reform of which the country stands in need.

We commend to the careful consideration of our readers the letter in this issue from Dr. Judson F. Clark, who seeks in a fair, matter-of-fact way to show that the care of the wood-plot is something really worth while to its owner. A graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College, Mr. Clark has for several years made a special study of wood-plot conditions: first, when Professor of Forestry at Ithaca, N. Y., and, later, as a member of the National Bureau of Forestry at Washington, D. C. In addition to his studies of