

**THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE**  
AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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the success and dignity of the business of farming. That errors have not occurred would not be pretended, for legislators are human, but of what administrator might not that be said, or head of any great business enterprise necessarily involving reliance to a greater or less extent upon the judgment and work of many subordinates and others. Were we disposed to offer any reflections it would be that in two or three directions the proper functions of Government were unfortunately exceeded and efforts were also made to do what proved premature or unnecessary, however well intended, such, for example, as the dairy school at Strathroy. But, taken all in all, Mr. Dryden proved himself the man for the place, his administration in the interests of agriculture being unsurpassed if indeed equalled elsewhere. All must concede that he possessed the necessary qualifications and has devoted to his work the very best energies of his life. A reference to the last session of the Provincial Legislature will emphasize the strength of his position. The estimates for carrying on the work of the Agricultural Department along the various lines indicated above involved the very large sum of over \$214,000, all of which was voted practically unchallenged on either side of the House, certainly a decided tribute to the head of that department, expressing the utmost confidence on the part of his fellow-legislators and their general approval of the purpose of the appropriations; though in view of increasing expenditures we contend, as was pointed out in our last issue, that agricultural estimates and accounts should be just as closely scrutinized as any others. We have nothing to say as to the internal economy of political parties, and statesmen can presumably best manage their own affairs, but we trust that those responsible for the conduct of Provincial affairs, in this and all other matters, will be guided in their decisions by principles that will promote the public weal, do justice to all, and advance the cause of agriculture.

**To Stir Up an Interest in Tree-Planting.**

It is a matter for serious regret that at the end of each year we find our country more and more destitute of shelter and natural shade trees, and at the same time very little is being done to improve the situation. There are doubtless among our readers many who are extremely pained to realize that such is the case, and to those we are willing to contribute space for the setting forth of their views upon the subject of tree-planting at this season when practical advice can be followed.

**STOCK.**

**Further Reduction in the Transportation of Registered Live Stock.**

From time to time we have set forth in our columns convincing reasons why, in the general interests of agriculture and live stock rearing—Canada's greatest industry—our railway companies should reduce freight rates on the carriage of pure-bred animals. The present is a most opportune time for such a move. Our live stock associations, too, have strenuously labored to show these companies that it would be of advantage to them to thus facilitate the greater diffusion of better animals for breeding purposes throughout the various provinces. About one year ago a classification was made considerably reducing the weights at which pure-bred registered cattle, sheep and swine in less than car lots would be carried. At that time we pointed out that while the reduction was a step in the right direction, the cost of transportation was still a barrier to many sales that might be made. This fact has been so clearly shown the various trunk lines that at a recent joint meeting of railway freight authorities a still more favorable rate was agreed upon, and comes into effect at this date, April 1st. A letter has been received from the General Freight Agent for the Canadian Pacific Railway to the following effect: "The arrangement adopted and which will come into force on the 1st of April is that less than carload lots of pedigreed cattle, sheep and swine may be shipped between any point in Canada east of Fort William at one half current tariff rates (for ordinary stock) and at weights given in the Canadian Joint Freight Classification. It is understood that the reduced rates apply only on cattle, sheep and swine, and not on horses, and further certificates of registration must in all cases be produced by shippers. Shipments may be taken without men in charge, provided owners sign the usual contract releasing the company from liability in consequence thereof. These special rates will only apply when owners sign the usual valuation agreement for ordinary stock."

It may be stated that the new classification is not in all cases the same as that granted last year and published in March 15th (1897) issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The following table shows the 1897 classification, and that now coming into effect. It is upon the latter that the half rate will be calculated.

Animals.	1897	1898
	Lbs. each	Lbs. each
Bull calves, six months old and under	500	500
Bulls, and bull calves over six months and under one year old	1,000	1,000
Bulls one year and up to two years	2,000	3,000
Bulls over two years old	2,000	4,000
Cows, one animal	2,000	2,000
Cows, two animals in same car	3,500	3,500
Cows, three animals in same car	5,000	5,000
Each additional animal in same car	1,000	1,000
Heifer calves, six months old and under	500	500
Heifers over six months and up to one year	1,000	1,000
Heifers over one year and up to two years old	1,500	2,500
Cow and calf together		2,500

\*Heifers one and two years old are not included in the new classification, but in all probability will be taken same as cows, at 2,000 pounds each.

This new arrangement applies to all railways in Canada east of Fort William, except the Intercolonial, which extends through Quebec to the Maritime Provinces. With regard to the latter the Minister of Railways writes us as follows:

Office of the Minister of Railways and Canals.  
Ottawa, March 22nd, 1898.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:  
SIR,—Your valued favor of the 19th instant is before me, and I am glad to have your views in relation to freight rates upon thoroughbred stock. Our tariff in that regard is now very much lower than that of other railways, and it is a question as to whether or not we should make a further reduction. The matter is, however, an important one, and it is my disposition to give it very careful consideration, having at the same time due regard to public interests.  
Yours faithfully,  
AND. G. BLAIR.

**Helped in a Practical Way.**

I like the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and have taken many pointers from it. Last spring I had seventy young turkeys and lost ten of them. Upon examination I found the trouble to be lice, and applied a remedy given in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and had no more trouble. My cattle were also troubled with lice, and I found a cure for them also in the ADVOCATE, one application doing the business effectually. I have found the FARMER'S ADVOCATE a great help to me in onion culture and various other ways that are valuable to the farmer. I think the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is the best agricultural paper that I have ever known of.  
(Signed) J. H. HAMILTON,  
Marquette Municipality.

**Experiments in Sheep Feeding at the O.A.C.**

In a comparison of red clover hay with first crop alfalfa and third crop alfalfa, the third crop alfalfa gave better results than either of the other two kinds of hay, while the first crop alfalfa and red clover gave practically the same results.

In a comparison of corn with peas, the corn gave the most rapid and economical gains. The corn and peas were mixed with an equal weight of oats. The peas and oats gave an average weekly gain of 2.10 lbs., and required 5.14 lbs. of meal for a pound of gain. The corn and oats gave an average weekly gain of 2.29 lbs., and required 4.72 lbs. meal for a pound of gain.

This is only a single experiment, however, and requires further investigation.

**Facilitating Live Stock Importation.**

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:  
SIR.—It would be very useful to the importers of thoroughbred stock if you will kindly make an announcement in regard to a change in the Customs regulations. As the regulations have hitherto stood, the Customs officers have required the importer to leave on file in the office with them the original certificate both of the pedigree of the animal and of the tuberculin test having been made, showing freedom from disease. Instructions have just been issued to the officers of the various ports to accept (in lieu of the originals) copies of these certificates, made either by the importer or the consignor, and, upon presentation, certified correct by the Customs officer. These copies will serve the purpose of a record in the office of the official in case any dispute arises, and will obviate the inconvenience which has hitherto existed on account of importers having to part with the original certificates, which they frequently require for practical purposes, and having consequently to incur trouble, expense and delay in procuring copies from the original makers. Thanking you in advance, I am,  
Yours very truly,  
SYDNEY FISHER,  
Department of Agriculture.

**Care for the Lambs.**

The average farmer will have his lambs come in the latter part of March or during the month of April, and will, if a careful flockmaster, make preparation for their advent by having his ewes comfortably housed. He will not grudge a little loss of sleep if he has reason to expect new arrivals of lambs during the night, but will look over the situation before retiring, and if necessary return to the sheepfold at intervals during the night, especially if the weather is cold, to give attention to the newcomers and see that they get a fair start in life. If the ewes have had proper treatment during the months of pregnancy, the lambs will, as a rule, come strong and able to help themselves to nourishment; but there is always a possibility of difficult parturition arising from false presentations or an overgrown fetus, and in such cases assistance may be required. It is well in all cases where labor has been continued beyond a reasonable time to make an examination to find whether the presentation is a normal one or not. If it is a little more time may be given the ewe, when, if she works out her own deliverance, it is best; if not, she should have gentle assistance. If the presentation is not right, prompt action should be made to bring the lamb into proper position to facilitate its birth, when a little more time may be given; then if from exhaustion or other cause the ewe fails to bring forth her young further assistance should be given. If after an hour or so the lamb has not strength enough to stand and suck, the ewe should be gently laid on one side, and the lamb in a lying posture brought to the teat, a little being milked into its mouth at first to give it a taste, when it will soon take enough for the first meal. It is not wise to overload the stomach of the young lamb, as in the natural way it generally takes but little at a time on account of the mother frequently moving away. It is a good plan to have a few low hurdles provided about six feet long, with which small pens may be improvised for the accommodation of the ewe and her lamb for two or three days, till they get fully acquainted and the lamb learns to help itself, but it is not well to keep them longer confined than is really necessary for this. The ewes having lambed should be separated from those which have not, as the former will have to be better fed, while the latter may get too fat if fed as liberally as the nursing ewes need to be. When the lambs are about two weeks old they will begin to eat a little clover hay and oats, and bran if it is placed within their reach, and for this purpose it is well to give them the run of a small pen, which may be made with hurdles, with a "creep," through which they can run, while the ewes cannot get through. With a low rack and trough they can thus be fed regularly, and will grow and improve rapidly, and will not draw so heavily on their mothers as if not so provided for. Docking and castration should be attended to before the lambs are two weeks old, as at this age they bleed less and the shock is not as much felt as when they are older and the tails have grown large and fat. After "de-tailing" the lambs should be watched for an hour or two, and if any continue to bleed a piece of twine should be tied tightly around the stump and left till bleeding stops, when it should be cut away. If a ewe loses her lamb she may be induced to adopt one of twins belonging to another ewe by taking the skin off the dead lamb, drawing the neck and legs out of the skin so that it

can be forced tied in a small tick it as her and in that of ewes, unwashed days after, will sought new lambs. It is fore the spring all hands will may be left to in condition management

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