

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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It is impartial and independent of all classes or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:—419—Illustration. 450—Announcement; Editorial Notes; Our Illustration; British Columbia; Sunflower-Seed Cake. 451—The Farmer's Advocate Appreciated; Clubbing Rates for 1895; A Suggestive Report on American Agriculture.

STOCK:—451—System of Management in Breeding Studs of Draught Horses in Scotland. 452—Our Scottish Letter; The Cow for the Manitoba Dairy Farmer; A Vigorous Protest from the Holstein Camp; Fruit Growers' Meeting. 453—Mr. Lynch Replies to Mr. Elder; "The Grand Old Man of Sittytton;" Canadian-Bred vs. Scotch Steers as Feeders. 454—Chatty Stock Letter from the States; Rations for Pork Production; The Late Prof. Stewart.

FARM:—454—Canadian Bacon in England—Why Packers Should Discriminate; Gleanings from Institute Reports.

DAIRY:—455—Handling Skim-Milk at Winter Creameries; Barley-Meal for Cows; When Should Cows Come Into Milk?

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:—456—Legal; Veterinary; Miscellaneous.

APIARY:—456—North American Beekeepers' Meeting.

POULTRY:—457—Poultry on the Farm; Marketing the Turkey Crop.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD:—457—Horticulture in Nova Scotia.

FAMILY CIRCLE:—458.

MINNIE MAX:—458, 459 and 460.

QUIET HOUR:—460.

STOCK GOSSIP:—462, 463, 467.

ADVERTISEMENTS:—461 to 468.

The Farmer's Advocate Appreciated.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE: "I think you must be congratulated on producing the very finest and best number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE that has ever been published; in fact, I have heard this on several occasions. And, if you will only carry out the same ideas, I am sure you will double your circulation in a very short time." DR. WM. MOLE, M. R. C. V. S.

Clubbing Rates for 1895.

Our subscribers may obtain any of the papers mentioned below at the following price:—

FARMER'S ADVOCATE and Home Magazine and Toronto Evening News	\$1 50
Toronto Daily Globe, morning edition	6 00
Toronto Daily Globe, second edition	4 00
Toronto Empire, daily	6 00
Toronto Empire, evening edition	3 50
Toronto Weekly Mail or Farm and Fireside	1 30
The two combined	1 60
Toronto Weekly Globe (12 pages)	1 40
Toronto Weekly Empire	1 50
London Free Press, weekly edition	1 75
London Advertiser, weekly	1 70
Montreal Weekly Witness	1 60

A Suggestive Report on American Agriculture.

The report of the U. S. Secretary of Agriculture for 1893 has been received. It shows that the American people are alive to their best interests in doing much to develop the most productive industry in their land. There are in the United States 6,000,000 farms, upon which dwell more than 30,000,000 of the population, and they furnish more than 74 per cent. of the exports of that country. The Agricultural Department has, therefore, the great responsibilities of the nation's material welfare resting largely upon it. Not only are they alive to the development of markets for what they produce and do not need, but the subject of producing at home much that is now imported is receiving attention. The exports of 1893 were \$615,000,000 worth, which was largely absorbed by Great Britain and Ireland. The principal commodities going to make up these exports were cattle, beef, pork, corn, wheat, flour and cotton. The Americans see that other countries are, like themselves, endeavoring to push their products into the great European consuming centres. American-like, they are not slow to look after their interests in such a case. A plan of action proving successful is that of sending missionaries into the food-consuming fields of Europe to prosecute a thorough inquiry why American meats are partially excluded; why American tobacco is not more demanded; why American wheat flour cannot be more generally marketed in Europe; why cranberries are not sold there; why American wines are not called for, and why Europeans generally should not be consumers of American canned goods?

There is an over production of certain staples, the demand for which fluctuates greatly. This might be avoided, and many farmers benefited by a larger amount of subsidiary crops. This also would increase the variety of agricultural supplies in foreign markets, and multiply the markets themselves.

These important considerations are sincerely commended to the attention of all who, either individually or in association, directly or indirectly, are engaged in the work of agricultural education, for upon them rests the responsibility of leading the way for progressive agriculture. All persons engaged in the work of agricultural education and experiment must hold steadily in view the inexorable economic facts that effect the production and disposal of agricultural products. Farmers must produce what the world wants. And the unrelenting truth of the relation of supply to demand is the regulator of value, and that is applied with equal force to all the products of the farm and of the factory, and ought to be engraved upon the memory and reflected in the judgment and the plans of every farmer.

The divisions of entomology, botany, vegetable pathology, pomology, etc., are receiving the attention due their significance. When a pest that threatens destruction makes its appearance the amount of money appropriated for its overthrow is only limited by what is necessary to accomplish the purpose undertaken.

With regard to contagious diseases among stock, the report states that they are free from contagious pleuro-pneumonia, saying that no case of the disease has been discovered since March 25, 1892, and a careful inspection having been maintained for twelve months thereafter. In April, '93, it was considered safe to dismiss the force engaged in this inspection.

Tuberculosis is, however, a widespread malady throughout the Union—more dangerous to human life than pleuro-pneumonia. Investigations have been made during the last two years, as to the means of its communication, and the method of its correct diagnosis. Much progress has been made in this direction by the studies of the Division of Animal Pathology. The work is now being extended in co-operation with local authorities, which is to continue until the danger of human life has been reduced to a minimum.

Distribution of seed at public expense has been a growing branch ever since its commencement in 1839. In 1892 there was appropriated the sum of \$135,400 for the purpose of purchasing seeds, bulbs, and cuttings for gratuitous distribution. In 1891 the seeds purchased cost in round numbers, \$40,000, while the labor and expense of putting them up and distributing them alone cost the Department \$50,675! Whether such a method of using up funds is wise or not there is room for doubt, because in many cases the value of free seed, or, in fact, anything else, when issued from an extensive department, is not appreciated, and therefore not utilized to anything like the extent of its importance. It is all very well to do a certain amount for people, so long as it is appreciated, but when evident gratitude ceases to be shown, it is time to call a halt. There is no reason, to our minds, why the bare expense of purchase and distribution should not be met by those receiving them. There are several reasons for this. It is an easy matter to ask for what appears of value when it is given free. The labor, however, of giving the cultivation of seeds the necessary attention to be quite satisfactory is often neglected by those who think: "Well, the Government can stand it; what's the difference." Whereas, if even a small sum were demanded for what they received, they would not be asked for except when really desired and intended to be made good use of.

However, the main objection to this sort of thing is not merely that the Government does for the people what they ought to do for themselves, but it really enters into direct competition with private enterprise, using therefor funds levied from the general community. The U. S. Secretary of Agriculture goes so far as to designate "promiscuous free distribution of publications" vicious in principle, and intimates that it must be abandoned.

We note also that in view of a depleted public treasury and the public demand for economy in Government administration, Hon. Mr. Morton has been applying the pruning knife in his department, the services of over 500 unnecessary employes having been dispensed with.

STOCK.

System of Management in Breeding Studs of Draught Horses in Scotland.

(Compiled from a paper prepared by Archibald MacNeill, Secretary of the Clydesdale Horse Society.)

In preparing this paper, schedules of inquiry were issued to leading breeders in various parts of the country, and replies have been received from many successful horse-breeders.

Quite naturally, the answers received reveal considerable diversity in the details of stud management, but at the same time the general principles are more uniform than possibly could have been expected. The varying soil and climate of the British Isles is well illustrated by the treatment of stock, especially during the winter season. On the light, friable soils of Galloway, wintering out in all weathers is invariably the rule; whereas, in the west and north of Scotland that is practically unknown.

The most important members of the breeding stud are, of course, the brood mares, and it will be a convenient arrangement to consider (1) their management in studs in which they are kept solely for breeding purposes; (2) their management in studs in which they do an ordinary share of farm labor, and (3) the management of mares kept for breeding and exhibition.

In the majority of studs in Scotland there are mares of all three classes; but the most important breeding stud is that of Keir, founded by the late Sir William Stirling Maxwell, Bart., and now owned by Mr. Arch. Stirling, of Keir and Cawder. The richness of the pastures and the mildness of the climate in the vicinities of this stud admit of the stock being wintered out in all weathers. The feeding is of the lightest description, the allowance per head for each member of the stud in the winter season being one bushel of oats per week, mixed with chopped oat straw, a few Swedish turnips in the forenoon, a pailful of boiled food—turnips, cut hay and bran—in the afternoon, and oat straw *ad libitum*. The great object aimed at in breeding is to have as large a proportion of healthy foals in any one season as possible. The results obtained in 1887 were 28 mares served, 20 of which had healthy foals. In 1888, 29 mares were served, 19 of which had healthy foals. In the following year 18 healthy foals resulted from 32 services. It is not to be understood that the method of feeding here specified is absolute, the conditions and nature of each animal having to be considered; but the main features as followed at Keir have been indicated.

The Balmedie stud is not an old established institution, but its representatives have taken good positions in the leading show yards. Generally about half-a-dozen brood mares are kept for breeding alone and during winter they run at grass all day, but are housed at night. They are fed thrice daily—at 5 a. m. and at 4 p. m. with boiled mash, and at 8 p. m. with hard feeding, consisting of about one pound oats to each, mixed with one turnip and enough cut hay to fill a pail of the capacity of two gallons, with an abundance of fresh oat straw for fodder.

In the Cairnbrogie stud there are seven mares kept solely for breeding purposes. These run at grass all the year round, but are housed at night during winter. They get hay and a few turnips, uncooked, when taken into the house at night, say about 20 pounds long hay and 12 pounds Swedish turnips each in open weather, and a somewhat larger allowance if the ground is covered with snow. Mares of a similar class are treated somewhat more liberally in the Linkwood stud. They run out all day, and their allowance, besides grass, is hay or oat straw with bran, and one half-feed oats and some turnips each per day before foaling, but about a week after foaling the quantities are increased in order that there may be an abundance of milk for the foal. This is continued until the young grass is up, when it is discontinued, and the mares then get nothing but what they pick. If possible, the aftermath is reserved specially for mares that are nursing.

Mr. MacCaig is a most successful rearer of foals, and his mode of treating brood mares merits special notice. Five mares are reserved solely for breeding purposes, and they receive about half a feed of oats mixed with double the quantity of cut hay every morning, and there is always an abundance of long fodder in their mangers. At night they get a quantity of raw turnips, but when they come near foaling this is changed to a nice light sloppy mash. There are loose boxes in the fields in this stud, and three of the boxes are so arranged that the mares can go in and out at pleasure, where they have grass and water *ad libitum*. A bar is put across