

The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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industries on the floor of the House of Commons, national questions could be decided in a more happy manner than by agitation or strong-arm methods. No man can serve two masters, and it would, no doubt, be better in the end for all classes to have proper and separate representation in the Parliament and Legislature of this country. When agriculture and labor have sufficient representation then we shall have equitable legislation. All industries and all classes must have due consideration, and when we measure up to this standard of government it will be an improvement on the past.

Increasing Cow Efficiency.

The labor shortage during the past few years has forced many farmers to decrease their milking herds and reduce the cows to a number that can be looked after fairly comfortably by the family without additional help. In spite of this fact, the cheese factories and creameries in dairy sections have received an abundance of milk and cream. This is rather a peculiar circumstance, but the evidence seems to show that while the herds have been decreased in number it is not the best cows that have been sold. Boarders and non-producers have evidently been weeded out, with the result that the remaining cows are giving more milk than the total herd of good and poor milkers did in past years. This certainly means greater profits for the dairyman, and the lesson which he is learning now should not be soon forgotten. Good winter feeding and splendid spring pasturage have shown results. Profits in dairying cannot be based on the number of cows kept; it is the amount of milk each cow gives, over and above the quantity required to pay for her keep. There is no branch of farming where the possibilities are so great for increasing financial returns as in the dairy herd. By breeding, feeding and weeding, one can quickly transform a money-losing investment into a profitable enterprise.

Conditions in Eastern Ontario.

BY ALLAN MCDIARMID.

There seems to be an idea among a good many men, farmers particularly, that it is against some unwritten law to admit that any sort of weather conditions can be favorable to their interests. If one listens to them he would get the idea that the field crops are continually in need of a change or climate. They either need more

rain or less rain, or more heat, or something different from what they are getting, at any rate.

Some of our preachers of a past generation used to say that the "Prince of the Power of the Air," referred to in the Bible, was the devil, and that the title given to him indicated that he had control of the weather. Not to hazard any opinion as to the correctness of their theory it would seem, however, that the idea has a good deal of backing among us farmers. Especially this last spring a good many men I know seemed to be ready to fall in with the notion. It certainly was bad enough for a while and the growth was slow in starting, but I had thought there had come a change for the better, until one day last week I was talking to a farmer friend from the next township and we started comparing notes on things in general and crop prospects in particular.

"Well, things are looking a little better now," I said. "Yes," he replied, "but the clay land is in awful shape. A man might as well sow his grain in a gravel pit as on some of the fields we have out our way." "I shouldn't wonder," I said, "but this hot weather after the rain we've had ought to give the corn enough of a boost to make up for a grain shortage, if we have one." "Oh I don't know," he returned, shaking his head, "did you ever see the way its making the weeds grow?"

A few days ago I had a chance to get an idea of the progress of the different crops we raise in these two most easterly counties of Ontario. A drive of twenty miles or so affords an opportunity of sizing up the situation fairly well, especially if it is taken with a horse and buggy. One has time then to see something of the farms which he is passing, which he can hardly do if he is in an automobile and has some of the present-day chauffeurs to drive it. This idea may console others, besides myself, who are not able to dig up the price of a car. It's a sure thing that, although one may not see so much country when driving a horse, they will see it better. A picture in a recent number of "Life" shows a woman from the city discovering, for the first time, that flowers grew by the roadside. Her car had broken down, and while waiting for it to be repaired she makes the discovery. It strikes the most of us occasionally, I guess, that there are some people going through the world so fast that they see very little of what is of value in it.

However, to get back to the conditions and prospects of the crops. Beginning with the hay, there is very little doubt that the price of that article will be considerably less next winter than it was last, if the crop here is any indication of what it is in other parts of the country. The fields of timothy, red clover and alsike couldn't look better. Talk about flower gardens! The natural born farmer nothing in that line can beat a ten-acre field of red and white clover, just able to stand up under its own weight and no more. And the number of such fields seems to be greater this year than ever. Grain crops are not so good; especially what went into the ground late, and that means quite a large percentage of it. Oats is the principal grain crop down here, and what was put in early on fairly high or well-drained land, never looked better.

There is no denying the fact that it was a difficult matter to get the seeding done at the right time this year, but if weather conditions were always just right we would never be stirred up to making an effort in the direction of better cultivation and drainage and so on. Progress with us would come to an end. Nature won't keep on giving us something for nothing, and it's a good thing for us that we "reap as we sow" or we'd soon be like the natives of the South Sea Islands who, they say, have grown so lazy that they will do nothing but lie under the trees and let the fruit drop into their mouths.

A climate like ours and a few difficulties to overcome, if we want to be well fed, are the best things in the world for us, if we only knew it.

Barley, wheat and peas do not seem to be grown by our farmers to the extent they were a number of years ago. Where there is any the same may be said of them as was said of oats. If sown early on high ground they look well. Otherwise they don't. Corn, grown for the silo, is taking the place of these last-mentioned grains. But, in the majority of cases, it is very backward. A good many farmers do not yet seem to be sufficiently impressed with the importance of getting corn into the ground as early as there is a good chance of it germinating if they are to have silage of high feeding value for their stock the following winter. Our season is short and the corn will not mature unless it gets about all the growing time there is. A great many fields that I saw on the 22nd of June showed the corn just starting to grow, which wasn't as much as could be said for the weeds. And, judging from the toll the crows and blackbirds were taking, replanting at least part of the fields would be necessary. Farmers in this part of the country may be said to be specialists. Their chief interest, from the financial standpoint, is in the dairy cow. They all sell her produce in one form or another; the cheese factories get the most of it, and, with cheese selling at 30 cents a pound, it is what might be expected. For once the cheese-factory patron has the laugh on the man who is shipping his milk or cream to the city.

In regard to the hired help situation, there isn't very much that can be said except that the hired man can soon be classed with the buffalo and some of the other animals that have become extinct. An odd specimen can still be found here and there, but they are beginning to be looked on as something of a curiosity. For those that remain wages are about two dollars a day, the year round, with a free house and garden and

anything else they take a notion to ask for. This, of course, includes their board.

To conclude with a word in regard to the general situation and the financial condition of the average farmer, we might say that the said condition and situation is gradually improving. Not very much has been done in the past three or four years in the way of putting up new buildings on the farms or the making of any extensive permanent improvements, but bank accounts are growing, which, they say, is a pretty healthy sign of the country. Some of our Government officials should get a few of the farmers from this part of the Province to give them an occasional pointer these days, I think, in regard to the carrying on of the public business in an economical manner. If there was as much thrift practiced by these political office-holders of ours as there is by most of our individual farmers the country's financial liabilities wouldn't be running up the way they are just at present. Government methods applied to the running of a farm would shortly be followed by an auction sale.

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M.A.

A Comparison of the Birds of Two Agricultural Areas.

As I am now down in Prince Edward Island it has struck me that it might be interesting to others, as it has been to me, to compare the birds of this district, the country about Malpeque Bay, with those of Central Ontario, more particularly as both regions are pre-eminently agricultural areas.

There are a few birds which are equally common in both regions, for example, the Robin, Song Sparrow, Yellow Warbler, Kingbird, Barn Swallow, Tree Swallow and Flicker. But there the similarity ends, for in the meadows here there are no Bobolinks, no Meadowlarks, and comparatively few Vesper Sparrows, but instead of these there are large numbers of Savanna Sparrows. The Savanna Sparrow, which is one of the less generally recognized sparrows, is quite common in meadows and fields in Central Ontario, but here it is the predominating bird of the fields and roadsides. This species may be recognized by the yellow line over the eye, and also by the rather sharp streaking of the back. Its song is a rather high-pitched, somewhat grasshopper-like "Zrit-zrit-a-zree-zrur-r-r," not an impressive vocal performance, and easily over-looked, but easy of recognition once it has been drawn to one's attention.

The Chipping Sparrow is quite common here, but its place is very largely taken by the Slate-colored Junco, a little bird with a dark gray head and back and white underparts, with two white outer tail-feathers which show very conspicuously when the bird is in flight. The song of this species is a trill which while it resembles the song of the Chipping Sparrow is louder, somewhat deeper in pitch and has a more ringing quality. As in the case of all birds, the songs of different individuals varies a good deal in quality, some having the ringing tone much more marked than others. In Central Ontario the Junco is a very common species during migrations, but does not remain to breed, while here it breeds in great numbers and is one of the most characteristic birds of the region.

The Bronzed Grackle, often called the Crow Blackbird, or simply the Blackbird, is common throughout Central Ontario, but is even more conspicuous here, as nearly every patch of Spruce woods has a colony of these noisy and quarrelsome birds. As we have pointed out in previous articles, this species is of very doubtful economic value, as while it eats a good many injurious insects it also destroys crops and garden products, and moreover drives away birds more beneficial than itself.

About nearly every farm house in Central Ontario are two birds which so far I have not seen in the Malpeque region—the House Wren, and the Baltimore Oriole—both of them birds with a striking song, and one of them, the Oriole, with striking plumage. The Red-eyed Vireo and the Phoebe are two other species, which are very common in Central Ontario which I have not yet observed on the Island.

The Myrtle Warbler is a very common breeder here and the Ching-ring-ring-ring-ring" song of the male is to be heard from early morning till dark from the rows of Spruces. This species is common in Central Ontario during migrations in the early part of May and again in late September and October, but only an odd pair remain to breed. The Magnolia Warbler, the male of which species is one of the handsomest of all our warblers with his black crown, pearl gray back and yellow breast with black streaks, is seen in Central Ontario only as a migrant, but is quite common here as a summer resident.

While the Black-capped Chickadee occurs here the Canadian Chickadee, which is not found at all in Central Ontario, is commoner. This species, which is of the same size as the Black-capped Chickadee resembles the latter species, but has the crown brown instead of black, and the back brownish instead of gray. The note of the Canadian Chickadee is a rather husky "Tscha-dee-dee-dee," weaker and lacking the clearness of that of the Black-cap.

Another bird of this district which does not occur in Central Ontario is the Olive-sided Flycatcher. This species is one of the larger flycatchers, and has the habit of sitting up on a high dead branch and uttering its loud "Whip-whee-yoo-u-u," the first syllable being much softer than the latter part of the song, so that at a distance it is not heard at all. It makes frequent sallies from its perch in pursuit of insects which wing their way near to it.

During farm team but yet does during ways a ru crops are is given t horses do all too con until sund They may having th the night the horse best work dition, th harvest ev than at o the weath hot and more tr should b feed and horses b and six i noon, an horseman team a quent in hot day. of many broken du time and have the the fall is good fe it is a cor it is ver comforta in the night tha stable. plan to t out, but have the ough clea skin. Irr do on ma The l made as the weig keeping t During l very qui this part calling fo draft on Unless collar fit especially This troi harness a day to a salt wate the dan If there i lotion, w sulphat