

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL
IN THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques and parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s. in advance.
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lowed to eclipse the other. One is to fight for a square deal—something the farmer is far from getting to-day. The other is to encourage and assist him in making the most of conditions as they exist. Here we all are, engaged in the business of farming, depending upon it for a livelihood. It is up to each of us to do the best he honorably can for himself in the existing circumstances and a large part of the mission of "The Farmer's Advocate" is to enable readers to help one another by information, suggestion, experience and mutual exchange of ideas. Incidentally, we aim to help on the campaign for economic justice, urging, for example, the reduction of taxation on necessities such as ditching machines and cement; talking up co-operation, and, quite recently, advocating an effectual system of bank inspection to secure depositors and regulate the fundamentally important banking business in the interest of the people. But in doing these things we are particular to avoid that wholesale disparagement of farm profits and farm opportunities to which extremists sometimes resort. For all its handicaps and limited earnings, farming is still an attractive business to a man of the rural temperament. The attractions might be preserved and increased with advantage to the whole country, by more co-operation and by greater justice in taxation and trade, but that is no reason for crying down the business and consigning it to the everlasting bowwows. Our policy is, make the most of the conditions we have while working for better. Let enterprise be encouraged and wisdom brightened with hope. Let reason and sanity prevail.

There is no glory in star or blossom
Till looked upon with a loving eye;
There is no fragrance in April breezes
Till breathed with joy as they wander by.
—William Cullen Bryant.

Good Things Unappreciated.

"It is not many years," says the editor of the Quebec Journal of Agriculture and Horticulture, "since we saw manure drawn out on the ice during the winter to be carried away in the spring, and this was done by some farmers on the Island of Montreal. One kind farmer, more intelligent than the others, permitted his neighbors to dump the manure on his land, and thus save them hauling it a mile further to the river. The result was of course, that he had abundant crops, and after a few years the neighbors saw the joke."

It is extraordinary how inappreciative men can be when without the light of definite knowledge to guide them. To any ordinary farmer in Old Ontario, in the Maritime Provinces or in many parts of Quebec, it is well nigh incomprehensible how the value of manure could have been so long overlooked by those referred to in the clipping quoted.

Manure, however, is by no means the only good thing whose value has been despised. Time was in Upper Canada when bran was dumped into rivers to be rid of it. Clover was long in coming to its own in general public estimation as a crop and as a feed. Alfalfa is not yet appreciated by many at half its real worth either as a feed or as a soil builder and subsoil opener. If it were, an occasional failure or even a whole chain of failures, would not prevent farmers, whose situation holds out any hope of ultimate success, from keeping on trying, if only in a small way. Skim milk is rarely appreciated at its true worth to the calf raiser and stockman, while in seasons of low hog prices whey by the thousands of tons is pumped out of the tanks and spread over the fields, or even run into creeks.

"Knowledge comes, but Wisdom lingers," says the poet. Sometimes Knowledge seems to linger a good while too.

Nature's Diary.

By A. B. Klugh, M. A.

The lover of nature in this great country of ours has a great deal to be thankful for. For one thing he avoids that most deadening of all things—monotony. Our seasons differ radically from one another, by the time we are tired of the white blanket of winter along comes the bright, light greens of spring, and these in turn become the deeper greens of summer. Then when the greens have ceased to be a novelty comes the glorious blaze of autumn tints.

Just now we are revelling in the fresh lush greens of spring, the green of expanding leaves and fresh-sprung grass.

"And that's what we mean when we say that a thing

Is as welcome as the flowers that bloom in the spring"

sings Nanki-poo in the "Mikado." And is there any thing much more welcome? They are welcomed not only by the nature student, but by everybody young and old, with an atom of the "joy of living" in his or her make-up. But the welcome is often extended to them in rather a sad manner. They are plucked, carried a little distance and then thrown aside. Is there not something indicating a very low type of mentality in this performance? In a young child it is, perhaps, natural, for the child is a savage on its way to a higher state. But it is "the bounden duty of all parents and guardians" to guide the child to this higher state, and one most important path along which it should be directed is that of a proper and sympathetic regard for wild life.

Most attractive objects at this season of the year are the "crosiers" of the cinnamon fern, the light green "shepherds crooks" rising in little groups in moist places. A little later we shall see the outer row of sterile "fronds" (as the leaves of ferns are called) surrounding the cinnamon-colored fertile fronds. The fertile fronds are covered with little rounded spore-cases which contain the spores. In the case of ferns and their allies, the spore practically takes the place which is taken by the seed among the higher plants. But the spore does not, like the seed, develop at once into a plant similar to that which bore it, but in the case of the ferns it gives rise to a small, somewhat heart-shaped flat body called a "thallus." On this thallus are borne the organs which produce the egg and sperms. From the fertilized egg the young fern

arises. Other plants which produce spores are the mosses, and just now several species of mosses are quite conspicuous, one of the most striking being the giant hair-cap moss, often termed bear's-bed moss. In openings in the woods its velvet-like carpet, from which project the wiry yellowish stems bearing at their tips, the hair-covered capsule which contains the spores, makes an attractive picture.

What a glorious chorus of bird-song greets the early riser on these late May mornings! Before the first streak of dawn appears, the robins are carolling joyfully, and as the first dim light spreads over the landscape other musicians join the choir. From the aisles of the beech-woods comes the sweet chant of the wood thrush, from the tree-tops the rich refrain of the rose-breasted Grosbeak, from the swales the songs of the swamp sparrow, the Nashville warbler, the Canadian warbler, the water thrush, and the loud, clear "whichety-whichety-which" of the Maryland yellow-throat. With these are mingled the notes of a host of other species, and the drums are rolled by the downy woodpecker and the ruffed grouse.

The swallows are now back again coursing over our fields and waters, gathering up their quota of insect pests. We have in Canada several species of swallows, and to aid in distinguishing them I give here a "key" to the commoner species:—

- A.—Green above, white beneath—tree swallow.
- AA.—Blue above—
- B.—Tail forked—barn swallow.
- BB.—Tail even—cliff swallow.
- AAA.—Brownish above—bank swallow.

The bird which is commonly called the chimney swallow is not a swallow at all, but a swift, as it differs much in structure from the swallows and belongs to an entirely different family. Its true name is the chimney swift, and it is a very common bird around our buildings. It makes its nest of twigs stuck together with its own gluey saliva in our chimneys.

The nest of the barn swallow is a cup-shaped affair of mud built inside a barn, while that of the cliff swallow is a flask-shaped one placed outside under the eaves. The nest of the bank swallow is, as the bird's name implies, built in a burrow in a bank.

Insect life is now awakening, the earliest butterflies are flitting about, and soon insect music of various kinds will be heard in the land.

HORSES.

The stallion which stands for the lowest service fee is very often not the cheapest in the long run.

An Old Country horseman declares that he would rather breed from a horse with small feet of desirable shape and texture, than from one with large feet that are flat and shelly, believing that it is much easier to breed large feet from small ones, than it is to get good feet from bad ones.

No animal is more benefited by warm sunlight than a young foal, but it is necessary to provide shade during the hottest days of summer, especially with very young foals, which may be overcome by the intensity of the heat if compelled to remain out in the scorching sun unprotected.

A livery-stable and cab-horse owner of 25 years experience expresses himself as not in favor of clipping horses in the spring, on the ground that it is unnecessary and causes the hair to grow in more thickly. In his view, if a horse is properly conditioned and groomed, it will shed its coat naturally and present a better appearance.

An American stallioner, writing in "Wallace's Farmer," estimates that it costs him \$487.50 per year to keep his stallion, divided as follows: oats, \$45.00; corn, \$5.00; bran, \$15.00; a commercial feed, \$7.50; hay, \$30.00; care, 3 months, at \$135.00; care one month, \$50.00; total, \$287.50. To this he added \$100 for insurance and \$100 depreciation in value. How does this compare with the cost of your stallion?

A stallion cannot be expected to get the very best colts from all types of mares which are bred to him. To be fair to him and also to the mares some effort towards suitable mating must be made. For instance, if the mare is a little "chubby" select a fairly large horse, well set up, and if she is inclined to be leggy, use the blocky stallion. Extremes must be avoided. Very up-standing lanky sires and also those which are too small and chunky should be avoided.