

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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## EDITORIAL.

Every farmer should read Professor Day's article in the Farm Department in this issue on soil moisture. It is a subject of superlative importance, and is treated in this contribution in so plain and practical a manner that the wayfaring man, though an average farmer, cannot fail to understand and appreciate it.

Col. D. Wilson, of Elgin, Ill., has been engaged to address farmers' meetings on dairying in Manitoba and the Northwest this season, \$200 towards his expenses being paid by Canadian Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Manitoba Government. We understand that Prof. Robertson prepared a list of places at which it would be advisable for him to speak. The Colonel is probably a first-class man, but where are our Canadian experts? Doubtless all too busy making first-class butter to trot around telling others how to do it.

Professor Day, Agriculturist of the Ontario Agricultural College, has kindly contributed for the information of our readers a report of the result of his experiments with fattening steers during the last winter, which we publish in this issue, and which serves to emphasize the opinion held by not a few advanced feeders, that the cost of production may be materially lessened by the use of a light or medium grain ration, rather than a heavy one, and that much waste in many instances results from the latter practice. We trust that even in this busy season feeders will take time to read, study and digest this report, and will profit by its lessons, not by accepting it as a settlement of the question, but by testing it in their own practice, and thus aiding in its settlement.

### Important Announcement.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE will be sent to new subscribers from now till the end of 1898 for thirty-five cents. Present subscribers sending us lists of five new names at the above rate for the remainder of the year will have their own subscription advanced one year. The following letter expresses the opinion of one who carefully reads each issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:  
DEAR SIR,—I enclose check to pay my subscription for your paper to April, 1898. I have much pleasure in saying that without doubt your paper is of inestimable value to farmers, and I only wish I had known of it when I was managing Lord Aberdeen's ranches in B. C. It would have helped me there in many difficulties, as it helps me now in my dairy farm. I get quite a number of English and Scotch agricultural papers, the *North British Agriculturist* amongst the number, and in my opinion, for practical facts and methods, your paper excels them all, and this is also the opinion of some eminent agriculturists in the Old Country, to whom I regularly forward the FARMER'S ADVOCATE after reading it right through myself. It seems to me that every issue contains just the solution of the difficulty you were in. And now in your most interesting issue of 1st inst. you have a very important paragraph, which, I think, requires much consideration, and may in the near future have a considerable bearing on the vexing question of weed killers. I refer to Mons. Bonnet's discovery (page 308) that the solution of sulphate of copper kills mustard and thistles, both of these noxious weeds being the curse of this country, especially the former. Looking at it from the chemical point of view, I do not see why this solution should not succeed, and I am determined to try it on a patch of corn I have which is, unaccountably to me, simply thick with mustard. Perhaps, then, you can kindly inform me of the quantity of sulphate of copper to be used as to water, or say the 15% solution of iron sulphate. I shall be exceedingly obliged if you can give me the necessary instruction as to this, and I will let you know the result. I remain, yours faithfully, EUSTACE SMITH.  
"Park Farm," West York, Ont., July 7, 1898.

P. S.—You may publish this letter if you choose, as some of your readers may be able to throw more light on this interesting question. E. S.

### The Tuberculosis Scare.

Hon. Mr. Fisher, the Dominion Minister of Agriculture, appears to have got hold of the right end of the stick in regard to tuberculosis among cattle. In addressing a large Farmers' Institute gathering a short time ago in Lanark Co., Ont., he congratulated those present upon having a country well adapted to stock-raising, and he advised them to make the most of it by keeping good stock and keeping them well. He emphasized the importance of having clean, well-ventilated buildings, and healthystock. "You must," said he, "have healthy stock. A scare was started some time ago about 'tuberculosis.' People were said to be in great danger from affected stock. During the past eighteen months we have been carefully watching it, and have tested many herds, with the result that only about five per cent. were found to be affected. As people become educated as to the best methods of combating this disease, it will, we hope, decrease very fast. Use whitewash in your stables, keep them sweet and clean, and with care and the isolation of affected animals you may very soon greatly lessen this disease, which has only as yet got a partial foothold in Canada."

One by one, States and countries that embarked in the tuberculin-test-with-slaughter-attachment-crusade have abandoned the foolish extravagance, and are working out the problem on more rational lines, in which proper sanitary conditions play an important part.

### Opportunities for Investigation in Swine Feeding.

The comprehensive article in our Stock Department on the salient features of profitable swine feeding, as ascertained by experimentalists, is of special interest at the present time, and will well repay careful study. A good many deliverances have lately—since the hog and corn got into politics—been tendered on this subject by parties possessing little actual accurate information or experience, but still able to speak as positively as an oracle. It is true that Canadian skill in breeding, general management, feeding, and packing have put our bacon at the top; still there is work for our scientific investigators, when we consider the great variety of swine foods easily grown or available in Canada, possible mixtures, varied conditions affecting gain and profit, varying market requirements, and other points, such as when the fattening period should begin, and how long it should continue; whether limited freedom and exercise all through, or close confinement, say for the last month or so, is preferable; whether or not it is better to finish with a single grain or continue mixtures to the end; the effect of roots, rape or clover on quality, as well as gain, in fattening; whether Canada flint corn is preferable to the Western horse-tooth sorts; what grains or millfeeds can advantageously be used with corn (prices considered) to improve the latter (the exclusive use of which is adapted to produce fat lumber-camp pork) in feeding for high-class bacon; also to determine why, as in the Danish experiment, certain pigs on a given food make the lowest grade of pork, and a few others in the same trial convert exactly the same food into the first-class article, while pigs on another food of a different character gave equally puzzling results; in short, to get at what may be considered an ideal method of breeding, management, and feeding—one that will give as uniformly as possible the highest class of product, consistent with profit—for farmers are not disposed to raise pigs at a loss to please others, though there is no apparent necessity for such a contingency to arise. We would therefore commend the further scientific investigation of this important subject to our progressive Canadian investigators.

By way of supplement to the above and as an

example of the practical methods pursued by our intelligent Canadian swine-raising farmers, the description of the establishment of Mr. Freeman, of Oxford Co., Ont., also published in this issue, deserves close examination. A few political editors and others would give those who read their "cock sure"—"know-it-all" effusions the idea that the Canadian farmer has neither knowledge nor judgment to exercise in the management of his business, and that he would not hesitate an instant to make a dollar by adopting discredited Western States methods of hog raising, no matter what happened trade. We have no notion that he will be disturbed in the even tenor of his way from the rational policy of years by the chatter of faddists and amateurs. Mr. Freeman is neither, but is an earnest student of the branch of farming with which he has been evidently particularly successful, aiming by profitable methods to produce what the market requires, and always ready to learn. Experience is a great teacher.

### The Royal Show.

The Royal Agricultural Society of England sets the pace for a purely agricultural show. For sixty years, save one, this staid old organization has gone steadily on its way, presenting to all similar institutions a splendid example of adherence to a principle. Without any circus or side-show attractions to draw the crowd, and without any government grant to bolster it up, it goes on from year to year, ever popular, and well supported by private donations, in addition to its regular revenue. It offers a prize list which is liberal and generous, and being well patronized by the people, who attend in gratifying numbers, it stands to-day the most successful institution of its kind in the world. The programme of the show is eminently practical, embracing, besides the awarding of large cash prizes in some 17 breeds of sheep, 14 of cattle, and a corresponding number of breeds of horses, pigs and poultry, milking tests in three classes of cows, the trial of draft motor machines, exhibitions of agricultural implements, seeds, roots, and manures; daily demonstrations in butter and cheese making; lectures on the horse's foot, and how to shoe it; competitions of shoeing-smiths; demonstrations of crumming, plucking and trussing poultry for the table; demonstrations in bee driving and daily lectures on bee management; and daily parades of all the horses and cattle before the grand stand. This last feature is so systematically arranged and carried out as to make a most fascinating feature of the show, numbers being displayed upon the animals corresponding with a carefully prepared catalogue, giving full information as to age, breeding, and ownership of each animal. The expense entailed runs close to \$75,000, and the receipts to a few thousand dollars more. The exhibition for 1898 was held last month in Birmingham, and in all its features was a decided success, except that owing to unfavorable weather, and the fact that the show was held in a park nine miles from the city proper, the attendance was light as compared with that of the average of years. The attendance on the best one-shilling day at Birmingham was 49,011, as compared with 73,119 on the corresponding day at Manchester in 1897, and 80,002 at Leicester in 1896. The total attendance this year was only 98,278, as compared with 217,930 last year, and 146,277 in 1896.

Interesting reports of the stock sections of the show by our English and Scottish correspondents will be found in this issue, and illustrations of some of the prize animals will be given in this and future issues. The "Royal" is certainly a great institution, and is worthy of high commendation for the excellent work it is doing. While the conditions in our Dominion may not be such as to enable us to copy all the good things in their programme, yet there is much in it that we may adopt in part or in