

The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

Published weekly by
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (Limited).

JOHN WELD, Manager.

Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
Winnipeg, Man.

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conflict there will emerge a stronger movement toward universal peace through a greatly decreased, less burdensome and more sensible and safe form of preparedness or lack of it.

Natures Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

Europe has sent us so many pests—mama, bird and insect—that it is perhaps permissible for us to emit a quiet chuckle when we read the report of United States Consul, Charles L. Hoover, and see that we have sent one there, more particularly as it is established on "enemy country." He says, in part, "By far the most serious pest is the American Muskrat, which was introduced on the estates of Prince Coloredo-Mansfield in 1905, and since that time has distributed itself over the area within 100 miles of Dobrzisch, near Prague, Austria, where it was first liberated. It has followed the course of the Elbe and Moldau Rivers and their tributaries, and it is reported that it has even reached some of the tributaries of the Danube. It has developed a long list of evil traits of which it is apparently innocent in its native habitat. The streams in this region are controlled by dams and grassed banks, and fish culture in the ponds formed by the dams is a leading industry. The carp raised in these ponds form a very important part of food supply of the country. But the Muskrat undermines both the dams and the banks so that they cave in, allowing the water to escape and with it the fish. It is also stated that it works great havoc among the river crabs and mussels, the former furnishing a large food supply and the latter the shell which supports important industries. Further it catches fish, disturbs their feeding and spawning, and when other food is insufficient, it eats both growing grain and vegetables and destroys the eggs of both wild and domestic fowl. It is said that the Muskrat attains a greater size here, and that the fur is greatly inferior to that of the American Muskrat, so instead of being regarded, as in America, as a valuable fur-bearing animal of comparatively innocent habits, it is regarded here as a real pest."

We have noticed that for many years the num-

ber of shore birds—Snipe, Sandpipers, Plover, Curlew, etc.—has been decreasing very rapidly. The main reason for this has been winter and spring shooting in the United States. In the case of the Wilson's Snipe, one of the finest game-birds among the shore birds, the decrease has been very marked, and small wonder when we read the record of one "game hog" in Louisiana who for twenty years averaged 3,500 Wilson's Snipe per winter. Thus we have been protecting Snipe during their breeding season for the sportsmen (?) of the Southern States to slaughter in the winter. This condition of affairs has now fortunately been changed, as a Federal law has now been passed in the United States for protecting migratory game and insectivorous birds. Under its provisions the U. S. Department of Agriculture is given full authority to determine what shall be the close season in each State and to prepare regulations for their observance. As a result the small Sandpipers—such as the Spotted, Solitary, Least, and Semi-palmate—have been withdrawn from the list of game birds, and the open seasons have been so arranged as to give each state a fair length of season, and not to allow spring shooting at all. Thus in the New England States the open season for Wilson's Snipe is now from August 15 to December 1, while in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas it is from November 1 to February 1.

The Woodcock, once abundant over an area of a million square miles, is now nearly exterminated, and this has been brought about mainly by spring shooting and summer shooting. The Woodcock not only winters as far north as it can, but is the earliest spring migrant of the whole shore bird group, arriving in the Northern States by the end of March. This is of course before the leaves appear on the trees, and the ease with which the birds can then be seen makes this the favorite Woodcock season of the pot-hunter. But in the whole year no season could be chosen which would be more destructive to the Woodcock. It migrates early because it wishes to nest early; indeed in Louisiana some of the birds are so anxious to start their house-keeping that they lay their eggs in December. Throughout that part of their range north of their winter home eggs are found so early as to make it certain that the birds are already mated when they arrive at the nesting-grounds. This is plain that the spring shooting of Woodcock, which means the killing of mated birds, is little less than barbarous. But the pot-hunter has not been willing to allow even the few young raised a chance to grow to their full size and reach a condition in which they will afford real sport to a real sportsman. Hunters have been in the habit of beating the thicket for young birds only half to three-quarters grown, and the July massacre of these immature and easily captured fowl has had a very large share in bringing the Woodcock to the verge of extermination.

Under the new law the Woodcock should have a chance to increase, as in Georgia the open season is only from December 1 to January 1, in Louisiana between November 15 and January 1, and in most Southern States between November 1 and January 1.

THE HORSE.

Favors the Drafter.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

In your issue of Oct. 28 you ask your readers to discuss the best classes of horses for farm use. During my experience I have found the good, active, heavy drafter to give the best satisfaction. Of course a lighter horse will accomplish more on certain light work, but many times there is work to be done that would be liable to be too heavy and overstrain the light horse. A fair-sized carriage horse is very useful, as a farmer must have a horse to do a certain amount of driving. He can also do considerable light work and often make up a second team along with a colt, or he can often use the light horse as third horse in a three-horse team. One light horse is also handy for raking or any other light work. A team of light horses is often very serviceable when a farmer resides a long distance from his nearest trading point. They will do light work on a farm also, and do just as much as the heavy horse, but a team of light horses is enough for any farm. If more horses are required the heavy drafters pay best. They bring the highest prices when sold, and, therefore, their colts are most valuable and they do not require much more feed. As heavy drafters are worth the most money they are without doubt the most valuable for breeding purposes. They also will do more work without injury when in foal than will in-foal light mares, as they work much more quietly and the work is not so strenuous for them as it is on a light horse.

Some prefer the smaller draft horses which are low-set and chunky, claiming they are not so clumsy and will do just as much work. They may in work that is not too heavy, but when cultivating or ploughing or disking must be done

to a greater depth than usual, which is sometimes absolutely necessary, it is often too heavy on them, and there is where the real heavy horses have the advantage. There is not nearly so much danger of overworking or overdriving when the big horse is used. The bigger the horse the more feed they will require, but when it comes to breeding colts from the big ones are often worth from \$50 to \$100 more than the class two or three hundred pounds lighter in weight. This difference more than makes up for the extra feed consumed. The heavy drafter is the farmers best horse.

Middlesex Co., Ont.

FARMER.

Horse Contract Tribulations.

That army horse buying appears to have been attended with no end of trouble on this continent was further disclosed in an assize court action at Ottawa lately for a division of profits as between Percy Shaver and Sir Clifford Sifton and Major J. W. Sifton. The two latter had sold over \$6,000,000 worth of horses to the French Government, and Mr. Shaver who claimed to be a partner in the transaction asked for half the profits which were said to have amounted to \$200,000. They received \$300 per horse delivered in France, but more than one horse in twenty, or over 1,000 in all, died going across and profits were also swallowed up by demurrage on ships waiting at New York and the keep of horses at 50 cents per day each in New York. In all his experience, Sir Clifford Sifton said he never had to do with a more difficult and trying contract. The evidence disclosed that Sir Clifford had declined to accept any contract or any profits from the British or Canadian Governments in relation to horses for the war. The case was finally settled out of court, a substantial payment being made the plaintiff.

LIVE STOCK.

Rations For Fattening Lambs.

It is poor policy at any time to market scrawny, unfinished lambs. It would be extremely poor policy now. There is too much feed in the country this winter to allow stockmen to offer reasonable excuses for disposing of animals not fairly well fitted, and lambs make very economical gains when compared with either cattle or swine. A period of feeding in the runs would not be a bad move on the part of any shepherd who still has some lambs or wethers on hand.

Lambs to make the best gains should have had access to rich clover pasture or a rape field during the early autumn months, however, it is now too late to consider that phase of the matter; winter rations are more timely. In corn-growing sections, alfalfa or clover hay and corn make up the bulk of the allowance but in the lamb-feeding districts of Canada corn is not so abundant. It can be purchased, of course, but most farmers desire to feed home-grown stuff so far as possible, and buy only such feeds as bran or oil cake that are required to balance the ration, provide a laxative feed or add quality to the flesh of the finished animal. For sheep or lambs oats are outstanding in merit, but a few cracked peas added give good results. As fodder there is nothing better than clover or alfalfa hay but farmers who grow a quantity of peas can feed flail-threshed pea straw with profit. Roots too are a very necessary part of the ration. Silage is a good substitute for turnips or mangels, but where a few roots are grown it would be wise to save them for the fattening lambs and feed the silage to cattle. Lamb feeders throughout Eastern Ontario may feed somewhat differently as local conditions warrant, but they agree generally that clover or alfalfa hay, flail-threshed pea straw and roots are the best forms of roughage grown in that district. The lambs can be fed all the clover hay, pea straw and turnips they will eat without any evil consequences, but shepherds usually like to keep their flocks keen and ready to eat and consequently do not feed even these roughages to excess. Where the lambs are not accustomed to grain, one-half pound each will be sufficient at the start, and this quantity may be gradually increased to one and one-half pounds when nearing the finishing period. Oats and a small quantity of peas form the greater part of the grain ration in the district already mentioned.

Under other circumstances it may be necessary to alter somewhat the methods of feeding previously described. Where roots are scarce a mixture of good silage and roots, equal parts, will give good results. Two to three pounds per day of these roughages can be considered a rule to follow, but in some cases they will consume even more. As a grain ration two parts each of oats and bran and one part of oil cake will be found effective, and towards the end of the feeding period two parts of corn could be added. Corn is very appropriate for fattening lambs, and where it can be procured to advantage it should form a part of the ration. Barley also ranks

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1.	Birth whole milk
2.	Fifth in three feed
3.	Seven in three feed
4.	Tenth and 1 lb. sk teaspoonful
5.	Fifteen milk and 2 also 1 teasp
6.	Twenty milk and 5 also 2 teasp
7.	Twenty milk and 9 also 1 table
8.	Thirti