

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, ONT., and WINNIPEG, MAN.

JOHN WELD, Manager.

F. W. HODSON, Editor.

1. The Farmer's Advocate is published on the first and fifteenth of each month.
2. It is impartial and independent of all cliques 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.
3. Terms of Subscription—\$1.00 per year in advance: \$1.25 if in arrears; sample copy free. European subscription, 6s. or \$1.50. New subscriptions can commence with any month.
4. Advertising Rates—Single insertion, 30 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.
5. Discontinuances—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter or post card when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrears must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.
6. The Advocate is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
7. We invite farmers to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve the ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished on other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
8. Replies to circulars and letters of enquiry sent from this office will not be paid for as provided above.
9. No anonymous communications or enquiries will receive attention.
10. Letters intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
11. All communications in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

Address—
THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD CO.,
LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

CONTENTS.

- EDITORIAL:—
201—Illustration. 202—Mr. John Jackson's Southdowns; Editorial Notes. 203—Economic Farm Fencing; Millet; The Hawks and Owls of North America and Their Relation to Agriculture; Live Stock Portraiture.
- STOCK:—
204—Studs, Herds and Flocks; Chatty Letter from the States; Holstein Grades as Beef and Veal Producers. 205—Our Scottish Letter: Notes on Sheep Feeding and Breeding; A Home-Made Chemical Dehorner. 206—Chester Whites as Bacon Hogs; Duroc-Jersey Swine; To Prevent Cows Sucking Themselves; Cross-Breeding for Mutton; The Foal. 207—Iodide of Potassium; Calf Feeding Pen.
- QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:—
207—Veterinary; Miscellaneous; Answers re Tread-Power Threshers.
- FARM:—
208—Farm Architecture: A Farm House; Fifty Years Ago. 209—Agriculture in the Public Schools.
- POULTRY:—
210—How to Start and Stock a Henery; A Correction; Secluded Nests; Dangers in Impure Water.
- DAIRY:—
210—Fleeing the Dairy Farmer; Private Dairying in Manitoba; The Future Cheese and Buttermaker. 211—How to Keep "Separator" Skim Milk Sweet; From Past to Present.
- APIARY:—
211—The Apiary.
- QUIET HOUR:—212.
- FAMILY CIRCLE:—212.
- MINNIE MAY'S DEPARTMENT:—213.
- UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT:—213 to 215.
- STOCK GOSSIP:—217 and 218.
- ADVERTISEMENTS:—215 to 220.

Our Monthly Prize Essays.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

- 1.—No award will be made unless one essay at least comes up to the standard for publication.
 - 2.—The essays will be judged by the ideas, arguments, conciseness and conformity with the subject, and not by the grammar, punctuation or spelling.
 - 3.—Should any of the other essays contain valuable matter, not fully covered by the one awarded the first prize, or should any present different views of the same topic, and we consider such views meritorious, we will publish such essays in full, or extracts from them as we may deem best, and allow the writer ten cents per inch (one dollar per column) printed matter for as much of such articles as we publish. By this rule each writer who sends us valuable matter will receive remuneration for his labor, whether he be the winner of the first prize or not.
- See section 6 and four following in publisher's announcement above.
- We extend an invitation to dairy farmers in all parts of Canada to send us concise, practical letters, giving the results of their past year's experience in feeding dairy cows.
- 1st.—In winter feeding, what have you found the best foods, quantity and quality of milk and economy of production considered?
 - 2nd.—With what do you supplement pasture in summer and fall feeding?
 - 3rd.—In winter, do you feed twice or oftener per day, and why? Give particulars of your method.
- A prize of \$5 will be given for the best article embracing answers to the above questions. Essays to reach this office not later than July 1st.
- A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on farm drainage with special reference to methods of doing the work, the materials and implements used. Essays to reach this office not later than July 20th.

Our Scottish Letter.

The month of April has in many respects been an eventful one in Scotland. Several very important shows have been held; there has been a good deal of activity in the Clydesdale world. The exhibitions of Ayrshire cattle have been largely patronized. One or two auction sales have been failures, and several animals of choice breeding have seen the light. The first notable event in the month was the Hackney sale at Gowanbank. Strictly speaking it took place in March, but was not reported until April. Some sensational prices were realized, and altogether the sale was regarded as an unqualified success. The aged Fireway mare Crompton's, twenty-three years old, drew 80 guineas and was champion at Ayr in the end of the month, actually beating the Kilmarnock champion, the fine mare Florence, owned by Mr. Morton. The twelve-year-old mare, Lady Margaret, 15 hands high, drew 130 guineas, and a beauty named Ellengowan, 170 guineas. Yearling colts made 62 guineas, 80 guineas, 70 guineas, and 31 guineas a piece. Amongst the three-year-old fillies, Sweet Mary, a chestnut, drew 320 guineas, Orange Lily 125 guineas, Sweet Lullaby 65 guineas, Annie Laurie 78 guineas, Gowanlea 90 guineas, The Orphan 81 guineas, and Bonnie Doon 500 guineas. A two-year-old filly drew 285 guineas, and some idea of the general run of prices may be inferred from the averages:—10 ponies, £40 8s. 6d. a piece; 14 Hackney brood mares, £58 4s.; 6 Hackney stallions, £121 10s.; 4 yearling colts, £63 15s.; 7 three-year-old fillies, £188 17s.; 7 two-year-old fillies, £91 7s., and nine yearling fillies, £39 11s. These prices will take rank as amongst the best ever realized at a Hackney sale, and Mr. Morton's success will be welcomed as thoroughly well-deserved.

In the following week, on April 6th, the annual Clydesdale and Shetland pony sale took place at Seaham Harbour, and good prices were obtained in both sections. Bidding for the Shetland ponies was brisk, and a good sale was the result. For some of the Clydesdales there was a good demand, the three-year-old horse, Sir David 9400, drawing 515 guineas, a splendid figure. The average price of 17 ponies was £22 12s. 2d.; 22 Clydesdale mares and fillies made £80 7s. 11d., and 9 stallions ran up to the respectable average of £106 12s. 8d.

Castle Douglas Show is rapidly growing in popular favor, and the meeting this year marked a distinct advance on the last. Galloways here naturally took the place of honour, and the famous Tarbreoch herd was well to the front in the premium lists. The class of aged bulls was a grand one, and the first prize one, Henry of Tarbreoch, owned by Messrs. Clark & Culmain, has few equals. Messrs. Biggar & Son's second bull, The Viking, is a level beater with fine top. In the class of aged cows Mr. Cunningham fairly took the cream of the prizes with three noble cows, Scottish Queen, Madonna, and Mary Graham. Mr. Pilkington, in the class for younger cows, was an easy first with the beautiful little cow, Tidy V. of Drumlaing. Ayrshires were a great display, and the herds of Mr. Andrew Mitchell, Barcheskie, Mr. Abram Kerr, Castlehill, Mr. Wardrop, Garlaiff, Sir Mark J. Stewart, M. P., and others, sent forward animals that more than sustained the fair name of the breed. Clydesdales were prominent, as they could not well miss, being in the very centre of the Macgregor county and at a town like Castle Douglas. The champions in this class were both got by the famous Prince of Albion and bred by his owner, Mr. Gilmour, at Montrave. The champion stallion was Montrave Dudley, owned by Mr. William Montgomery, and the champion mare the 1000 guineas filly Queen of the Roses, owned by Mr. Pilkington. Mr. Andrew Montgomery's first brood mare, Daisy Dear, is by Prince Lawrence; Mr. Pilkington's first yearling mare, The Queen, is by Queen's Own; the first three-year-old mare was Queen of the Roses; the first two-year-old filly was owned by her breeder, Mr. David A. Hood, and was got by Balgredan Prince, out of the dam of the celebrated Oliver Twist; and the first yearling filly was a beauty got by Patrician and owned by Mr. William Montgomery. The first yearling colt was owned by the same gentleman, and got by Macgregor.

Kilmarnock Show, one of the great events of the year, was held ten days later. This is the centennial year of the existence of the local Farmers' Society, and the executive resolved to distinguish the meeting by extending the show over two days. Certainly they ought to be satisfied with the result, for a grander display of stock of every kind could not have been looked for. The classes were all well-filled, and the attendance of the public on two days in which lovely weather prevailed could not be surpassed. Hackneys mustered in large numbers, and Mr. Alex. Morton's Gowanbank stud was very successful in taking away a large share of the prize money. The best driving Hackney in Scotland is undoubtedly, however, Mr. Andrew Hunter's Lady Lofty, a superb animal in harness, with action that fairly eclipses that of almost any other living Hackney. Her hock action is perfect, and she gets over the ground in great style. Messrs. P. & W. Crawford, Eastfield House, Dumfries, showed a grand black stallion, Dash It All, a very fine specimen with many friends and admirers. Ayrshires were even more numerous than at Castle Douglas, and the quality was unmistakably high. The champion cow was a brown animal owned by Mr. James Lawrie, Newton, Strathaven—unquestionably a choice example of the breed. The champion bull was a fine beast, Duke of Mauchline, a two-year-old owned by Mr. Drummond,

Craighead, Mauchline. He was also champion at Ayr. The show of Clydesdales has always been an unique feature of Kilmarnock Show, and this season proved no exception to the rule. Mr. David Mitchell, of Millfield, Polmont, fairly eclipsed all previous records by taking home both championships. His brood mare Princess Adino, a splendid big animal, won in the female section, and his renowned stallion, Prince of Millfield, amongst the stallions. Brenda of Kippendavie, a favorite prize winner, and looking vastly better than we have ever before known, was first in the yeld mare class. Queen of the Roses was first three-year-old filly, being followed by two daughters of Flashwood, and the first two-year-old filly was Maggie Macaulay, owned by Mr. Howie, Hillhouse, Kilmarnock, and got by that famous horse The Macaulay. The first yearling filly was a beautiful beast owned by Mr. Kean, and got by Prince of Carbury. It now has joined the Barcheskie stud.

The principal events in the third week of April were the East of Fife show at Coluisburgh and the spring show of the Royal Dublin Society. Fife-shire is a county in which the modes of farming differ somewhat from those that are popular in the West of Scotland. The features are the Clydesdales, for which, however, all the credit is due to gentlemen like Mr. Gilmour, of Montrave, Mr. Balfour, of Balbirnie, and tenant farmers like Mr. Anderson, Newbigging, Ceres, and Messrs. Meiklem, Begg Farm, Kirkcaldy. Several magnificent Shorthorns may almost always be counted on at Coluisburgh, and fat stock are generally well worth studying, the district being largely a feeding one and pretty sharply divided on that account re the vexed question of Canadian stores. Hunting horses, however, always make the grandest display at this show, and this season was no exception to the rule. Mr. Gilmour exhibited some of his famous Clydesdales, and they alone were well worth looking after. By far the best, however, was the pair of mares, Montrave Gay Lass and Tinwald Forest Flower. The two three-year-old mares, Rance II. and Lady Muriel, were a great pair, and the younger ones were also good.

The Dublin Show is a notable gathering, but it does not at all approach the autumn show there as a fashionable function. It is, however, well patronized by the farming community, and the display of all classes of stock indicates an advance.

The last week of the month has been a very notable one. The Messrs. A. & W. Montgomery have purchased the celebrated Flashwood, without much doubt the best living Clydesdale stallion. He is now ten years old, and has changed hands at an unprecedented figure for a horse of his age. Ayr show has been held under most favorable auspices and has proved a great success, and the Maryhill show in the vicinity of Glasgow has followed suit. The champion Ayrshire cow was Sloth II., owned by Mr. Steel, Burnhead, Darvel, and the Clydesdales were a splendid exhibit. The first three-year-old at Kilmarnock was the Banks horse, Belvidere, and the first at Ayr was also Mr. William Montgomery's fine thick horse, the Macmeekin. At Maryhill and Ayr, Mr. Mitchell's mares carried almost all the principal prizes, Princess Adino being champion at the latter show, while the champion horse was the great son of Sir Everard, named The Summit.

SCOTLAND YET.

Notes on Sheep Feeding and Breeding.

Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Your valuable journal recently contained a letter on sheep breeding by "Practical," of Virden, Man. He says he thinks the ADVOCATE should be in the hands of every farmer; in that I quite agree with him, but with some of his remarks I do not concur. In the first place he says half-threshed pea straw is the best feed for sheep. I consider there would be a great waste of peas in the straw, and do not think it necessary to afford as much grain as that. For instance, ten acres of good pea straw (hand threshed), with a few roots and a very small quantity of grain, should feed twenty sheep for five months, and yield two hundred and fifty bushels of peas. This half-threshed, with the ground grain he speaks of, would be too expensive feeding for profit. In another place he says he selected the largest ewe lambs for breeding. In that he was right as far as he went, but he should take shape into consideration, for a large sheep if not well formed will not take the eye of the judges, and should not be bred from. Now, with regard to the twin lambs, the condition of the ewes when served will have more to do with the twins than either the ram or the ewes being twins. He says he expects to get three or four lambs from each ewe every year. I think after he has had the three or four lambs with each ewe a few times he will be satisfied with two—at least I am—or even one, rather than three or four.

R. HONEY, Warkworth, Ont.

A Home-Made Chemical Dehorner.

Dr. Salmon, the head of the U.S. government bureau of animal industry, gives this as the "chemical dehorner" used in his experiments: "A mixture is prepared by taking fifty parts of caustic soda, twenty-five parts of kerosene oil, and twenty-five parts of water. An emulsion is made of the kerosene oil and soda by heating and vigorously stirring, and this is then dissolved in water. The mixture is then placed in a bottle with a solid rubber cork. This cork is to rub the mixture in when a few drops are applied to the end of the coming horn of the calf, which should not be more than three weeks old. It is strong stuff and should be carefully confined to these points.