

The Farmer's Advocate

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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faced co-operatively by the farmers in every neighborhood, it would facilitate matters greatly. It would of course necessitate that a little more of the give and take principle be followed, but this would be good for all. It would mean a larger acreage of crop and less difficulty in handling it when it matures. We see no other way out of the difficulty than that farmers, all of whom are anxious to produce all they can at this time, arrange to change work on a large scale during the coming summer.

Proper Organization Needed Now.

This paper has contained dozens of articles purporting to show the need of co-operation in Canadian agriculture. That need never was as imperative as it is at the present time, particularly in so far as Eastern Canada is concerned. Co-operative organizations are strong in the Western Provinces; co-operation in Ontario and the East has not made the headway which it should or might have done. At the present time speakers on both sides of the Atlantic, and business men in all the Allied countries are talking and planning ways and means of handling trade when the war is over. They all point with a degree of uncertainty to the conditions in which this and the other countries will find themselves when the period of reconstruction comes. In that time, where will Canadian agriculture stand? Complaints are often made that our representatives in Parliament do not represent the people, because agriculture, the largest industry in the country, and the one industry in which the majority of the population is employed, has a small representation compared with the professions and other industries. Complaints have been made in the past that legislation has favored city industries and these complaints have not been without foundation. Privileges have been granted to certain industries, and these in some cases have worked to the disadvantage of agriculture, but through it all the individual farmer stood alone, in many cases married to party, and in all cases unable to exercise the power which would have been his had he worked in harmony with others of his class.

The farmer must produce as economically as possible. Cost of production of farm crops in this country is

altogether too high, and this will be felt even more after the war than at the present time. It will be necessary to reduce this cost in many cases, and a proper degree of co-operation on a business basis will help bring this down. Working singly little more can be accomplished than has been done in the past, but with all agriculture properly organized the industry can then take its proper place in the affairs of the nation and the individual farmer as well as the individual consumer will profit thereby, for it is fast becoming understood that the problem of the individual in the country is the problem of the working man in the city.

Your Farm House.

At this season many of our readers are contemplating remodeling their houses, or building new, and consequently are studying plans for the same. Elsewhere in this issue we publish plans of ten different houses, which have been very kindly submitted to us by subscribers, and we would advise readers to look them over with a view to selecting the good points from each and incorporating them in so far as possible in their own particular plans. It must be remembered, however, in all farmhouse construction that the woman who labors in such house has plenty to do, no matter how convenient the house can be made, and it is therefore important that the house contain no waste space and that modern conveniences be installed wherever practicable. In the past many farm houses have been too small and consequently unhandy. These have been replaced in too many instances by structures which have gone to the other extreme and are altogether too large and still unhandy. A house, to be modern, does not require to be large, but there are a few things necessary and which should be in every new or remodeled farm house. First we would mention a basement in at least two parts, preferably three; one part to contain a furnace for heating purposes. The next convenience we would mention is running water throughout, and the third which goes with it is a bathroom complete, with all the devices of the modern city house. We might also throw out this hint, that in the building of all houses, even in the country, it would be good practice to wire for electric light, which seems to be the coming light. The house may be wired much more cheaply when under construction than later. None of these conveniences are beyond the reach of the farmer who can see his way clear to remodel his old house or build a new. The furnace is an economical, clean, sanitary and handy method of heating, whether a hot-air or hot-water system is used. Running water may be had from an elevated tank, or better from a complete water-pressure system, which would be found one of the greatest conveniences in the home. The bathroom, with closet and other fixtures, can be easily arranged for where the running water system is used. A septic tank outside forms a cheap, sanitary and entirely satisfactory method of sewage disposal. Every farmer who builds owes these things to himself, his wife, and the rest of the family, and he will find them a big asset for the future of his farm. With all, make the house compact so that it may be easily heated; build it well, for it is to last not one lifetime but for generations; build it for comfort and to save steps and hard work for the women who will labor therein; put in a dumb waiter, plenty of clothes closets, and arrange for proper ventilation. Make the farm home substantial, a model of compactness, handiness, sanitation and attractiveness.

Blizzard Bound.

BY PETER MCARTHUR.

Wow, what a morning! A roaring west wind is lashing the falling and drifting snow into a blinding, icy smother that makes the very thought of venturing outdoors send cold chills up and down one's spine. Even though the house is warm everyone huddles around the stove for the wind sounds cold and the glimpses we get through the white windows make us shiver. Of course the children couldn't go to school in such weather, and as they have nothing to do they add to the general morning confusion. To increase the trouble I stepped on their pet cat's pet tail a minute ago and I am no more popular with them than the cat is with me. Consarn that big, fat lummock of a cat anyway! I never knew a cat to be so careless about his tail or so indignant when it is stepped on. He let out a yowl that made me jump as if I had been torpedoed. But it seems as if he would never learn to take care of his tail. If he goes under a sofa he leaves his tail sticking out. If he goes under a chair or table it is just the same. He is all the time leaving his tail lying around carelessly and every once in a while I step on it—which brings howls from him and indignant protests from his loving

protectors. If this sort of thing keeps up all winter his tail will be flattened out like a beaver's before spring, and we will be able to enter a Canadian beaver-tailed cat at the Cat Show. Such a cat would be truly Canadian, because the beaver is our emblem and it would be as distinct a species as the tailless Manx cats. The idea appeals to me. I think I shall go and step on his tail again so as to develop him properly.

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There is one government job that no one is hankering for very much these days—that of rural mail-carrier. To start out on a morning like this to make a drive of twenty miles or so is enough to make a man doubt the value of the political pull that got him his job. For some time past I have been noticing with interest that men who get the mail-carrying jobs in country districts do not settle down to hold them for life as is the case with other government jobs. Some of them manage to hang on for a year or two but many change off in a month or so. The long lonely drive in all kinds of weather gives them loads of time to meditate on the vanity of human wishes and the nothingness of official life. Of course the pay is regular and fairly good, but what Shakespeare would call the "damnable iteration" of the job gets on their nerves. There is one good feature about this state of affairs. It enables the local patronage committees of the ruling political party to satisfy the cravings for office of their ambitious henchmen. If a man feels that he should have a job from his grateful party he is put on a mail-route. This makes him proud and happy for a while but a spell of such weather as we are having or a spell of bad roads makes him hanker for the obscurity of private life again, and he throws up the job in disgust. Then another man who is to be rewarded takes up the job in a proud and happy frame of mind and holds it until his limit of endurance is reached. I am told that in some districts where the roads are bad and there are long stretches of wind-swept hill-side, the patronage committees will soon be forced to go outside of their party to get victims. They can use the job to punish fellows in the other party who seemed too ambitious and busy. It is really too bad that men holding some of the indoor, cushioned-chair, government jobs could not be forced to put in a while on a rural mail route. A few months of the work might drive them to retire to some useful employment in private life.

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I am afraid the storm may finish the flock of quail that I was trying to coax into living with us. When they first appeared among the weeds back by the wood-lot there were eleven of them. I was hoping that they would find shelter in a few brush heaps and briar patches, but apparently they only paid us foraging visits from a neighboring farm. One day they came into the old orchard near the house and put up for a while in a pile of pruning brush, but they didn't seem to find enough to keep them going. A few days later I scared them up from a sunny spot under the root of a little elm tree beside the government drain and as there were old tracks as well as new it occurred to me that might be a favorite spot with them, so I put a little box of wheat where they could easily get at it, but apparently they never came back. When last seen there were only seven of them left. As weasels and owls appear to be plentiful it will probably be hard for them to pull through such a hard winter as we are having. One night when the children were skating I went out to call them home and heard more owls hooting than I ever before heard at the same time. They were hooting from all points of the compass and the noise they made was almost continuous. One night when I was going out to the stable after dark a little screech owl was sitting on a wire within a few feet of the window. Apparently he had been staring in at the lamp and at the people sitting around it. When disturbed he flew to a spruce tree nearby and sat in the stream of light where he could watch what was going on. When I came back from the stable he was still there and didn't move when the lantern was lifted within a yard of him. Only when I reached out my hand to catch him did he stop staring at me and fluttered away noiselessly into the dark. I wonder what that was the sign of?

Nature's Diary.

A. B. KLUGH, M. A.

In our study of the animal mind we next come to such forms as the Starfish. In this, and in other animals belonging to the same group we find a nerve ring which runs round the mouth and a long nerve running down each of the five arms from this ring.

If we take a normal Starfish and turn it on its back under water we find that it bends two of its arms under it and by raising the body with these arms it turns itself "right side up with care". If, however, we take a Starfish in which the nerve ring has been severed we find that each of the five arms bends under the body, that each arm pushes against all the others and consequently the animal is entirely unable to right itself. From this we see that muscular co-ordination depends upon the nerve ring. This is interesting because it is the first case of definite muscular co-ordination we meet in ascending the scale of animal life. Muscular co-ordination plays a very large part in our every-day lives, practically every movement we make being an example of it, particularly such movements as we execute perfectly without thinking about them, such as walking, eating, etc. In fact the ability to perform actions quickly and accurately depends upon the perfection of muscular co-ordination, and it reaches its highest point in the case of a piano player who is able