

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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AND N.-W. T.

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A Small-souled Regulation.

The amended act admitting pure-bred animals duty free when imported for breeding purposes, shows that Congress has limited this privilege to citizens of the United States. Any "alien" who may hereafter send over for sale pedigreed animals for breeding purposes must pay duty. The full text of the amended paragraph follows:

"Any animal imported by a citizen of the United States specially for breeding purposes shall be admitted free, whether intended to be so used by the importer himself or for sale for such purpose: Provided, that no such animal shall be admitted free unless pure-bred of a recognized breed, and duly registered in the books of record established for that breed: And provided further, that certificate of such record and of the pedigree of such animal shall be produced and submitted to the customs officer, duly authenticated by the proper custodian of such book of record, together with the affidavit of the owner, agent or importer that such animal is the identical animal described in said certificate of record and pedigree: And provided further, that the Secretary of Agriculture shall determine and certify to the Secretary of the Treasury what are recognized breeds and pure-bred animals under the provisions of this paragraph. The Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe such additional regulations as may be required for the strict enforcement of this provision. Cattle, horses, sheep or other domestic animals straying across the boundary line into any foreign country, or driven across such boundary line by the owner for temporary pasturage purposes only, together with their offspring, may be brought back to the United States within six months free of duty, under regulations to be prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury: And provided further, that the provisions of this Act shall apply to all such animals as have been imported and are in quarantine, or otherwise in the custody of customs or other officers of the United States, at the date of the passage of this Act."

How would American horsemen, who are doing such a thriving trade in Canada, relish the imposition of similar narrow-gauge regulations by Canada? The law makers of the Dominion do not seem to be built on such small-souled lines.

The Cost of Building.

The cost of purchasing the requisite material for the construction of buildings, is a serious problem confronting the majority of farmers in Manitoba and the Territories at the present time. To the new settler, a certain amount of building is necessary, and in a prairie country, where lumber has to be imported, the financial outlay becomes no unimportant matter. With those, also, who have become well established in the country, and have reaped the reward of several bountiful harvests, there are stables and dwellings to be erected, such as will make the home, both in comfort and appearance, in keeping with the prosperity which its owner has enjoyed. Within the last few months, enquiries have been received at this office asking for information regarding the comparative cost of log, stone, cement and frame buildings. Owing to the diversity of conditions prevailing in different localities, these have been difficult to answer, for no doubt there are places where any one of the four materials mentioned might constitute the main portion of a building and be constructed cheaper than if any of the other three were used. Where logs of reasonable size can be obtained, stables and dwellings may be built by the pioneer that will give good satisfaction for many years, at a cost much less than if lumber were used for the walls. The value of cement as a building material is beginning to be better known and appreciated, and where gravel can be conveniently had, and the cement itself procured for what it is worth, there is, perhaps, no cheaper material for the walls of a substantial dwelling, or the walls and floors of stables. Stone, also, makes a very fair wall for stables, but for dwelling houses it collects too much dampness, unless there is a frame inside, with lath and plaster, forming a hollow wall. In few localities, too, is stone plentiful, and the cost of putting up the wall is considerable.

Under conditions most generally prevailing, no material is more useful or necessary than lumber, but the increase in prices of most grades for sale in Manitoba and the Territories, and the comparative impossibility of securing a supply at any price in many districts, makes the question of building a grave one. Indications point to the existence of a lumber combine. The Winnipeg City Council, a short time ago, took the matter up, and have been holding an investigation to ascertain the real condition of affairs. It has been claimed that the Western Lumbermen's Association was formed for the very purpose of making arbitrary regulations in regard to the sale of lumber. It is also said, and there appears to be considerable proof forthcoming, that this combination have not only undertaken to set prices and say how much lumber was to be handled at each point, but have even refused to deal with any lumber merchant outside of the combination. There is not a farmer in Manitoba or the Northwest Territories who is not suffering more or less by the present extravagant prices on building material of all kinds, and if it is possible to prove that an organization so unlawfully exists, the sooner its promoters can be dealt with the better. The Grain-growers' Associations, with that spirit of business enterprise which farmers everywhere should cultivate, have already let themselves be heard, and a petition will go before the Federal Parliament during the present session, praying for an investigation as to the cause of the present high prices of lumber. Meanwhile, those who must build, will do well to consider carefully not only the most economical material for their particular purpose, but also the plan of each building that will give the greatest advantages for the smallest outlay.

Practical Experience.

We desire to call special attention to the articles on soil cultivation, giving the practical experience of prosperous farmers in different districts. To those who have been farming in this country for years, as well as the newcomer, the methods practiced by men who are in a position to give advice should be of value. The season for field work is now on; the rush will have soon begun, but the farmer who combines intellect with muscle, carefully considering soil conditions, and the most profitable cultivation for each crop, will have reason to rejoice for so doing.

Siftings.

As a minimizer of grocery bills, few things can equal the garden.

The sowing of the farmer largely determines what the world shall eat.

Now is the time to fulfill your tree-planting vow. See to it at once; you will never regret it.

"A discontent with existing conditions is the chief source of the desire to improve them, and this desire is the mainspring of progress."—Lecky.

Food until digested and assimilated is of no value to the partaker. Cultivate the habit of retaining, or, in other words, digesting, what you read in the "Farmer's Advocate."

The garden plot adds more to the comfort and health of the farmer and his kin than any other portion of like area which he owns. If you have not already made provision, attend to it at once. Now is the time.

Encourage the boys to devote their leisure time in making wheelbarrows, wire winders, etc. This will create, or at least strengthen, in them a taste for repairing or manufacturing many necessary contrivances on the farm, which will prove helpful for life. Portions of superannuated farm implements and other material of little value can often be utilized to advantage in this way.

A little extra preparation on that field now may seem wasted time, but remember a finer tilth fits the soil for retaining more moisture, which will be given to the crop at a later period, when much needed, and thus increase the productivity of the field far in advance of the extra labor.

That the horse is the farmer's best friend will scarcely be disputed at this season. Treat him as such; see that his harness fits; that he is watered and fed regularly, and when his day's work is over, that he has as good an opportunity of resting in comfort as can well be given him. It will all be returned with interest to the considerate owner.

All stockmen who are not in the habit of growing roots should this year break away from former methods and make provision for treating their stock next winter to that succulent, appetizing flesh-former, the carrot, mangel or turnip, as the case may be. Try a corner of last year's summer-fallow, if such can be had, and we predict that you will continue in the good work as regularly as each spring-time comes.

Inter-Imperial Postage.

The announcement made in the last issue of the "Farmer's Advocate," that Sir Wm. Mulock had succeeded in his effort to reduce the postage on Canadian periodicals going to Great Britain, has been well received by the country, and should do much to further the relations of Canada in the Old Land, as was the result of the two-cent letter rate, another of the Canadian Postmaster-General's achievements. Our readers will do well to bear in mind that they can now send papers to their friends in the Old Country at the same rate as from point to point in Canada. This privilege should be taken advantage of by those who wish to send either single copies of the "Farmer's Advocate," or the paper for a whole year, to friends across the sea. It will now, more than ever, be a good missionary abroad for Canada. We regret to say, however, that thus far the Imperial authorities have declined to reduce the postage on British periodicals coming to Canada. As to the rate of postage on papers to Australia, New Zealand, and other portions of the Empire, Sir Wm. Mulock has been conducting negotiations with the various Governments concerned in order to make a similar reduction as on periodicals to Great Britain, and may be relied upon to continue his efforts in that direction until successful. The establishment of free rural mail delivery in Canada is another reform which should be inaugurated at the earliest possible date.