

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
is published every Thursday.

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-
men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
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LONDON, CANADA.

bred along superior milking lines he will be likely
to look for a smooth one in a dairy-bred herd
that will come near to his idea of the dual-pur-
pose animal.

Is there not here a field for useful work on the
part of the Dominion Shorthorn Breeders' Asso-
ciation, with its bulky surplus, following the ex-
ample of the English and American Associations
in offering prizes for milking tests as well as for
competition by inspection?

Professor Day's article is timely and full of
food for thought on the part of breeders, and it
is gratifying to be informed that at last research
work in this line is contemplated by experiment
stations which would appear to be peculiarly
fitted for it, and that work in connection with
some phases of the problem is to be undertaken
at Guelph, but, as Mr. Day suggests, it is to the
breeders primarily and principally that the farm-
ers will look for the means of improving their
cattle along the lines indicated, though we fancy
they will fail to see the force of his remark that
"in the face of these (breeding) problems experi-
ment stations stand helpless," as they will hardly
be excused for failing to grapple with them owing
to the apparent difficulty of their solution.

AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATION FOR B. C.

Veterinary Association Incorporated.—Among
other legislation of importance to the farmers of
British Columbia, passed at the 1907 session of
the Provincial Legislature, was an act incorporat-
ing the B. C. Veterinary Association. The in-
corporation of this society enables the authorized
and qualified veterinarians of the Province to pro-
tect themselves from the competition and incom-
petent services rendered by quacks and other un-
qualified persons claiming to be veterinary sur-
geons. In order, now, to practice in British
Columbia as a veterinary surgeon, it is necessary
to register, and in order to register it is neces-
sary to be a graduate of a recognized veterinary

school or college, where the regular curriculum is
not less than three sessions of six months each,
or, in lieu of this, they must have been in regular
practice in the Province for five years prior to the
passing of this act. These regulations will pro-
tect the farmer against the fraudulent or unquali-
fied services of the so-called veterinarians who
have gained their knowledge and experience by
taking a six-months' course at a correspondence
school, or at some college where degrees are ob-
tainable in exchange for a small sum of money.

An Act to Protect Horse-breeders.—Legislation
was enacted at the last session making it neces-
sary for the owner of any stallion standing for
profit or gain to post up copies of certificate of
such stallion issued by the Provincial Department
of Agriculture. The certificate above referred to
will state whether the stallion is pure-bred, and
registered. If not registered, whether one of its
parents is pure-bred, or whether from pure-bred
parents of different breeds. This act also allows
the owner of a stallion to register a lien against
the offspring of said stallion, any time within 12
months after the service of such stallion, and the
same will constitute a first claim on said off-
spring. If payment of the service fee is not made
before the first day of January in the year follow-
ing the year in which the colt is born, the owner
of said stallion or his agent, may at any time
before the first day of May following, take pos-
session of said colt or filly, and sell same at pub-
lic auction, after ten days' notice has been given
to the person in whose possession the said colt is
found. This act comes into force on the first day
of January, 1908. The question of examining
stallions for hereditary unsoundness, and issuing
certificates accordingly, was considered, but was
not adopted, although it will doubtless come into
effect before many years.

An Act to Aid the Establishment of a Pro-
vincial University.—The Legislature, in its wisdom,
decided, at its last session, to set aside two million
acres of land for the endowment and support of a
university. The act states that this university shall
be non-sectarian, and strictly secular. It author-
izes the maintenance of Faculties, including Arts
and Science, Medicine, Law, Applied Science, and
such other degrees as may be determined by said
university. If the land is selected in some lo-
cality where it is likely to increase in value, the
revenue from this land should go a long way to-
wards the maintenance of such an institution.

The foregoing acts were probably the most im-
portant from an agricultural standpoint. Beside
these, however, were several amendments to agri-
cultural acts, of more or less interest to farmers,
such as: Amendments to the Dyking Act; Line
Fences and Watercourses; the Land Laws, etc. An
appropriation was made for the employment of
experts to investigate the irrigation question
and report. This is an important matter, as a
large part of the tillable land located in the
mountain districts depend entirely upon irrigation
for the successful growing of crops.

OUR MARITIME LETTER.

THE TENDENCY TO OVER AND UNDER DO.

We had not the pleasure of listening to the ex-
cellent address of Prof. Robertson at the Hills-
boro Consolidated School, although we were
booked to speak from the same platform on that
occasion; but, if we have interpreted aright, the
trend of his argument, it was a plea for the re-
turn to the simple life, in education, as in every-
thing else, as something ardently to be desired by
everybody. We have noticed that this sort of
exhortation, from the leaders of thought generally,
is being of late very persistently made, and see
that, not only in those matters which have a
direct bearing upon the preservation and exten-
sion of the human family, but in regard to all
animal and vegetable life, the tendency of the
teacher is towards simplicity. And this is not
surprising. Luxury enervates wherever it is per-
mitted to gain sway, and it has been taking a
pretty free hand. The pampered man is good for
nothing when the hour of stress and strain comes
round, as it is bound to come some day to every-
body. And so with the animals we are rearing
and the plants we are cultivating so assiduously,
and the trees about our homes; and, indeed,
everything over which we exert influence. "Hot-

house production" is a term of contempt which
the world uses for all those things which are
forced into fruition under other than normal con-
ditions. We find the weakly and diseased fleeing
to the pure air of the mountains, and living under
a regime which is as vigorous to-day as it is truly
primitive; and this to escape the penalty of phy-
sical and mental weakness transmitted by parents
who yesterday departed from the simple ways of
life in which they were brought up, and under-
mined, in riotous living, the sound physique which
was originally theirs; or who, themselves, failed
to heed the warnings of the prudent, and wrecked
early, by their own excesses, the most precious
gifts of bodily perfection, which, once lost, can
never be compensated for by anything else in the
world.

A great lament went up some few years ago
from the publicists of the Government Bureau that
the cattle of the steading were awfully badly
treated, because not housed and tended with all
the care and tenderness employed with children.
It is, indeed, as we have said, false kindness to
unduly pamper the child; it has transpired that
it is false husbandry to so treat animals either in
housing or feeding, as if they were too tender for
a breath of air in winter, or the ordinary rough-
age of farm in the foddering. What has trans-
pired? People, vying with one another, have
procured the most highly-bred and not always
best constitutioned cattle and horses, sheep, pigs
and poultry, and so fed and coddled them as to
have, in short, undermined their health, and
vitiated, to a very great extent, their progeny.
The country stock farms, too, have been the great-
est sinners in this. The dairy cow was not so
much as to have a breath of winter air let in up-
on her; that was an economic sin not to be for-
given, for it took a wealth of fodder to expiate
it, forsooth. Now those superheated herds are
taking the outdoor or open-air cure for tubercu-
losis, or have had to be slaughtered outright. And
the spoon-fed stallions occupy a place altogether
inferior to those which are treated after the fash-
ion of ordinarily well-cared-for horses. Swine,
sheep and poultry may be said to have been injured
greatly, too, wherever normal conditions were in
this way departed from notably. For years and
years, to the great disgust of the old-stager, this
movement has progressed towards a false delicacy
of care, till its pendulum completed the last
stretch of its upward motion, and now it is as
persistently tending to extremes in the opposite
direction, if certain signs are to be read literally.
Still, there must be a virtuous standing-point be-
tween these extremes. The Latin poet declared,
with no lack of assurance, "Est modus in rebus,"
—there is the proper way in everything; and the
moralists of their past ages have equally well
declared, "In medie stat virtus." Let us, then,
beware of extreme conduct in anything.

Now, all this commenced with Dr. Robertson's
address at Hillsboro. The papers report this
experience in the simple life of poultry, as an-
nounced by him, it having been tried at the new
Ste. Anne's. If authentic, it must revolutionize
poultry-keeping the country over. It seems too
good to be true, at first blush; but perhaps our
friend Elford will vouch for it entirely. It is a
return to the simplest life possible for fowls, all
will remark; and if not really an extreme, such as
we have been condemning, then the medium which
we had come to regard as true in this poultry-
keeping, has certainly got away off from its bear-
ings, and must be quickly brought back and ad-
justed as to the proper hygienic and economic
center. Here is the quotation:

"At the Macdonald College, at Ste. Anne's,
last winter, there were 250 hens living in colony
houses, one board thick, with the thermometer oc-
casionally 17 degrees below zero inside. When
the water was frozen, a man would shovel in
snow, or the hens would run out and pick it. They
were fed on dry grain once a day, and were given
no hot mash. They had to scratch for a living.
About the middle of November they began laying
eggs, and laid over 10,000 eggs by the end of
March. One of our neighbors, a wealthy man,
heats his henhouses with fuel. He had about
two hundred hens, which were fed with bran, hot
mashes, flavored, and perhaps perfumed. Never-
theless, those hens did not lay enough to supply