

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.

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

It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most
practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairy-
men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication
in Canada.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland,
Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in
advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United
States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line,
agate. Contract rates furnished on application.

THE FARMER'S 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.

THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held respon-
sible until all arrears are paid and their paper ordered to be
discontinued.

REMITTANCES should be made direct to us, either by
Money Order or Registered Letter, which will be at our risk.
When made otherwise we will not be responsible.

THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL shows to what time your
subscription is paid.

ANONYMOUS communications will receive no attention. In
every case the FULL NAME AND POST-OFFICE ADDRESS MUST
BE GIVEN.

WHEN A REPLY BY MAIL IS REQUIRED to Urgent
Veterinary or Legal Enquiries, \$1 must be enclosed.

LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one
side of the paper only.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS.—Subscribers when ordering a change
of address should give the old as well as the new P.O. address.

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
FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, 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 other papers until after they have
appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on
receipt of postage.

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 COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

Why the Half-rate Privilege was Cancelled.

A bold Ethiopian stepped out of the wood-
pile at the Dominion Cattle-breeders' meeting in
Toronto, last week, when a certain well-known
horseman unblushingly admitted that he had been
the means of having the railroads cancel the half-
rate privilege on stock going from one exhibition
to another, which had been in force until last fall.
His argument was that an exhibitor sending stock,
say, from London to Toronto at single fare (with
the usual free return, of course), and then sending
it on from Toronto to Montreal at half fare, with
free return again, had an advantage over a Toron-
to exhibitor sending to Montreal at full single
rate. Naturally, his objection looked good to the
railroad freight agent, and so, as a result of this
dog-in-the-manger action, Canadian exhibitors of
live stock have the privilege of paying full rates
from fair to fair. This works out to introduce
many anomalies, such, for example, as the pay-
ment of practically full return rates by an ex-
hibitor living at, say, Maple Lodge, unless he went
to the inconvenience of shipping home from Toron-
to, and then re-shipping at once to London.
SELFISHNESS seems stamped on some men's
characters.

United States Imports of Farm Products.

The farm products imported into the United
States during the fiscal year 1907—the year of
highest record—amounted in value to nearly \$627,-
000,000. The imports for 1908 were valued at
\$510,000,000 in round numbers, and the average
for the five years, 1901-1905, was a trifle over
\$455,000,000. These and other interesting figures
appear in a bulletin recently issued by the United
States Department of Agriculture, which reviews
imports of farm products during a period reaching
back to the middle of last century.

The farm products imported may be divided
into two general classes: (1) Those which com-
pete with products of American farms, and (2)
those which do not so compete to any considerable
extent. The first class, embracing such items as
sugar, tobacco, hay, and hides and skins, make up
a little less than half of the total. The principal

items of the second class are silk, coffee, tea, sisal
grass, manilla fibre, jute, bananas, cocoanuts, and
Peruvian and Egyptian cotton.

Farm products have always constituted a large
part of the imports of the United States, but not
the preponderant share that such products hold in
her export trade. In the fifties, only about one-
third of the imports were farm products. But
their importance gradually increased, and in 1875,
to the end of the century, agricultural products
made up just about one-half of the total, in some
years rising above and in some years falling below
the 50-per-cent. line. Since 1900, however, while
farm products have continued to increase, the gain
in imports of manufactured and other non-agri-
cultural articles has been even greater, so that
only about 46 per cent. of the total imports since
1900 are to be classed as agricultural.

By comparing imports with exports, it is found
that for the five years, 1901-1905, the average U.
S. exports of cotton, grain and grain products ex-
ceeded by \$74,000,000 her total imports of prod-
ucts of the farm.

Imports of agricultural products have increased
much faster than population during the period
covered by this review. In the period 1851-1855
these imports averaged in value \$2.71 per capita;
during the five years, 1901-1905, the average was
\$5.67. Of this increase of \$2.96 per capita, 55
cents was due to increased imports of silk, 55
cents to packing-house products, 45 cents to vege-
table fibres, 28 cents to coffee, 20 cents to wool,
18 cents to tobacco, 17 cents to all fruits, 10 cents
to coca and chocolate, and 7 cents to vegetable
oils.

Comparing the two periods, 1851-1855 and
1901-1905, it is found that in fifty years imports
of coffee increased from 7 to 12 pounds per capita,
imports of tea from $\frac{1}{4}$ to 1.2 pounds, and imports
of sugar from 17 to 46 pounds per capita; while,
during the half century, imports of manufactured
tobacco doubled, and imports of wool trebled.

Import prices show some marked changes.
Cheese rose from 9 cents a pound in 1851 to 19
cents a pound in 1908, and potatoes from 32 to
70 cents a bushel during the same period. Manila
hemp, imported direct from the Philippines, was
valued at \$76 a ton in 1862, when first recorded
separately among the imports; it has subsequently
more than doubled in price, being rated at \$171
per ton in 1908. Philippine sugar, on the other
hand, despite improvement in grade, fell from 2.9
to 1.7 cents a pound during the fifty-eight years
under review, while Cuban sugar declined from
3.3 to 2.5 cents a pound. Among the spices,
pepper advanced from 3.5 to 7.5 cents a pound,
while nutmegs fell to 12 cents a pound, less than
a fifth of the 63 cents recorded in 1851.

Our Scottish Letter.

AN ELECTION IN MIDWINTER.

The first month of 1910 is about over. It has
been a stormy, blustering, snow, hail, frost, every-
thing kind of month, and farm labor in the low-
lands is far behind, while the terrible snowstorm
of the closing week of the month has greatly in-
creased the anxieties and expenses of the hill
farmer. With it all we have had a General Elec-
tion in progress, and in some parts of the country
keen politicians have done their duty by the State
under very great difficulties. I am not sure that
a general election has during my lifetime taken
place before in midwinter. It is not at all a
pleasing experience, and the candidates in the ex-
treme north of Scotland have had a rough time.
Personally, I am not a party politician at all, and
at this election I have not cast any vote. This
may seem unpatriotic, but I have a heart-hatred
of party politics, and would give a deal to see all
caucus-mongering abolished, and a great deal more
independence displayed by all candidates, however
labelled. Fortunately, a few members have been
returned this time who do know a little about
agriculture at first hand. Whether they will put
their knowledge into practice for the good of the
country is another matter.

It was difficult to determine what the issue be-
fore the electors on this occasion really was; yet
several of the subjects which bulked largely in
speeches have a deal to do with the well-being of
agriculture. The House of Lords said the Budget
contained so many novel proposals that the coun-
try should have an opportunity of passing judg-
ment on it before it became law. It proposed to
tax the windfalls which come to land owners
through the purchase of parts of their estates for
purposes of public utility. In one such case land
which was regarded as so worthless that it was
rent of about £60 per annum as the site of a
lighthouse. The Chancellor of the Exchequer
said: If that land is worth £60 per annum now,
it was worth something before. If it was worth
nothing before, the practice of penalizing the pub-
lic when such is required for public purposes should
be put a stop to. He therefore proposes two
things: To get a share of a windfall for the
State, in the shape of taxation, and to prevent
such random prices being charged for such worth-
less pieces of land in future; to value all the land

in the United Kingdom now, and to rate it ac-
cording to its present and prospective value. This
is manifestly a very big job, and some declare it
to be an impossible job. For obvious reasons
land-owners do not like it, and hence they referred
the Budget to the verdict of the nation. They
do not object so much to the taxation of their
"windfalls," and in respect of land "held for a
rise" in an urban area, on which taxes and rates
have not hitherto been levied, it is generally agreed
that it is quite fair something should be charged
on such for the benefit of the community.

Another ground of objection to the Budget is
the proposed sweeping increases in the duties on
alcoholic liquors. These are intended to be levied
in various ways, and there can be little doubt,
from the experience of the past six months, that
whatever they may do to raise revenue they un-
questionably have operated to reduce drinking.
The liquor interest in all its phases is up in arms
against these proposals, which became operative
as soon as the Finance Bill passed the second
reading. Those who desire to see a sober Britain
in order to a prosperous Britain, cannot weep over
the result, which is altogether in the way of
righteousness. Of course, revenue must be found
in other directions, and there can be no doubt
that the ideal method of raising it is by assessing
men according to their means and substance. The
problem is to find out what those amounts to in
any given case. The Treasury must get money,
and not unnaturally it takes the line of least re-
sistance in collecting it. Lands and heritages
cannot be hid, and they are therefore the first at-
tacked, but all the same there is inherent unfair-
ness in taxing a man who invests his £2,000 in
land, while the man who invests his £2,000 in
Consols gets off free. The problem is by no means
an easy one, and the alternative of the Unionist
party appears to be: Raise the revenue by means
of a tariff on manufactured goods, and on all
forms of imports which compete with home prod-
ucts. It needs no Adam Smith to recognize that
here is a very big problem, and those who plead
for Tariff Reform have certainly had considerable
encouragement from the results of the elections in
the English boroughs and counties. In Scotland
it has been otherwise, and, on the whole, the re-
sults here must be regarded as giving a general
approval to the Budget, and a repudiation of
Tariff Reform. The net result of the election ap-
pears to be to place the Asquith Government
again in power. In the fight some have fallen
who occupied foremost places—notably T. W. Rus-
sell, the Vice-President, and actual head of the
Irish Board of Agriculture. A similar fate befell
his predecessor, Sir Horace Plunkett, who prob-
ably did more than any man of our time to revive
the agricultural industry in Ireland.

DEATH OF MR. SPEIR.

The death of John Speir, perhaps the best-
known tenant-farmer in Scotland, took place with
startling suddenness on January 25th. Mr. Speir
was a native of the parish of Dalry, in Ayrshire,
and shortly before he attained his thirtieth year,
he entered on the occupancy of the large farm of
Newton, on the banks of the Clyde, near to Glas-
gow. He had reached the sixtieth year of his age
when the cord was so suddenly snapped. Mr.
Speir was educated at the Parish School in Dalry,
and after leaving it he educated himself by exten-
sive reading, wide travel, and accurate observa-
tion. A man of amazing industry, he toiled in-
cessantly, and seemed to have an infinite capacity
for work. He wrote much, lectured often, and
took a large share of the burden of public respon-
sibility. Whatever he did was exceptionally well
and thoroughly done, and his mind was constantly
planning and organizing new developments in
agricultural practice on his own holding, and new
experiments in connection with agricultural and
dairy problems. Mr. Speir was a great traveller.
He was at least twice in Canada, and he may
have been oftener. He travelled far and saw
much, and whatever he saw of value he put to use
in his own work. His farm was the Mecca of all
agricultural visitors to Scotland, and those who
saw it at the height of the season, when every
crop was ready for the reaper, got an insight into
up-to-date Scottish farming not otherwise attain-
able. He had almost constantly several farm
pupils from Continental countries, eager to learn
the best agricultural methods of Scotland. Those
who placed themselves under Mr. Speir's tuition
had to work. He had no patience with drones—
and the dilettante youth who took to farming as
a pastime had a rough time on Newton. The loss
of such a man to agriculture in Scotland is al-
most irreparable.

CO-OPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL ORGANIZA- TION.

The Co-operative or Mutual Association Move-
ment is rapidly extending among Scottish farmers.
The idea of combining for the purpose of reducing
expenses was long recommended by men who recog-
nized the leakage which took place when farmers
were each working for his own hand, and against
his neighbor. The Scot is naturally independent
and self-reliant. He does not care to lean on
anybody else, and this trait in the national char-