

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE  
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 illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$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.

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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.

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are yet some who object to judges consulting the catalogue of entries, since, from that source they may learn the ownership and identity of the animals brought before them, and may possibly be influenced by knowledge of the rating at former shows. There is, however, little ground for this objection, when we reflect that the judge is likely to have known some of the exhibitors and some of the animals previously, and, therefore, there is no good reason why he should not know all, and have all placed on equal ground in that respect. Especially is this reasonable where two judges are acting together, one of whom knows the animals and their owners, and breeding, while the other does not, and they are hence not on equal ground, if such knowledge really has any significance, which with honorable men it will not, since the only consideration should be the individual merit of the animals, without respect to ownership or pedigree, or former record. Such being the situation, our contention is that, since the probability is that the judge or judges have some knowledge of the particulars, there is no just reason that they should not know more, since, in any case, they assume the responsibility for their own work.

While these views may be considered somewhat radical, and are certainly liberal, we would emphasize the paramount importance of careful discrimination in the selection and appointment of judges with a view to sterling character, as well as knowledge of, experience with, and capability to adjudicate upon the classes of exhibits assigned them.

The public life of Canada calls loudly to-day for men of character, whose motives and whose service are above suspicion. That such may sometimes suffer through party prejudice and the befolement of misrepresentation and petty local issues, does not spell any general lack of public approbation. The statesman who strives faithfully and conscientiously, serving disinterestedly the interests committed to his charge, wins the approval of all right-thinking men, and, so doing, triumphs even in defeat.

### CO-OPERATION OF SUBSCRIBER AND PUBLISHER.

A generous clubbing offer was announced in these columns last week, by which we desire to enlist the co-operation of every subscriber in strengthening the paper and enlarging its field of influence. Regular reading of "The Farmer's Advocate" makes for better farming and a higher standard of rural life; there is no doubt about that. Scarcely any greater favor can be done a friend or neighbor than to persuade him to become a regular reader of the paper which has been such a help to yourself; and the larger number of neighbors taking it, the greater will be the effect on the local community. In that way one profits indirectly by any missionary effort he may put forth, for none of us live unto ourselves. Agricultural progress is to no small extent a matter of communities. Almost any farmer will do better in an enterprising, well-informed neighborhood than in an unprogressive one, where the lack of up-to-date facilities hampers his practice, and the whole weight of influence holds him back. It is greatly to everyone's advantage to distribute the leaven of progress as freely as possible about him. It is like casting bread upon the waters.

Another reflex advantage is reaped by helping to increase our circulation. The more subscribers we gain, the more we can spend for improvements, for editorial service and contributions, for special articles and illustrations. The publishers of "The Farmer's Advocate" have never manifested a grasping policy. Our workers well know that in helping us they help themselves. They also experience that rare sense of satisfaction which comes to those who contribute to the uplift and betterment of their fellow men.

Many would and do work for these considerations alone, but, to encourage and assist all in the effort, we have made the liberal offer above mentioned. Every farmer in Canada, and every person interested in agriculture, needs "The Farmer's Advocate," but many do not realize their need. We want to enlist all present subscribers in a grand recruiting force, and to this end have made the very liberal offer to give every present paid-up subscriber his 1909 renewal free if he will send us the names of two new subscribers, accompanied by \$3.00. An attractive proposition is also made for clubs of renewals. It is a splendid offer; work for it. Roll in the new names by thousands! Get after your neighbors now, before they have signed for other papers. The early solicitor secures the subscriber.

### OUR MARITIME LETTER.

#### THE SEEDS AGAIN—NEW COLOR-ILLUSTRATION BULLETINS ON GRASSES AND BIRDS.

The other day we were at Ottawa, and, running through the departmental offices, came to the Seed Bureau. There a number of young men were discussing current topics included in their work, and they welcomed us to their circle; there, too, was Mr. Raynor, who is now attached to the Seed-testing Laboratory. It was an excellent chance to get a scientific answer to any queries in the seed line, and we availed ourselves of it. "How," we asked, "do you account for the fact that in our Province of Prince Edward Island, where we had an abundant harvest last year, and where more choice seed should be available for sowing than usual, there was, under the dry conditions in July, more out-killing in the grain crop than we have experienced in many years?" These young experts, with all the figures of the grain-growing areas of Canada before them, after some pertinent questions, gave various replies—all of them quite scientific, no doubt—but their explanations were not explanatory of the cases in discussion. Then we had our own say. We pointed out to them the following extract from our Maritime Letter in "The Farmer's Advocate" of last fall. In summing up the year's results, agriculturally, we gave this warning, having in mind Prince Edward Island farmers in particular: "Beware of the bad seed next spring, especially, for what will look first-class, will not be first-class. It has been swollen almost to germination in the shocks by the continuous wet weather, and will be too weak to stand the stress and strain of adverse conditions in the early period of growth. Test every bushel of seed put in the ground next spring, then, or you will find the proof of your neglect in the crop returns."

"Now," we subjoined, "our explanation of the shortage in grain with us is in accordance with that warning: our farmers were deceived by the

plump, vigorous appearance of the seed; they didn't bother testing, hence the result. What say you?" They immediately accepted this reasoning as scientifically correct, and, as one of them remarked, "What's better, it's borne out by the facts."

Our people were anxious to avoid trouble for themselves in the matter of testing the grain for seed which they took from partially-heated heaps, and, as a result, they have been punished for their carelessness by short and deficient crops. It was ever thus. When, from want of care, and for the sake of saving ourselves a little extra work, we disregard the prudential in any line of labor, we are absolutely sure to rue it when the final results are in. The spring working was ideal. The season was early and favorable. There was every chance to see that our seed was tested. The Department offered to do the work; but it was neglected, and seed that was soft, that perhaps had started up growth in the straw, and yet was included with the rest in the bins, was rushed into the ground, regardless of its condition, and with the outcome above indicated. It had no staying power, and a droughty month resulted in a general out-killing. We have a short crop of early oats; we have a short crop of wheat generally. The late oats are better in the head and longer in the straw. Fodder will be scarce enough in these sections, even if the hay crop is an average one, and potatoes abundant. The turnip growth is very short yet, but this is its growing time here, and it may retrieve itself quickly. The grain has been taken up in good condition. The weather was very suitable for drying, and the kernel will be firm and hardy. We hope and trust that every care will be taken in the selection for seeding purposes.

While in Ottawa, we saw Chief Clark, Commissioner of this important Department, and examined with him some new drawings in colors for an illustrated bulletin of Canadian grasses. After a second edition of "Farm Weeds" is put through the press and distributed, he will give the farmers of the country an excellent Grass Bulletin, and, after that, one on "Our Bird Friends and Foes." The engravings will be executed by the accomplished artist who immortalized himself in "Farm Weeds."

Commissioner Clark has many other projects on hand for the good of Canadian agriculture, but they cannot be detailed at present.

It may be mentioned, incidentally, that we were amused to be informed that our neighbors to the south of us are beginning to suffer from what they call "Sharp tricks in trade," a quality which we had hitherto regarded as almost entirely their own. It appears that our "Pure Seeds Act" has resulted in dumping our screenings and otherwise defective seed very largely on the American market; and at the Interstate Commerce meeting, recently held in Washington, loud and long were the lamentations that ascended to High Heaven on this account. Our American brothers should now imitate us in the passage through Congress of an act to protect themselves from foul seeds, and, in so doing, they will bestow that flattery which imitation always indicates.

A. E. BURKE.

## HORSES.

### EXERCISE FOR HORSES NOT AT WORK.

A vast crop of horse ills and ailments results from enforced idleness and confinement, especially when following or interspersed between periods of heavy feeding and regular work. When such idleness is anticipated, as in the case of Sundays, something can be done by withholding a portion of the grain ration, allowing, instead, a considerable proportion of such a light and laxative feed as wheat bran, either dry or in the form of a mash. A ration of mixed feed the following day, consisting of rolled or chopped oats and cut hay, the whole moistened and mixed together, is also good. In fact, one such feed a day, preferably at noon, is always advisable, whether idle or at work. But, no matter what care is exercised in feeding, it can at best be but palliative. The nutritive material in the system, assimilated from previous feeds, is liable to give trouble, resulting not infrequently in such affections as shot of grease, or Monday-morning disease, as well as other troubles.

As the supply of nutriment to the circulatory system cannot be abruptly cut off, it follows that something more is needed than care in feeding. That something is exercise. A person accustomed to hard work all week, who spends Sunday in lounging about the house, feels languid and sluggish, however little he may eat. Early rising, a few chores or other light work, a change of clothes, and a drive or walk to church, does much to maintain the tone and condition of the system. It is so with the horse. He needs light exercise, such as a run in field or paddock affords. He should be filled up on hay and a reasonable allowance of grain before turning him out, and at this season of the year should be again brought up and fed at noon. Too much soft, frosted grass may do