

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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DOMINION.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely
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and dreaded by those who drive horses and pay for maintaining the roads, and regarded with contempt by pedestrians as they pass by, the drivers apparently indifferent to or regardless of the rights of others, rights which the driver of horses seldom fails to respect. The latter, if not loaded, will generally give a lift to a weary walker on the road, but who ever heard of an automobilist stopping to take up a way-worn traveler?

The horse—the most faithful and one of the most useful of the servants of man—will continue to hold his place of precedence in his regard, and will be in demand as long as grass grows and water runs, and is bound to improve and grow in favor as more intelligent attention is paid to his breeding, care and education. The horse show and street parade have had and will continue to have an excellent influence in keeping in view the most desirable and profitable types, and will inspire a proper pride in owners and grooms in the care and keeping of their charges, and lovers of the equine race in every city and town may, with advantage, copy the example of Toronto, by organizing a Horse Parade Association for an exhibition at least once a year.

Farmers' Postal Interests Grossly Neglected.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—The editorials and letters which appear in these columns from time to time in reference to the postal service in rural districts, are very interesting. The letter of Mr. C. J. Hine, of Elgin Co., in the issue of June 8th, is right to the point, and in the true spirit of citizenship turns the flashlight of public criticism upon an administration which, in postal matters, toadies to the wealthy town and city dwellers, but deprives the residents of the rural districts of a fair and equitable system of mail delivery, and uses the money thus saved to gain the goodwill of wealthy corporations, and to provide in Government positions fat salaries for party devotees.

In the township of Edwardsburg there are eight school sections in a block in which there is not one solitary post office. Within this area there is a resident population of upwards of one thousand souls, four churches, four cheese factories,

good schools, and farm property in value amounting to about one million dollars.

In school section No. 8, Edwardsburg, in which I reside, there are two churches, a cheese factory and a society hall, but most of the residents have to drive from six to eight miles to reach a convenient and efficient post office. About five years ago the Postmaster-General was petitioned to establish a post office at the residence of Mr. Wm. Gare, a place convenient to churches, cheese factory and school, and he was also petitioned to establish a circuitous mail route by which the existing offices in the north and east part of the township and the proposed office could be given a daily mail for little more than was spent on the miserable service given the existing offices over four different routes. But the effort to obtain for the farmers a more efficient and economic postal service was not appreciated by that member of the "King's Privy Council for Canada," and he has been indifferent to our needs and heedless of our requests ever since.

There appeared, also, in the issue of June 8th, a letter from the pen of Mr. H. H. Miller, of the House of Commons, giving expression to some views which may be considered sound, and to some which we would not expect to emanate from such a source. I take exception particularly to the statement, "For most of the desired improvements the farmers will have to look entirely to the Postmaster-General, who is, I believe, anxious to serve the interests of the farmers as fully as possible, and to make improvement in the service as quickly as possible." Now, Mr. Editor, I think that sounds fishy. Surely we will not have to look entirely to the Postmaster-General for the desired improvement, but rather to public opinion. Our system of Government is not autocratic or bureaucratic, but elective and responsible. The people can elect whom they please to serve in our legislative halls and preside over the different departments of the ship of state; and if the farmers will cease to be mendicants looking for favors, and rise to be citizens demanding their rights, their interests will be supreme in the minds of the men who sit to the right of Mr. Speaker, and the lordly occupants of the department buildings, who, perchance, may treat their requests with the "proud man's contumely," will wend their way down the hill to mingle with the crowds on the lower levels.

Grenville Co., Ont. JOHN NEWMAN.

In the Country.

(Editorial correspondence.)

To a denizen of the city, erstwhile a graduate of the farm, even a brief visit in summer to the scene of a half century of farm life is a genuine treat, serving to renew old-time acquaintances and revive reminiscences which add to the pleasure of a review of the past. The one hundred and twenty miles of country traversed by the G. T. R. between the cities of London and Toronto, passing through parts of the fine counties of Middlesex, Perth, Waterloo, Wellington, Halton, Peel and York, is fairly representative of the farm lands of Western Ontario, than which there are few better adapted to general agriculture in any country.

An early and propitious spring-seeding time found the land in excellent condition for the preparation of the seed-bed, with just enough moisture to give the crops a good start, and, while May was a very dry month, the looseness of the land gave the plants a liberty which kept them looking fresh, though making slow headway, while the copious rains in June sent the crops forward rapidly, and on July 1st they presented a splendid appearance, the only apprehension now being that they are in some places too heavy and inclined to lodge, a condition which is apt to injuriously affect the yield in quantity and quality. But with more bright weather and heat, which the probabilities seem to promise, the prospect is fair for a bumper harvest in nearly every line.

This statement applies generally to all the section outlined, and particularly to Peel County, the old-time home of the writer, where the soil is mainly strong clay, with variations of more or less loam—a section once noted as a winter-wheat and barley growing district in the times when prices for those products were high and many farms suffered severely from constant cropping with those cereals, which were sold as such, while the feeding of stock was neglected, the consequence being that not a few of the farms had run down to such an extent that it was generally thought they had seen their best days and would never be restored to their former fertility. The United States protective tariff bill struck a stunning blow to the barley trade in Canada, and for many years those who were slow to take a new tack and turn to dairying and feeding had a hard time, while those who pinned their faith to the cow, and later to the sow as well, found a combination that proved their financial salvation, and these were the first to recover from the depression and the first to show its effect in the building of modern basement barns for the more convenient and economical feeding of stock. Others later followed suit, and the result of growing clover freely in a short rotation of crops and feeding

cows and other stock, is that farms once considered exhausted have been brought back to fertility, and to-day are growing full crops in average years. Evidences of prosperity are seen on all sides, and more high-class barns and substantial and comfortable dwellings are being built in Peel County than in any other section of the country that we know of.

Fall wheat, to a limited extent, is still successfully grown here, not so much for the money that is in it as for the straw for bedding of stock and for reseeding with clover and grasses, the favorite preparation being the plowing down of a pasture or clover stubble in July, and by repeated surface cultivation conserving moisture, hastening decomposition of the vegetable matter turned under, and securing a firm seed-bed, which gives the crop sown early in September a good start, and making it strong to stand the winter test. Peas, formerly a favorite crop in this section, had to be abandoned for several years, owing to the depredations of the bug, but that pest having had its day for a time, peas are again being grown to some extent, and will probably be more largely cultivated, as there is no grain feed equal to this for stock-feeding, while the effect of its cultivation is helpful, rather than hurtful, to the land as a preparation for following crops.

Owing to the extreme difficulty of securing satisfactory help, many farmers are laying their land down largely to permanent pasture for the grazing of beef cattle, a system which in some years has proved profitable, but which is likely this year to be shorn of profit, owing to the high price paid for short feeders, in some cases as high as 5½ cents per pound, while the market for the best cattle at present rules lower than that mark, but may yet improve in time to let the farmer out safely if not to allow him a margin. Fortunately grass is abundant, and cattle may be carried till a possible rise in values may relieve the situation.

It is gratifying to notice a gradual improvement in the average of farming in this country, doubtless due to a considerable extent to the diffusion of information as to improved methods through the medium of farm papers, experiment stations and farmers' institutes, and largely to the influence of the example of enterprising farmers who have made a success of their work, and thus given practical demonstration that it pays to keep pace with the changing conditions of the times.

Another pleasing feature, seen in many sections, is the increasing attention given to the prevention of weed seeding, and to the beautifying of the farm home by the planting of shade and ornamental trees, the keeping of well-trimmed lawns, the cultivation of flowers, supplying the family with good books, papers and magazines, and the study of music, all of which are means of making farm life more attractive and enjoyable.

J. C. S.

HORSES.

Horse-breeders' Wants.

At a meeting of the Canadian Horse-breeders' Association in Toronto, on July 3rd, President Dr. Andrew Smith in the chair, a resolution, moved by E. C. H. Tisdale, and seconded by John Gardhouse, was adopted, setting forth the necessity for an office in the Parliament buildings, and the recognition of the Secretary of the association, in order that grants from the city and other institutions could be legally voted to the Horse-breeders' Association, in aid of the various exhibitions that are held under its auspices from time to time.

It was moved by Peter Christie, M.P., and seconded by W. E. Wellington, that in the interest of the other horse-breeders' associations, viz., the Clydesdale, Shire and Hackney, that have moved the registration department to Ottawa, an office should be maintained in Toronto.

On motion of Ald. McBride, seconded by W. E. Wellington, it was decided to appoint a deputation to visit Ottawa and interview Hon. Sydney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture, and F. W. Hodson, Live-stock Commissioner, to ascertain if the guarantee given to Henry Wade prior to the formation of the National Live-stock Association, that he would receive \$2,500 per annum as a retiring allowance, had been authorized, and if it was the intention of the Government to carry it out. Reference was made to the services of Mr. Wade during the years he was registrar and secretary-treasurer of the different associations in Ontario.

Dr. Andrew Smith, W. E. Wellington, Peter Christie, M. P., and George Pepper were appointed as a deputation to wait upon Hon. Mr. Monteith, Minister of Agriculture, as to the continuance of the Government grant for horse-show purposes, and to ascertain his views as to the best mode of continuing the usefulness of the Canadian Horse-breeders' Association.

IF YOU HAVE A FARM FOR SALE OR WANT A SITUATION, PUT AN ADVERTISEMENT UNDER THE HEADING OF "WANT AND FOR SALE" IN THE "FARMER'S ADVOCATE."