

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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The "Bible" of Practical Farming.

Geo. Jas. McCormac, Prin. High School, Cardigan Bridge, P. E. I., writes:—"I am a constant reader of the ADVOCATE, and consider it to be the bible of scientific and practical agriculture. Uncle Tom's and Minnie May's departments are very interesting." Strictly speaking, the only sort of farming that can be successful is scientific farming; that is to say, farming in accordance with the laws of Nature. In some way we must learn to link our practical efforts on the farm with the forces of Nature. Whether we call it "scientific" or not matters but little, so long as it is so in effect.

The Cattle Embargo.

Additional representations re the above subject to the British authorities appear in a report by the late Acting Dominion Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. A. Ouimet. Dr. McEachran, Canada's Chief Veterinary Inspector, and Prof. Adami, the eminent Pathologist of McGill University, Montreal, both deal effectively with the somewhat meager official report given out by the British experts on the two pairs of lungs alleged to contain the lesions of "pleuro" from the Huronia shipment last summer, but which Canadian representatives were not privileged to see.

The English Inspectors evidently too hastily formed an opinion on discovering one link in a chain of scientific evidence, and that a weak one, viz., the "marbled areas," ignoring the conditions and the non-existence of contagious pleuro-pneumonia in Canada, as well as the clinical evidence, all of which is in direct opposition to their view.

Dr. McEachran has carried out very carefully an investigation promised [see ADVOCATE, September 1st (1895) issue], collecting last fall no less than 4,877 pairs of lungs from all the principal slaughtering places of Canada, and not a solitary lung showing any sign of "pleuro" was discovered, and only a rare instance of tuberculosis, thus completely verifying a previous investigation in November, 1894. The absurdity of so virulent a disease as contagious pleuro-pneumonia existing in Canada, and only one or two cases appearing among the thousands shipped annually, is pointed out; also, the fact that other conditions besides those of "pleuro" will cause the "marbling" to which the English veterinaries seem to cling with such death-like tenacity. For ten years strict enquiries and microscopical examination have not disclosed a single case of undoubted "pleuro" in the Dominion. Our Government may well ask the home authorities to reconsider the conclusion they have arrived at re the embargo, or, as an alternative, suggest that different and more satisfactory methods, such as would be declared sufficient by scientific experts, should be undertaken to determine the fact.

Were this embargo based as a general safeguard against possible disease from any quarter, so much objection could not be raised, but it has simply been an absurd slander against the healthiest herds in the world—those of Canada. Knowing how seriously Great Britain has suffered from live stock diseases, we cannot question any reasonable safeguards they may throw around their herds; but that the embargo has been maintained as a relief against the growing pressure of foreign competition is very evident, reading "between the lines" in our British contemporaries for several years past, and from the satisfaction it has given the breeders of pure-bred cattle and stockers, not only in Great Britain, but in Ireland as well, from whence large numbers are drawn.

That the purpose of the English Government for a long time past has been to institute permanent regulations for keeping out foreign "stockers" (sheep as well as cattle) is very evident. We should, therefore, see that our animals go forward thoroughly "finished" for the butcher on landing. While efforts are to be made, by means of cold storage, to establish a trade in Canadian dressed beef first, and after a few months adding mutton and lamb, as well as other perishable products, our authorities will do well, in our judgment, to see that the facilities for shipping cattle and sheep alive are also preserved in the highest possible state of efficiency.

An Immigration Movement.

However people may differ in their political opinions, all will agree that one great need of Canada, particularly Manitoba and the Northwest, is immigration and capital. No one who has travelled over our fertile prairies can entertain any doubts as to the magnificent possibilities that await the enterprising settlers of the great West. The experimental stage has been passed; settlers in every district, even in those less favored by nature, who have been prudent and industrious, have been successful. Of course there have been failures, but these failures have taught us that farming requires the application of thought and skill as well as muscle, and that our soil, fertile though it be, will not continue to yield up its gold without thorough and intelligent cultivation. Never was there a more opportune time than the spring of 1896 for the arrival of settlers. Land, implements, horses, clothing, food, seed, etc., can be bought at reasonable prices. Besides, owing to the enormous crop of 1895, farm work is in a somewhat backward state, and doubtless rare opportunities to rent improved farms will offer, and plenty of work may be had in assisting in the seeding and

spring work. And, again, markets are opening up, great opportunities are offered in the breeding and feeding of live stock, dairying, growing small fruits, etc.

A new immigration movement is being inaugurated, taking its birth in the big immigration convention that was held in St. Paul last fall. A number of Winnipeg's energetic citizens have taken the initiative and called a meeting to be held in the City of Winnipeg on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 27th and 28th.

This movement is entirely independent of all political parties, land corporations, railroads, etc.; but these interests, as well as all others, are invited to send representatives to the convention, or, as put in a circular letter that has been sent out:—

"Representation by delegates is being asked from all cities, towns, and municipalities, from Port Arthur to the Pacific Coast, as well as from all commercial, railway, and industrial interests of the great West. It is considered desirable that every special interest and locality be represented, in order that all the advantages possessed by each may be presented to homeseekers. It will be the duty of the convention, therefore, to form some plan which will most effectually advertise the Canadian Northwest as a desirable field for settlement by all classes of immigrants, and secure at an early date the necessary increase to our population."

We learn from the Secretary, Mr. F. W. Heubach, Box 1348, Winnipeg, that the response from all sections of the country has been most encouraging, even enthusiastic. A large gathering is confidently expected, and among the speakers will be many of the leading men of the West.

In our opinion, this scheme, properly worked out, should result most beneficially for the country, and the enterprise has our best wishes for its successful issue. Reduced fares are announced over all lines of railroad, and other advantages are extended to delegates. Any information desired may be obtained from Secretary Heubach.

STOCK.

The Flock in Spring.

On many farms the flock will have thus far wintered on less fodder than usual, owing to the generally sparse supply of hay. The sheep will, however, be no worse for that if they have been kept up to a moderate condition. When lambs are to come in the latter part of March or beginning of April, the ewes should soon after the middle of February commence to receive a small quantity of oats and bran daily to put them in the best of vigor for the lambing. Those that are already fat, and ewes that are copious milkers, or have ever given any trouble with their udders, will advantageously be kept on the lower diet. It is very important that roomy quarters be given, and a comfortable yard provided, in which the flock should be allowed to spend as much of the fine days as they choose. The lack of exercise during pregnancy is sure to cause trouble at yearning time. Not only will the vigor of the ewes be kept low, but there are sure to be a number of soft, weak, watery lambs, which are more apt to die than live. Over feeding of roots is often justly blamed for this trouble, but the writer is of the opinion that lack of outdoor exercise often has more to do with it. It is not well, however, to feed a large quantity of roots to pregnant ewes, for the reason that their very watery character floods the system of the sheep to their disadvantage. A few roots, however, should always be fed if possible, as they serve as a laxative and corrective to the system. Where silage is used, roots can be dispensed with. If the sheep are ever noticed to eat snow, more succulent food should be given, or fresh water kept constantly within their reach. Sheep do not require much water, but what they do require is just as important to them as to any other stock. A simple provision, but of great importance, is that of a constant supply of salt. Just here is where rock salt answers an excellent purpose. A lump can be thrown in a box or even on the ground, when the evils of salt hunger or over salting cannot possibly occur.

As lambing time approaches, the flockmaster should be in and out among his charge frequently. The ewes should know him so well that they will not rise up when he passes among them at night with a lantern. Every good shepherd has his flock in this condition. This is very important when assistance is required to aid a young ewe in lambing. When their udders commence to fill up, greater care than was previously necessary should be given, so that draughts, or exposure to cold, wet places, upon which they are likely to lie down, may be avoided. Young ewes especially that give evidence in the evening of lambing before morning should be seen occasionally up to midnight at least, and during lambing no good shepherd will lie abed after half-past four or five in the morning. Plenty of room in the lambing pen is a necessity, so that a ewe may find a corner somewhat alone to give birth to her offspring. It is well to have a few hurdles, similar to those illustrated in Feb. 1st issue of the ADVOCATE, which may be formed into pens for the ewe and lambs until the latter are able to look after themselves. Where racks are built up against the wall, the hinged hurdles will not be practicable; but this leaves no difficulty where the floor is of earth, as by the aid of a crow-bar, holes may be put down for stakes to hold the corners of pens.

When a ewe lambs all right she should be given a little warm bran slop, made quite thin, a handful of oat-chop, and a little salt may also be added. She should be sparingly fed for a few days. A