

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED).

TWO DISTINCT PUBLICATIONS—EASTERN AND WESTERN.

EASTERN OFFICE:
CARLING STREET, LONDON, ONT.

WESTERN OFFICE:
IMPERIAL BANK BLOCK, CORNER BATHURST AVE. AND MAIN ST.,
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA.

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W. W. CHAPMAN, Agent, Mowbray House, Norfolk Street,
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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published every Thursday
(52 issues per year).

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

2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, United States,
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9. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one
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11. 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
ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not
generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved
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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, CANADA.

required to be paid, and the Exchange has con-
siderable money to its credit in the bank.

In receiving goods for shipment, considerable
care is exercised in not allowing anything to enter
a car that is not in good condition. In this re-
spect, the manager is no respecter of persons, be-
ing quite as ready to refuse the goods of a mem-
ber of the executive committee, of which there are
five, as of any other person claiming membership.
In setting the price of an article, the highest
figure is given that it is considered will leave
sufficient margin to cover expenses. No effort is
made to accumulate a large reserve fund, but when
anything has been shipped at a loss, owing to
deterioration in quality, not the fault of the
management, the member who sold it is held re-
sponsible.

When a member of the editorial staff of the
"Farmer's Advocate" visited Armstrong and dis-
trict a short time ago, he found the farmers ex-
ceedingly well satisfied with the Exchange and its
management. Before its institution, much of the
goods now sold for cash were traded out at the
stores at a comparatively small price. This was
due to the fact that the storekeepers in the town
had not the facilities for handling the produce of
the district equal to those which the Exchange
now enjoys. At present, the storekeepers receive
mostly cash for their goods, and, having no
trouble with such perishable produce as fruit,
vegetables and dairy products, their lot is a
nappier one than before, and they are friends of
the Exchange. The Exchange, too, since it makes
a specialty of the sale of certain lines, is able to
secure a better market and higher prices than
would be obtained by any local trader with less
comprehensive operations. In fruit, it pays par-
ticular attention to packing, and in vegetables
and dairy produce a special effort is made to pre-
sent everything in a way that will appear most
attractive to the customer.

While it may seem easy on paper to run an
exchange as the one just described, it must

not be forgotten that a great deal, in fact, nearly
all, depends upon the manager. With a large
membership in an exchange, there is sure to be a
great deal of local contention. One man with
goods a little inferior in quality will not be able
to see why his neighbor should receive a cent or
two more per pound than he. All kinds of diffi-
culties of this kind are sure to arise where there
are many men of many minds and dispositions.
so that a great deal of the success realized de-
pends upon the ability of the manager to handle
men in a tactful way, as well as his knowledge
of business in general.

The Armstrong Farmers' Exchange, should it
continue under management as capable as at pres-
ent, will be a very material factor in assisting to
develop one of Canada's most fertile agricultural
districts. The amount of produce handled this
year will amount to fifty thousand dollars, and of
that sum the most intelligent farmers will have a
large profit.

Sheep Breeding.

The revival of interest in the sheep-breeding
industry which has sprung up during the past
few months, as the result of better market prices
for wool and mutton, and the consequent in-
creased demand for pure-bred sheep for breeding
purposes, has suggested the timeliness of a series
of articles, with illustrative cuts, descriptive of
the many different recognized breeds of sheep most
generally kept in this country. The first of these
appears in this number, and others will follow in
the succeeding issues of the "Farmer's Advocate."
Regarding the origin of the breeds, the only avail-
able source of information is the various books
which have been written upon the subject. The
origin, however, is of secondary importance to
the present-day breeder, who is more interested
in the fixity of a desirable type, and its ability
to reproduce that type with a satisfactory degree
of uniformity, and, fortunately, this feature has
become so settled in the case of all of the recog-
nized breeds of the day that there is little cause
for concern in that regard, all that is required
to maintain the distinctive qualities of the breeds
being a judicious selection of sires of the best
stamp to mate with the flock.

Opportunities.

This is the season when people lay plans for
their supply of periodicals for the approaching
year. They do not want inferior publications,
when the best in the world is available. Now is
the time to secure new subscribers to the "Farm-
er's Advocate and Home Magazine"—a weekly
paper for the farm and a beautiful magazine for
the home. Read the announcements on the last
two cover pages of this issue, giving particulars
of how present subscribers can get their own
paper free for 1905, a special offer to new sub-
scribers, and an array of premium offers never be-
fore equalled.

Stocking Up.

Although the present is always the best time
to institute reforms, the present we are in just
this month is particularly the best time of the
year to buy new breeding stock. The stock that
is matured now displays all its virtues and de-
fects, so that one can tell just what he is getting,
and need not be gulled. Also, by buying now
the birds become accustomed to their new sur-
roundings before the season for laying hatching
eggs begins. The profits from the poultry-yard
where good stock are kept and intelligent manage-
ment prevails are sufficient now to warrant more
attention being given to the class of stock on
hand. For farm poultry, nothing beats a special-
purpose strain of a general-purpose breed; good-
laying Rocks, Wyandottes or Orpingtons, for in-
stance, are the ideal poultry for the ordinary
farmer who sells a few eggs and markets or uses
upon his table his surplus stock. For those who
want eggs, and nothing else, strains of some other
breeds might suit better, but just now let it be
remembered is the time for most people to buy
some breeding stock, and not wait until spring
and take a long chance on a setting of eggs.

We have taken the "Farmer's Advocate" for
about ten years, and we like it all the better as a
weekly.
Elgin Co., Ont.

WM. BRIDEN.

HORSES.

It is a good time now, between this and freez-
ing-up, to get the shoes off the working horses,
and so give their feet a rest.

When we see a heavy lorry horse on the hard
city streets that has gone wrong in his pins, a
short, straight pastern is invariably one of his
characteristics. Try to breed for length and ob-
liquity of pasterns.

Shelter, ground oats and good hay for the
youngsters now. Keep them gaining, they are
worth while.

Cut oat sheaves may be a more expensive
fodder than most feeders are aware of, but, with
this, ground oats, bran and good hay, the horse
that will not lay on flesh when at easy work and
with proper care, must have something the mat-
ter with him inside. Find out how his back
teeth are, and he may need a prescription from
the veterinarian.

This is the season of scratches, mud, heating
foods, unclean stables, etc., which help to cause
the trouble which, if not promptly attended to,
may develop into grease, canker, or mud fever.

In treating scratches, try to keep the part dry,
do not wash any oftener than necessary, and ap-
ply lard, vaseline or sweet oil to keep the parts
soft. In some cases, it may be necessary to use
an ointment composed of oxide of zinc, one part
to eight of lard.

Fall and Winter Care of Weanlings.

In a recent issue we discussed the "weaning of
foals," and think that where the act has been carried
out according to the methods described, the foal will
not have lost flesh or condition. The object should
be to keep him in good condition through the fall and
winter, as his future and ultimate usefulness depends,
to a great extent, upon the care, food and attention
he receives the first winter. When, through neglect,
want of food, illness, or other causes, he becomes poor
and weak during the fall, winter or spring of his first
year, it requires the greater part of the following sum-
mer to get him in good condition again, and, in the
meantime, he has lost the opportunity of development
that he should have had, and it is doubtful if he will
ever be quite as strong and large as he otherwise
would have been. A weanling should not be pampered
and over-fed on flesh-producing foods in order to make
him big and fat, without the desirable development of
bone and muscle. We say he should not "be pam-
pered"; on the other hand, he should not be made to
"rough it" too much, with the idea of making him
tough and hardy.

He should be housed in a comfortable, well-venti-
lated, well-lighted, and not too cold a stable. If pos-
sible he should be given a box stall, and if there be
another weanling to share the stall with him all the
better, as colts like company; but the company should
be an animal of the same age, and not one a year or
two older, in which case the older one will boss the
younger, and get more than his share of the food.
During the fall he should be housed at nights, and al-
lowed to run in the fields during the day time for
exercise and what nourishment he can get. He should
be given a feed of chopped oats morning and night, and
unless the pasture is good he should also get hay.
Well-saved clover hay is certainly the best kind, if it
is available, but on no account should clover hay be
given unless of first-class quality. So long as the
weather remains moderate and grass abounds there is
little trouble experienced in keeping him in a good
thriving condition, but when the weather becomes
severe, the ground is frozen or covered with snow,
and hence the supply of grass ceases, he requires more
thought and attention. I might say that during the
fall, when there is frost at nights, he should not be
allowed out on the grass until the frost has disap-
peared, as frozen grass is very productive of digestive
trouble. When he can no longer be turned out and
get grass, we should supplement green food as near
as possible, and also see that he gets regular exercise.
He will, no doubt, take considerable voluntary exercise
in his stall, especially if it be a large one, but this
is not sufficient for the development of bone and mus-
cle. He should be allowed to run out in the yard or
a paddock for a few hours every day that is not too
stormy. On days that he will get wet, either with
rain or snow, he should not be turned out. He can
stand, without injury, a considerable degree of cold so
long as he is dry, but wet should be avoided as much
as possible. Ideas as to the kind and quantity
of food that should be given to foals of this age. We
will all agree that whatever is given should be of first-
class quality. The cattle may, to a certain extent, be
given food of inferior quality, but the experiment
should never be tried with horses, principally on ac-
count of the danger of affecting the lungs. In my
experience hay and oats supply all that is needed for the
affording of energy, and supply a substitute