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The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month, is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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Our Monthly Prize Essays.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

- 1.—No award will be made unless one essay at least comes up to the standard for publication.
- 2.—The essays will be judged by the ideas, arguments, conciseness and conformity with the subject, and not by the grammar, punctuation or spelling.
- 3.—Should any of the other essays contain valuable matter, not fully covered by the one awarded the first prize, or should any present different views of the same topic, and we consider such views meritorious, we will publish such essays in full, or extracts from them as we may deem best, and allow the writer ten cents per inch (one dollar per column) printed matter for as much of such articles as we publish. By this rule each writer who sends us valuable matter will receive remuneration for his labor, whether he be the winner of the first prize or not.
- 4.—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 (one dollar per column) 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 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.
- 5.—Replies to circulars and letters of enquiry sent from this office will not be paid for as provided by rule 4.
- 6.—No anonymous communications or enquiries will receive attention.
- 7.—Letters intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best plan of barn with silo inside; barn to be capable of housing sixty cattle, the silo to be so placed as to be easy to fill, and convenient to feed from; the cattle to be fed from in front, and the manure to be hauled out with a stone boat, hide or sleigh. The silage must be kept from freezing, so must be located somewhere near the middle. The barn must be on the flat prairie, as there is no bank near. The sub-structure will be stone, where the cattle are, while the superstructure will be divided off for grain, feed-cutter, chopper, hay, etc. Give drawing of both, and estimate of probable cost. The time for receiving plans and estimates in the foregoing competition has been extended to Sept. 15th.

Appointment.

Mr. Hugh McKellar, who has been appointed Chief Clerk in the Department of Agriculture and Immigration of Manitoba, as successor to the late J. W. Bartlett, was born in the township of East Zorra, in the county of Oxford, Ontario. His father, John McKellar, a farmer, was one of the pioneer settlers of that township. He received his early education in the public schools, and commenced to teach when sixteen years old. At the age of eighteen he took a course of study at the Toronto Normal School. Passing his examination successfully, he taught for over three years in East Zorra. Afterwards he studied and taught in the Galt Collegiate Institute, in the time of Dr. Tassie. Leaving Galt, he took charge of the Paisley Public School, where he remained for three years. Then for three years and a-half he had charge of the Teeswater Public School. At the close of this engagement, July, 1880, he came to Manitoba, via Emerson, and located near Pilot Mound, in what was known as the "Paisley Colony." In 1881 he lost his wife, a daughter of James Laidlaw, who resides near Clearwater. His only daughter resides with her grandparents, near Clearwater. For the next eight years he led an active life, principally engaged in farming, but travelled through all parts of the province. He always took an active part in agricultural societies and farmers' institutes. In March, 1890, he received the appointment of Immigration Agent, in company with Mr. Smith, in the Winnipeg office. In the fall of 1890 the Government sent Mr. McKellar, privately, to report on the condition of farmers generally in North and South Dakota, in response to the many letters of inquiry from those States about Manitoba. Mr. McKellar spent five weeks on the trip. His report was so practical and satisfactory that it may be said to have led indirectly to the work that has been going on since that time by the Dominion Government. In May, 1891, Mr. McKellar was sent by the Department to take charge of the Immigration Office in Toronto, where he remained until February last. On the first of March, 1892, he was sent to open and manage a new office for the Maritime Provinces, at Moncton, N. B., where he remained until called back to be promoted to the position of Chief Clerk in the Department of Agriculture and Immigration.

The press has commented very favorably on the work done by Mr. McKellar in the past, and his experience in the various immigration offices, as well as his personal knowledge of all sections of the Province, combine to qualify him for the duties of his new position, upon the discharge of which he enters with zeal and strong faith in the future of Manitoba as a great agricultural country.

A cargo of two-rowed Canadian barley was recently sold in England, and netted the Toronto shippers 68 cents after all expenses were paid. More was enquired for at the same price.

Central Farmers' Institute.

During the course of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition, a deputation representing the Executive of the Manitoba Central Farmers' Institute waited upon the Hon. Thos. Greenway, Minister of Agriculture. There were present:—Mr. Jas. Elder, President; S. A. Bedford, Vice-President; R. E. A. Leech, Sec.; Geo. H. Greig, T. M. Percival, Wm. McDonald and the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. A general discussion regarding institute work took place, and the Minister expressed himself heartily in accord with the objects in view and the efforts made during the past season, which he hoped would result in additional institutes being organized and greater interest being infused into those already existing. In the case of a dormant institute, he said, in reply to a question, that it would not be necessary to be gazetted a second time. The delegation asked for an increased grant for Central purposes, the 25 per cent. of the total Legislative appropriation not being sufficient, and also that the grant be made an independent one, the Institute to furnish the Government an audited statement of all expenditures. It is certainly irksome that the Central Institute should be without any funds that they can directly control even for small current expenditures. In view of the advantageous nature of institutes to the farming interests of Manitoba generally, Mr. Greenway promised increased aid and would take the question of making the grant an independent one into consideration. The deputation also asked that the Secretary of the Central Institute be advised of the date of the organization of new institutes, in order to render any assistance possible, which was concurred in. The question of checking the spread of weeds was incidentally discussed, and while it was admitted that the legislative machinery was ample, further steps should be taken to promote its efficient running. It was one of the subjects that all institutes should take up for thorough discussion. Having thanked the Minister for the encouragement received, the deputation withdrew.

During the same evening the Executive recommended the appointment of Mr. S. A. Bedford on the Grain Standard Board, with Mr. Elder as an alternate, representing the farmers of this province. The Secretary was instructed to take the necessary steps for securing said representation by one or, if possible, by both the gentlemen named.

A resolution was passed, heartily thanking Prof. Jas. W. Robertson, of Ottawa, for the valuable services rendered by himself and assistants in delivering addresses at the Manitoba Farmers' Institutes during the past year.

INSTITUTE AT BALDUR.

The following is a list of the officers-elect for Cypress Farmers' Institute:—Pres., James Dale; Vice-Pres., James Strang; Sec.-Treas., John Harrower; Directors, A. Card, A. W. Playfair, Frank Williamson, A. Kelso, A. Creamer, Kenneth McAulay.