

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WILLIAM WILD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the 1st of each month. It 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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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, 300 Richmond Street, LONDON ONT., CANADA.

### 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, our object being to encourage farmers who have enjoyed few educational advantages.
- 3.—Should one or more essays, in addition to the one receiving the first prize, present a different view of the question, a second prize will be awarded, but the payment will be in agricultural books, or money, or prize essayists may choose books from our advertised list must be sent in not later than the 15th of the month in which the essays appear. Second prize essayists may order books for any amount not exceeding \$3.00, but no balance will be remitted in cash. When first prize essayists mention nothing about books, we will remit the money.

We have not awarded a prize on any of the essays on "The Cheapest and Most Profitable Manner of Keeping Cattle During the Summer Months on High Priced Land," as none of them came up to the standard for publication.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *Summer and Fall Care of Pastures, giving the results of useful experiments with pasture lands.* Essay to be in this office by the 10th of July.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *How Shall we Best Protect our Flocks from the Ravages of the Dog.* Essay to be in this office by the 10th of August.

I am much pleased with your valuable paper; it is worth many hundred cents on the dollar to me.—J. W. BESSEY, Mt. Forest, Ont.

## Editorial.

### To Our Readers.

Two of our assistants are now in the North-west, and their reports will be read with interest, as they can be relied on, and will describe things as they are, which appear very encouraging. There is, at the present time, a superfluity of laborers and mechanics in some of our cities and towns on the Pacific slope; some who can be returning to Ontario and some to our prairie province.

Persons desiring a visit from our assistants in the North-west should write us at an early date.

The sheep industry of our Dominion must receive greater attention. We devote considerable space to it in this issue, and hope it will have the desired effect.

Never for the past seven years has the circulation of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE been so rapidly increasing as it has been and is doing this year. We look on this as the best indication of improvement in the times, indicative of a coming boom. At the present time we claim, without fear of contradiction, that we have a larger paid list of voluntary subscribers than all other agricultural publications issued in the Dominion combined.

Our friends who have applied to us from the Maritime Provinces will be attended to as soon as an opportunity occurs.

We trust those of our correspondents, whose articles we are obliged to hold over, will not feel aggrieved. From the great pressure of matter and advertisements we are obliged to withhold many valuable articles from this issue.

### Crops in Manitoba.

We append the following from a letter from our Manitoba correspondent, and which is unavoidably crowded out:—

Crops, generally speaking, want rain—in fact, we have not had a good rain this spring. Considering how long it has been sown, wheat is by no means as far ahead as last year, and I am afraid that without copious showers soon fall, much wheat will be seriously injured. Manitoba has this spring been visited by worse wind-storms than I have seen in seven years, and while some crops on light, loose soils, have been damaged, we have not suffered to anything like the extent our neighbors in Dakota have. If farmers would only be wise in time and plant trees, much of the discomfort and loss arising from these storms might be averted. Sharp frosts last month have kept the cereal crops back, but no real damage has been done from this

cause, except to early potatoes and garden truck. Just a word to your nurserymen. I believe if they would make known in Manitoba and the North-west their special lines in forest tree seedlings, they would confer a benefit on the country and increase their sales. I am of opinion that much of the tree-planting that goes on in the Western States is due to the assiduous and energetic efforts of the nurserymen in making known their special lines.

### Observations in Manitoba.

(Special to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.)

(BY ONE OF OUR STAFF.)

On Wednesday, May 29th, we left the Union station, Toronto, for Owen Sound, via the Toronto, Orangeville & Owen Sound division of the C. P. R. Here we took one of the company's boats, the Alberta, a beautiful steel vessel, 270 feet long, elegantly fitted up. All first-class passengers were furnished meals, which were in keeping with the magnificence of the berths and drawing rooms. Our course up the Georgian Bay and across the great lakes, can be traced by any of our readers on the maps furnished free by any agent of the C. P. R. We would advise all interested to get one, which will enable them to follow our wanderings during the next two months. After leaving Owen Sound, we passed up the west side of the Indian peninsula, across Lake Huron and through the Sault Ste. Marie canal into Lake Superior. The scenery all along is grandly beautiful. The Indian peninsula and adjoining islands are densely wooded, though rugged and rocky generally. Here and there, all along, settlements may be seen. The Manitoulin Islands, and other land, as we approach Sault Ste. Marie, has much the same appearance, though the timber is generally smaller and the country more mountainous and rocky. The scenery is grand beyond description, and the timber seems limitless, and is doubtless much more valuable on the Canadian side. This is especially noticeable as we leave "the Soo" and pass into Superior. We soon leave the land behind and cross this, the greatest lake in the world, to Port Arthur, which has a population of 3,500, and is beautifully and romantically situated on the west shores of Thunder Bay. The C. P. R. fleet, as well as many others, are constantly plying between here and Owen Sound. The town has a large elevator, extensive docks and a well-established trade. It has substantial buildings and a number of hotels—one of them a very handsome structure. From the beauty of its situation, its accessibility, and the opportunities for sport in the neighborhood, Port Arthur has become a favorite resort for tourists. A