

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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### Publishers' Announcement.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE steadily grows in popularity upon its intrinsic merits. The best farmers claim to profit by reading it regularly. It carries with it the gospel of better and more profitable agriculture by bringing in the light that expels the darkness. To canvass new subscribers to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE affords both pleasure and profit—the pleasure of doing good to your neighbor—and the premiums we offer elsewhere in this issue afford very alluring remuneration. Our books are standard works of highest authority; our "Post" pens are all that is claimed for them in the advertisement; and our watches do keep correct time and wear well, having been obtained from one of the largest and most reliable firms in Canada. We confidently recommend each and all of our premiums as possessing superior merit, and we trust our readers will at once set about securing one or more of them by sending us the required number of new subscriptions. See our premium pages in this issue.

### The Permanent Site of the Royal Show.

The council of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, some time ago decided to permanently locate their annual show, and recently, by a substantial majority of the council, London was chosen as the city near which the show is to be held after next year. The peripatetic plan had plainly outlived its day of usefulness, as the failing receipts for admission in the last few years had proven, the deficits from year to year proving serious and burdensome. The selection of the Metropolis as the future fixed site for the show is doubtless a wise one, the city being fairly central, while its great population and the facilities which it offers in the way of accommodation, and its attraction for visitors, make it peculiarly the place to secure the attendance which gives elat to an exhibition. We anticipate with every confidence the successful outcome of the new departure made by the Society in selecting for its future home the grand old city on the Thames.

### Will it Pay to Hold Wheat?

Periodically, the above question confronts the farmer whose granary bins or elevator space is filled with wheat. We have in mind cases where wheat-growers have made a decided hit by a big rise in prices after holding their grain for a year or so, but they are the exception and not the rule. It is almost if not impossible to forecast with any degree of accuracy future prices. Great wars have their effect, but not so much so now as in years gone by, owing to improvements in the preparation, storage and transportation of food products. Drought and rains influence crops, but these are rarely, if ever, universal, so that the failure of one grain or in one country will be offset elsewhere. By keeping thoroughly posted as to crop conditions, supply and demand, etc., men may conclude when it is best to dispose of their crop, but as a rule the safest plan has been selling soon after threshing. If wheat does not rise, it is decidedly a losing game to hold, because one must reckon the cost of storage, shrinkage (which is considerable unless the grain is very dry), losses from rats and mice, danger from water or snow, and insurance to cover risk of fire, and interest on the cash value of the wheat locked up, all of which would probably require an advance of 10 or 15 cents per year per bushel to make good. It fact, it has been computed by some that if 60 or 70 cents per bushel represented the "bird in the hand," 90 cents or \$1.00 would be a fair representation of the "bird in the bush" one year hence. With these facts in mind, if the farmer can afford to do so and feels disposed, to speculate by holding his crop, why all well and good—it will be his own funeral or otherwise, according as prices go down or up.



TWO-SHEAR SOUTHDOWN RAM.  
First prize and champion, Royal Show, 1900.

### Two Ambitious Agricultural Projects.

Mr. Hanley, of Minnesota, who was the presiding officer at an International Congress of Agricultural Associations held during the Paris Exposition, and who is an officer of the National Cotton Growers' Association and the Grain Growers' Association, has returned to the United States, and gives to the press a report that at the Congress two propositions were thoroughly discussed: first, to reduce the grain acreage of the world by twenty per cent.; second, to secure from the world's rice-eating nations customers for the farm products of civilized lands. The Congress decided unanimously, he reports, that steps must be taken to secure an Oriental market for surplus grain crops. In America, he continues, there will be an effort to make the price of wheat one dollar a bushel at Liverpool. The farmers will be urged to hold or "corner" their supplies, in order that the price may be raised to that point and maintained. The programme of national legislation proposed for the United States, he says, provides for the subsidizing of freight steamships, the appointment of a trade commission which shall devise plans for getting the desired Oriental trade, the abolition of the Interstate Commerce Commission, because it has failed to prevent unjust discrimination in freight rates (interesting to Canadians, in view of the proposal to establish a similar body here); the abolition of the forecast crop reports which are issued by the Department of Agriculture, because they are "of so hopeful a nature" that they lower the value of stored grain and growing crops; the abolition of bucket shops, and the appointment of Government inspectors to take charge of terminal elevators and prevent the mixing of different grades of grain. This programme is said to have been approved by the Grain Growers' Association, the Cotton Growers' Association, the Farmers' Alliance, and the National Farmers' Federation.

### From Canada.

Mother and Queen, from the golden West,  
We offer in love at the foot of thy throne,  
All we can give thee, our dearest and best,  
Flesh of our flesh and bone of our bone—  
Take them, Queen of the brave and free,  
They come in their love to die for thee.

Mother and Queen, from farm and mart,  
From bank and factory, hill and plain,  
They gather in love for a noble heart,  
To lighten its sorrow and bear its pain—  
Take them, Queen of the brave and free,  
They come in their love to die for thee.

Mother and Queen, our homes were bright  
And pure as the air of the sunlit north,  
But tears have darkened the woman's sight  
Since the day that the brother and son went forth—  
Take them, Queen of the brave and free,  
Who come in their love to die for thee.

Mother and Queen of the spotless throne,  
Lady and Lord of the sea and land,  
Thou makest our far-born sons thine own  
By the tender clasp of a woman's hand—  
Take them, Queen of the brave and free,  
They come in their love to die for thee.

Mother and Queen, from the strong glad West,  
From the rivers and plains where our children roam,  
We give thee our dearest, our bravest and best,  
Take them, Queen of our heart and home—  
Asking no bounty, favor or fee,  
They come in their love to die for thee.

Quebec. FREDERICK GEORGE SCOTT.

### Heroes of the South African War.

No war in which Great Britain has ever been engaged has excited throughout the Dominion of Canada such a keen and general interest as the struggle with the combined forces of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State (two republics so-called), leagued for the domination of South Africa, and the perpetuation of an oppressive and corrupt oligarchy. The Transvaal had been accorded the right of self-government, subject, however, to the suzerainty or permanent rights of Great Britain, but for many long years they have subjected the thousands of British subjects in the country (called Outlanders) to gross injustice, imposing heavy taxes upon them, but denying them the right of franchise or any practical voice in the conduct of the country's business. President Paul Kruger, of the Transvaal, by frequent promises that were never fulfilled, and an unexampled course of duplicity and procrastination, as the official record of his dealings with Sir Alfred Milner and the British Government clearly show, gained years of time, and was all the while secretly preparing for war by the purchase of arms and munitions, and the hiring of foreign officers to drill the Boer population. A millionaire many times over, and using the funds of the Transvaal for this purpose, he was able to do this most effectually, and when fully ready he invaded British territory, and, as our readers are aware, found the British authorities wholly unprepared with forces in Cape Colony. President Steyn, of the Orange Free State, an ambitious and designing man, cast in his lot and forces with the Transvaal.

The war began officially at 5 p. m., October 11, 1899, the hour fixed by the Boers for the British to comply with their ultimatum and "get." The next day the Boers captured an armored train and at once began their march on Kimberley and Mafeking. The first British victory was when the Boer position on Talena Hill was captured on October 20, and the first important gain was the success of General French in ejecting the Boers from Elandslaagte. Small actions continued daily until October 30, when the Boers captured two British battalions at Nicholson's Nek. General Buller arrived at Cape Town on October 31. The following day the Boers invaded Cape Colony. On November 2, Ladysmith was isolated and bombarded, and Colenso was evacuated by the British garrison. Naauwpoort and Stormberg were also evacuated by the British. On November 9, the Boers attacked Ladysmith, but were repulsed with heavy loss. On November 15, the Boers wrecked an armored train and captured one hundred British troops. From November 23 to December 11, Methuen went from disaster to disaster, losing heavily in taking the Boer position at Magersfontein, in which action General Wauchope was killed. December 15, Buller made his advance on Tugela, and the result was tragic. The casualties of 1,100 shocked and discouraged the whole British Empire. December 18, Lord Roberts was appointed Commander-in-Chief in South Africa, with Lord Kitchener as Chief of Staff. Before these two valiant soldiers reached South Africa the British won several small victories. General J. P. D. French forced the Boers from Colesberg. Lieutenant-Colonel Pilcher won a small victory at Sunny-side. The Boer attack on Ladysmith was withstood under the leadership of the brave General White, at a cost to the British of fourteen officers killed and twenty-seven wounded, one hundred and thirty-five men killed and two hundred and forty-four wounded. Buller tried again to cross the Tugela. The Boers captured a part of his command. General Warren retreated from Spion Kop after terrible losses, and the troops recrossed the Tugela. On February 5, Buller failed in his attempt to relieve Ladysmith. The turning point in the war was February 12, when General French started on his forced march for Kimberley, which he reached and relieved on February 15. The 123 days' defence of Kimberley had been directed by Hon. Cecil Rhodes and Col. Kellwich. On Feb. 16, General Cronje was leading the Boer retreat, and was being pursued by General Kelly-Kenny. Cronje's forces took their stand in the river-bed near Raardsbery. By