

**THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE**

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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**Our Clubbing Rates for 1894.**

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE

Winnipeg Weekly Tribune	\$1 75
Toronto Weekly Mail	1 50
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We will give a prize of \$5.00 for the best essay on the subject of "Poultry Raising from a Farmer's Standpoint." All competing articles must reach us not later than February 15th.

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Every farmer in Canada should secure a copy of our handsome premium picture, Canada's Columbian Victors; price, \$1.00. A copy will be sent to any of our subscribers for sending us the name of one new subscriber, accompanied by \$1.00.

**Dominion Grange and Patrons of Industry.**

The nineteenth annual meeting of Dominion Grange will be held in Toronto, commencing on Wednesday, February 21, at 3 o'clock p. m., in the Albion Hotel. All Granges under the jurisdiction of Dominion Grange, which are not in arrears, are entitled to send a delegate to this annual meeting (except Division Granges). A comprehensive circular issued by the Executive Committee can be secured by applying to the Secretary, Mr. R. Wilkie, Blenheim, Ont. The Executive met in April last to carry out the work assigned them at the last annual meeting.

The Grand Trustees of the Patrons of Industry and representatives of the labor unions met at the same time and place. In many respects the aims and objects of the two societies are identical, and the joint meeting was held for the purpose of endeavoring to find a common platform upon which they could unite their influence. In many respects they agreed, but on some points the Executive of the Grange were unable to decide, as they had never been considered by the Order.

The introduction of a system of government known as the "Initiative and Referendum," and a system of cumulative voting, were forcibly put forward, and ably supported by the labor representatives. The Initiative is an enactment providing that when a petition has been signed by a number of persons sufficiently large to show that general interest is taken in the question by the public, the Municipal Council, Legislature or Parliament, as the case may be, must prepare a law carrying out the objects named in the petition, and submit the law to the vote of the electors. If it then receives a majority of the votes cast it becomes law.

The Referendum provides that any important measure passed by the Municipal Council, Legislature or Parliament is subject to being voted upon by the electors. If a petition signed by a number of the electors requisite to show that there is a popular demand for consideration by the people is presented to the body which enacted the law, it must be submitted to the vote of the electors, and if they disapprove the law has no effect.

It is claimed for these methods of legislation that the people take the control of law-making power out of the hands of the few who have used it to further their own personal and selfish interests, and place it in the hands of the whole people.

It is claimed by the advocates of these measures that if carried out they will diminish corruption.

They will enable measures to be decided on their merits.

They will give the electors greater interest in public matters.

They will promote public discussion upon all public questions.

They will procure the better enforcement of all law, as they will then be regarded as direct demands from the people.

They will prevent hasty legislation.

They will secure the adoption of progressive legislation as soon as public sentiment is ready for it.

They will kill extravagances in the management of public finances.

They will diminish all the evils of partyism.

By them local jealousies and favoritism will be done away with.

The system of cumulative voting has been in successful operation in school board elections in England for twenty-three years. We believe that it could be applied with equal success in all elections of representatives in this country, and that it would afford us a much better opportunity of electing men of our own choice and class to Parliament and the Legislature.

The method of its application will be as follows: Group seven or more of our present constituencies into one, retaining the same number of members, or, what is better still, giving the united constituency the exact number of members it is entitled to under the principle of representation by population.

If seven of the old constituencies were grouped into one new one, then that new or grouped constituency would return seven members.

Each elector would have seven votes, that is, he would have as many votes as there are members to be elected.

Each elector would have the power to give all his seven votes to one candidate, or to distribute them as he saw fit amongst two, three, or even the whole seven candidates.

By this method the Grangers or Patrons of Industry, or both united, or any group of voters desiring representation by a man of their own class, could get such representation if they num-

bered one-seventh of the total voting strength of the grouped constituency, with a sufficient margin over to provide for contingencies.

If the Patrons of Industry or Grangers, or both united, numbered two-sevenths of the total voters, with a sufficient margin for contingencies, then they could put two candidates in the field, and request each of their voters to divide his votes between these two candidates, and not to vote for any one else. The two candidates would be elected if this request was complied with.

It is not necessary that the number of constituencies united be seven; we used that number to illustrate the system proposed.

The committee at their meeting referred to prepared a petition to the Government and Parliament at Ottawa, asking that the duty be taken off Indian corn and binder twine, that coal oil be admitted at a duty of three cents per gallon, and agricultural implements at fifteen per cent.

They also prepared and presented a memorial to the Hon. Sir Oliver Mowat and members of his Government, asking that the number of members of County Council be reduced, that agriculture be made a branch of study in the rural schools, and other matters of equal importance. The committee on presenting their memorial were kindly received by Sir Oliver and members of his Government, who listened attentively to the reading of the same, and discussed some parts of it, promising to give it a careful consideration. We are pleased to learn that several of the demands of the memorial have since been granted. The petition of the farmers has not gone unheeded, nor has the representation of their committee been unnoticed.

**Russian Thistle.**

They seem to have made up their minds south of the 45th parallel to eradicate the Russian thistle, and from all accounts none to soon.

In the second issue of September last of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, we reproduced from an U. S. Agricultural Department bulletin a descriptive article, accompanied by cuts of this fearful pest, and we urge every farmer, and more especially those in the south-eastern portion of Manitoba and in the adjacent territory, to familiarize himself with the character of this weed, and on the appearance of the first doubtful specimen, communicate at once with the district weed inspector or with the Department of Agriculture, so that it may not get a foothold on this side of the line.

It is almost certain to drift over here, either with the wind or to be carried in seed, and if noticed and destroyed when it first appears will save the country hundreds of thousands of dollars. The following from an exchange shows to what an alarming extent this weed has spread in the United States and the vast sum of money considered necessary to exterminate it:—

"The culmination of a good deal of thought and discussion, concerning the spread of the destructive Russian thistle, was reached by the presentation of a bill in the Senate on Monday last by Senator Hansbrough, of North Dakota. Briefly, the bill provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall employ the necessary help and so direct it as to destroy and exterminate the Russian thistle in every part of the United States wherever found, and the bill carries with it an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to pay expenses. While just at present the devastation of the Russian thistle is especially marked in the Dakotas, Northern Nebraska, Western Iowa, and sections of Minnesota and Wisconsin, it is spreading very rapidly, and this bill deserves the hearty aggressive support of every one directly or indirectly interested in agriculture. It may be urged that it is a form of paternalism, but it surely is no more so than the Government's action with reference to pleuro-pneumonia and to the work of the Animal Industry Bureau as a whole. Of all pests to agriculture, the Russian thistle is not only the worst but is more dangerous than all the others put together. It not only drives out useful crops, but makes the land impassable to man or beast. In the sections in which it is spreading most rapidly, there is a great deal of vacant land, and unless concerted action is taken, little good will be accomplished. The Orange Judd Farmer is heartily in favor of this legislation, not only for those now suffering, but as a precautionary measure in the interests of the farming population of the Mississippi Valley." Let us beware of what Americans so dread.

The Illinois State Board of Agriculture opened bids at Springfield, January 3rd, for the permanent location of the State Fair. Bids were filed by the cities of Springfield, Peoria, Bloomington, and Decatur, all offering at least one hundred acres of land, \$50,000 in cash, and other requirements of proposals for bids. The Board will now visit the cities, inspect the sites offered, and make their decision at a future day. Springfield seems in the lead, its offering being one hundred and fifty-four acres of land, about fifty acres more than by the other cities, and this to include the present Sangamon County grounds, with buildings and improvements worth \$50,000. The race track, one mile, one of the best in the United States, is on these grounds.