

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—
Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Published in the Dominion.

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The Month.

During the past month the weather has been open, fine and generally frosty, although there have been some mild days. We think there has been no material change in the prospect of the wheat crop; the plant is yet apparently in a healthy condition, although along the lines of the G. W. R. and G. T. R., between this city and Toronto, the top is badly browned by the frost. But there is sufficient vitality left in the plant to ensure a good crop, if nothing injurious to it occurs; much damage may be done should we have alternate frost and thaw for the next three weeks. We hear from the eastern part of Ontario that the crop does not promise as favorably. The clover is badly thrown out. Now the price of clover seed is so low, it will pay farmers to sow it liberally, even if not intended for meadow; a good body of clover that can be raised from early sowing on grain land, having only one season to lie, will be found a cheaper mode of increasing the fertility of the land than by drawing manure. We have had sufficient for a good cut in the fall from grain land seeded with clover in the spring. The cost of seeding an acre when clover is procurable at \$3.25 per bushel is very trifling. It will pay to go over the wheat fields with a good roller as soon as the frost is out and the land dry enough to bear the horses.

This year you should be more careful than usual in attempting to raise live stock of all kinds, particularly sheep, as they always have paid and we think must pay better than ever, as the rot is sweeping off the flocks in England. That disease is fortunately unknown in Canada.

The Board of Agriculture and Arts of Ontario.

This Association held its annual meeting on the 24th of March, at Toronto. J. C. Rykert, M.P., was elected President. Reports and communications were read.

The greatest amount of time was spent in discussing and devising some plan to prevent frauds with tickets, badges and passes, and attempting to arrange for counting, checking and recording the numbers issued. Mr. K. Graham, of Belleville, said that the belief that dishonesty and fraud were practiced was rapidly spreading. Mr. G. and many others worked hard to prevent the possibility of fraud taking place either in or outside of the Board in regard to either tickets, badges or passes.

We are pleased to state that the Hon. D. Christie has now altered his opinions in regard to admitting American stock that are liable to disease into Canada. He spoke very strongly concerning the danger to be dreaded from pleuro-pneumonia, and against the removal by the Government of the embargo which he ere now condemned. The Executive Committee also reported that they would not recommend the Council to petition the Government to relax the restrictions on the importation of cattle from the United States.

The following are the alterations in the prize list:—The Prince of Wales' prize of \$50 is to be given for the best heavy draught stallion, any age; a diploma and \$25 will be given to the best herds of Herefords and other cattle, and for the best Durham breed \$40. For the best five fat steers, a gold medal; and the best five fat heifers, a gold medal; for the best pen of Cotswold sheep, Canadian bred, \$20; Leicesters, Canadian bred, \$20; South Downs, \$20; Shropshires, \$20; four fat sheep, \$15; best improved Berkshire boar and two sows, \$20; do. Suffolk, \$10; stallion for agricultural purposes, of any age, diploma only; pair of matched horses, \$15. Five hundred dollars were voted towards the prizes in cheese and butter, on the understanding that the Eastern and Western Dairymen's Association grant \$500.

The subject of giving prizes for the best managed farm was brought up by Professor Brown, and a scheme adopted dividing the Province into six districts or groups, in one of which, consisting of fourteen electoral division societies, there is to be offered this year one gold, one silver and twelve bronze medals. The group selected this year is the one adjoining the place of holding the exhibition, and consists of the following counties and electoral divisions, the figures representing the number of societies in each county, viz.:—Niagara 1, Welland 1, Lincoln 1, Haldimand 1, Monck, 1, Wentworth 2, Halton 1, Waterloo 2, Brant 2, Norfolk 2; total, 14. Farmers desiring to compete must do so through their society, applying to the Secretary by the 1st of May. The Societies are requested to select three farms to compete and send names in by the 15th of May. The judges have certain rules laid down for their guidance, and will report the best farm in each electoral division society for a bronze medal, and the best and second best in the group for the gold and silver medal.

Calves.

There are many methods adopted in the treatment of calves; and when the calf is to be raised by hand one as good as any is to let it suck for a week or ten days, feeding afterwards with new milk for another week until it can drink easily, giving it three quarts of milk in the morning and as much at night; afterwards, for the new milk skim milk is generally substituted, and half a pint of finely ground oats for each meal per calf, mixed with hot water for several hours before feeding, the better way being to thoroughly boil it, then add the allowance each calf is to get with the milk, thoroughly mixing before feeding. Linseed similarly prepared may be substituted for the oatmeal.

Many who should know, think that when calves are brought up by hand to be afterwards reared and fattened, they should receive new milk constantly, the quantity being in turn gradually diminished by the substitution of dry feed, which they should be taught to eat as early as possible. This can be done at an early age by keeping a little good clover hay before them in a rack provided for the purpose; also it will be found of advantage to slice turnips or other roots very fine, and commence by putting a little in their mouths after giving them their milk. By this means they will soon learn to eat well, and should have as much hay and roots as they will eat up clean. Meal composed of coarsely ground oats two-thirds, and peas one-third, may be sprinkled on their cut turnips; no specified amount to be fed can be given, but by beginning to feed meal as soon as they will eat it, you can increase the amount from time to time, only feed as much as they will eat up clean at each time of feeding. Their quarters should be kept clean and dry, fresh straw being given daily. Many practical men consider it better to keep calves in all summer, supplying them with plenty of green food at all times; sufficient roots and clover hay should be reserved to feed them until the first soiling plant becomes ready to cut. After they are a few months old they should have free recourse to pure water, especially in the warm weather; when it is cold and they are getting plenty of roots or milk, they will not require much water, if any, especially the very young ones, which will not require any. Great care should be taken not to surfeit them of their feed, and pains must be taken to keep their feed boxes and hay racks clean and sweet, always removing any picked-over hay, which may be utilized by being fed to the older animals. The surplus feed, if any be left in their boxes after they have done eating, should also be removed and utilized as the hay. Care should be taken to feed them regularly three times per day with their green feed or roots, as the case may be, and when hay is fed, but twice; it should be morning and evening, and that which may be in their rack at noon should always be shaken up. It is a decided loss if a young animal is not kept in good growing condition from the time it is dropped until it is matured. One well fed calf is worth two or three that have been recklessly handled, and it is decidedly less trouble, and a source of more pleasure as well as profit.