

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WILLIAM WELD, 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 classes 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.—It is not necessary for essayists to agree with our policy, so long as they give sound reasons for differing from us.

3.—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.

4.—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, the sum being decided by ourselves in each case, and the essay will appear in the same or in a succeeding issue.

Our prize of \$5.00, given for the best original essay on the following subject: *Can Mixed Farming be so Changed that more than the Ordinary Amount of Work may be Profitably Done during the Winter Months?* has been awarded to James Shannon, Wolverton, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on the following subject: *Is Our Future Husbandry to be Special or Mixed?* Essays to be handed in not later than Dec. 15 h.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Personal Observations on the Effects of the Removal of Our Forests.* Essays to be handed in not later than Jan. 15.

Notice.

All letters respecting the business of the ADVOCATE should be addressed "FARMER'S ADVOCATE," and not to any private person. If intended for W. Weld personally, write the word "personal" or "private" above the address.

Editorial.

On the Wing.

A RETROSPECTIVE VIEW.

At the close of each year it is proper for everybody to take a retrospective view of the past, to consider what changes have taken place. The past year has been one of very great importance. In this part of the Dominion it has been one of the most bountiful and luxuriant seasons we have experienced; the cereal crop has been good and secured in good order; the pastures were never more luxuriant than they have been this fall, elevating the spirits of all engaged in the dairy business; the fruit and root crops have been abundant; our farm stock has increased and thriven as well as any one could desire. If peace, plenty and prosperity are the sources from which happiness is derived, it must be with us here in Canada. We doubt if any part of the world can show such progress and thrift, combined with less poverty and disease, as the western part of Ontario.

When crops are bountiful, prices are sure to be lower than in seasons of scarcity. Those who complain should consider that twenty-one years ago cows and beef cattle would not bring as much cash by nearly one-third as they will now realize. Horses command highly remunerative prices; and our dairy and fruit interests were never on a better paying basis. Notwithstanding this there are complaints of scarcity of cash.

All parts of the Dominion may not have been so highly favored this year; some have suffered from fire, some from drouth, while contagious diseases among farm stock have touched some parts of our country; but our Government has promptly acted.

The gigantic undertaking of connecting our Provinces together, and affording a shorter route for the commerce of the world through our Dominion, has been accomplished. The grand idea of holding a Colonial Exhibition in England has this year been successfully carried out, and great commercial facilities may be anticipated. Our Government has decided this year to establish experiment stations in different parts of the Dominion. This will eventually cause a considerable additional expenditure of public funds, and the greatest care must be exercised to have them judiciously expended.

A few have questioned our criticisms in regard to the mismanagement of the Model or Experimental Farm at Guelph, but duty to our farmers demanded the truth should be proclaimed. Had our suggestions been regarded,

the Model Farm would be more popular than it now is, and better results shown.

One of our great educators of the past, the Provincial Exhibition, is fast falling into oblivion; other interests have superseded the interests of the farmers to an injurious extent, and it will now be difficult to restore its lost popularity. This is much to be regretted. There have for years been numerous complaints of injustice; advice and remonstrance from experienced men have been too little regarded. The Provincial Board have been too intimately connected with the Shorthorn Herd Book, and the farmers have paid large sums of money into their hands for the registration of thousands of cattle, which they now regret.

Probably one of our greatest achievements has been in checking the introduction and spread of contagious diseases. We personally inspected the localities where Anthrax was sweeping away our stock, and visited the first cases of Foot and Mouth Disease, Hog Cholera and Tuberculosis. Personal investigation of our quarantines was made, and the attention of the authorities called to their inefficiency. Information on these points was published in the ADVOCATE from time to time when deemed proper. For doing this our veracity was questioned by some in the public press, but fearing injury to our live stock trade, we declined to reply; subsequent events, however, proved the correctness of our reports. We also by letters and telegrams, at our own expense, furnished information about these diseases, etc. In each case the Dominion Government promptly responded by immediately sending veterinary surgeons to investigate, and by giving them full power to act. The freedom of our country from stock diseases is to be attributed to these prompt steps.

Mr. Farrington, one of the chief founders of the Dairymen's Association, said twelve years ago that no better matter regarding the dairy interest appeared in any paper than in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

It is a pleasure for us to look back over the twenty-one years that have passed since the publication of the ADVOCATE was commenced. In that short time, in this locality, it appears that all of the once common ox-teams have given place to horses; the scythe and the grain cradle to the mower and the harvester; the uncertain home-made cheese has given place to the factory product; reliable grafted fruits have supplanted the natural and doubtful varieties; improved farm stock of all kinds has been more extensively disseminated throughout the country than ever before; great advantages have been secured by our