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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.—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. First prize essayists may choose books or money, or part of both. Selections of 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.

Our prize of \$5 for the best original essay on *Spring Management of Cows*, has been awarded to John Robertson, London.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *Farm Drainage*. Essays to be handed in not later than April 15.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *The Best Method for the Registration of Stock*. Essays to be handed in not later than May 15th.

Now is the time to subscribe for the Farmer's Advocate, the best agricultural paper in Canada.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We consider we have only done our duty in trying to keep down expenditures. Now that the grants are made, it will be our duty to try and have them utilized as beneficially as we can for you.

It is now apparent that the Advisory Board of the Model Farm at Guelph has already done much good to that institution, and if left to them and the existing Principal, Mr. Mills, we might be able ere long to report some good results from it.

The Holstein cattle have of late years gained considerable ground in Canada. They are the largest breed of dairy cattle known in this country, and produce large quantities of milk, from which some of the best butter and cheese have been manufactured. At the last New York dairy show they carried off the first and second prize for the largest yield of butter, and have also received honors at numerous other exhibitions.

Our Chicago letter opens the question, which should cause all advocates of Commercial Union to consider, namely, In what way are we to treat our sister colonies? Do not our American cousins ask too much of us, namely, to offer ourselves to them at a price? We do not consider they have shown a disposition to treat honorably with us, or they would allow us to go into their country and capture our thieves that run there. Canada has offered to reciprocate with them on this subject, as we do not want to profit from their thieves.

Farmers' Institutes, where they have been established in Ontario, have been successful in drawing a pretty good attendance. A large amount of information has been elicited from the farmers and imparted to them. They have opened the mind of many a farmer to seek more knowledge, and much good has been done by reaching farmers that do not read much. A charge is laid against them, which we fear is too true, namely, that the main object of the movement has been for partizan purposes, and that they, as a body, have been used to ask for an increased agricultural expenditure, an increase of Government officials and increase of salaries. We doubt if the bread earners as a mass would sanction this, if they could help themselves. The introduction of partyism wiped out many a Grange. We would suggest for the benefit of these institutions and the interest of the farmer, that every means possible should be taken to prevent their becoming such.

I esteem the ADVOCATE very highly and wish it great prosperity. Every farmer should take the ADVOCATE.—R. VANSICKLE, Beverley, W. Flamboro'.

Farmers' Clubs.

Dominion Farmers' Council.

The Dominion Farmers' Council meets in the city of London, Ont., on the third Thursday of every month, at 3 o'clock p. m. All communications should be addressed to the Secretary, A. LEHMANN, LONDON, ONT. This Council has now on hand pamphlets containing its Constitution and By-laws, with an account of its origin, objects, etc., also a form of Constitution and By-laws suitable for Farmers' Clubs, which will, on application to the Secretary, be distributed free to all parties having in contemplation the organization of clubs.

The regular monthly meeting of the DOMINION FARMERS' COUNCIL was held on the 15th ult., Vice-President O'Brien in the chair.

COMMUNICATIONS.

Among the communications read was one from W. A. Macdonald, Secretary of the Council, in which he expressed his regret at not being able to attend the meeting of the Council, and that his departure to Europe made it necessary for him to tender his resignation as their Secretary.

The resignation of W. A. Macdonald was accepted by the Council, and a vote of thanks given him for the energetic manner in which he had worked for the interest of the Council.

The meeting deemed it advisable to postpone the election of a new Secretary till their next meeting and appointed A. Lehmann, of London, as Secretary *pro tem*.

One of the members stated that the bill passed by the Dairymen's Association had not been properly discussed by them, owing to the hurried manner in which it was presented to them, and that if the discussion had been allowed to take place the mistakes contained in the bill would likely have been rectified, and the bill thereby made a boon to honest farmers and cheesemen.

APPLE CULTURE.

The following paper was read by John Kennedy:

The apple will grow on a great variety of soils, but it seldom thrives on very dry sands, or soils saturated with moisture. Its favorite soil in all countries is a strong loam, or a strong sandy loam on a gravelly subsoil. A deep, strong, gravelly, or clayey loam, or strong loam of a limestone nature, produces the greatest crops and the highest flavored fruit, as well as the utmost longevity of the trees. Such a soil is moist rather than dry—the most favorable condition for this fruit. Too damp soils may often be rendered fit for the apple by thorough drainage, and too dry ones by deep subsoil plowing, or trenching where the subsoil is of a heavier texture.

As to situation there is difference of opinion; some prefer a hillside sloping to the north or west, it forming a protection from the rays of the sun after a clear frosty night; some prefer a southern aspect to ripen the wood and crop more perfectly. A belt of evergreens on the north and west sides would be very beneficial.