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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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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 of 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 prize essayists may order 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.

A prize of \$5 for the best original essay on *Is Sheep Raising Profitable in Canada, and What are the Future Prospects?* has been awarded to Ernest L. Black, Nova Scotia.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *Is Hog Raising Profitable in Canada? What is the Most Economical System of Feeding and General Management? What is the Future Outlook?* Essays to be handed in not later than August 15th.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *The Best, Simplest and Easiest Form of Book-keeping for Farmers?* Essays to be handed in not later than Sept. 15th.

We want good live agents in every county. Farmer's sons and daughters who have read the ADVOCATE can do well canvassing for us. Do not let a visiting neighbor go home without subscribing. Secure a cash commission or a prize.

Editorial.

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On the Wing.

(Continued from Vol. 22, No. 6.)

THE PACIFIC SLOPE NO. 2.

From San Francisco we went to Los Angeles. Here the excitement in land speculation was something almost incredible, we believe unprecedented. Hotel accommodation was to many unattainable, even at very high rates, and such was the rush for baggage at the stations that it caused a delay to many of half a day or a day. Hundreds of people were blocked in rows for long distances to wait perhaps hours before they could get a letter at the Post Office. Never before did we see half as many land agent offices at any place. We stepped into some of them, the occupants are pretty sharp business men and know all about the country; they are very courteous and bland, and go to any amount of pains and even expense to secure business—horses and carriages are at their command, and a drive attainable by almost any prospective purchaser. They are sure to have the best bargain ever known either in house property, corner lots, towns, cities, fruit or grain farms, water privileges, mines, timber and ranches; they will make a fortune sure for the purchaser in a few days, months or years; they try to show that no such climate or such prospects ever existed; that people are rushing in from all parts of the world; that Southern California is to be the most densely populated place that ever existed; they point you to individuals who have made money in a short time; they try to increase the excitement, which is already awakened in the visitor, expectant settler, or speculator, and the majority that have a few dollars or a few millions are pretty sure to have less in a very short time if they are not extra cautious, and well posted about all other parts of the world. We informed one we were from Canada. He had been there: had lived there; could not stand that climate, it was too wet and too cold; he must have fruit; would have been dead long ago had he remained there; you have ice palaces there, lots of frozen ears, toes and noses (here he shudders); rather be dead than try to exist there; had hard work to live; felt no pleasure in such a climate; Canadians all coming here as fast as they can get away, etc., etc. Such are their meshes, and "tender feet," as new arrivals are termed, soon drop their money and are anchored there for life, or death. Once there they must lead all the advantages and cloak the defects, or there would be but little prospects of

their ever realizing anything for either time or money, or they might be rated out.

Many of the old settlers have made large fortunes by the rise in land; many speculators have also done well, and many have been badly bitten. The climate is pleasant; vegetation under irrigation is grand, and the inhabitants are progressive. Speculation has, we think, exceeded itself, and many collapses may follow, but there will be bread for the industrious. The orange groves and vineyards in the suburbs of Los Angeles are being cut down, and cement pavements are being laid through them, and building lots being sold. We went to the ostrich farm, about six miles distant. A railroad ran to it, having been but recently cut through the mountains. This is rather a pretty locality, it is a large, flat, partially surrounded by high hills. There were about 70 ostriches, most of which were young. Some of the old birds cost a large sum.

At San Diego the excitement is about as great as at Los Angeles. In fact, the whole country is filled with plans of towns and cities, and the rush to secure sites has been such that the railroad company could not supply cars enough, or run trains enough to carry the passengers, and actually paid the board of those holding through tickets till they could get them away.

We stepped off at Pasedeno. This is a pretty place. The Raymond House is one of the pleasure and health resorts, and is located on a high hill, surrounded by fertile flats. This is a comparatively new place that has recently sprung up, and in a few years will become a lovely spot. For miles on the flats fruit cultivation is being successfully carried on.

From here we go to Riverside. This is considered the best locality for the cultivation of the orange. It is claimed that they can be more economically raised here, and of a better quality than in Northern California. Their system of irrigation is the best we have ever seen. The crops of oranges are magnificent. We drove six miles into the country, and such a splendid appearance of semi-tropical agricultural production we had never seen before. The road, or rather the double road, was planted on one side with the Australian gum tree—a rapid growing tree having long, thick, glossy leaves, which appears the most thrifty timber tree that will thrive in this climate without irrigation, excepting pines and firs. On the opposite side was a row of palm trees, the main bodies of which are about two feet in circumference, and perhaps ten or twelve feet high, from which the long, beautiful and gracefully branching leaves grow, perhaps to about twenty feet in length.