

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

FOUNDED 1866.

VOL. XXII.

LONDON, ONT., DECEMBER, 1887.

Whole No. 264.

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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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Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, 260 Richmond Street, LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

## 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 \$5.00 for the best original essay on *Winter Care of Cattle*, has been awarded to Thos. McMillan, Constance, Ont., and our 2nd prize on the same subject to James R. Lawler, Whitby. Both essays appear in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *The Condition of the Canadian Farmer*. Essays to be handed in not later than December 15th.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Soiling and Soiling Crops*. Essays to be handed in not later than Jan. 15.

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

## Editorial.

### On the Wing.

Victoria, Vancouver's Isle, October 25th, 1887.—We have now reached the Pacific coast. The view from this eminence (Church Hill) commands a lovely panorama; in the foreground lie the parliamentary buildings and educational establishments, Victoria and Esquimaux harbors, with the steamers for the north and south watching for the arrival of the Australian mail via the Sandwich Isles. We are deeply impressed with the grandeur of the scene and the importance of the situation.

The mineral, fishing and lumber interests of this British Columbia, and the largely increasing trade of our Pacific Railway, tend to make this Province an important and a valuable adjunct to the British possessions.

When we think of the destitution existing in Europe—when we reflect upon the vast resources of the magnificent country we have just passed through—we think how appropriate was the motto (made of the heads of wheat) we saw placed over the altar in the Episcopal church in the capital of Assiniboia on Thanksgiving Day, "I am the Bread of Life."

Five years ago we passed through this territory of Assiniboia. The railroad was then being constructed; only a few tents and board shanties were then to be seen. The country then appeared to us a trackless desert of brown, seared and dried up, with but little short and dried grass upon it—a most uninviting place; in fact, we had estimated it as a barren desert, never to be of any value; we did not believe that our cattle could live there, or that grain would ever be profitably raised on these thousands of miles. This opinion is now changed.

Having this year visited eight agricultural exhibitions in this territory, having been to many of the farms in different localities, and having conversed with the inhabitants, we find the granaries overflowing with grain, the stock in an astonishingly thriving condition, and a hopeful and prosperous people in all parts. We have visited many who had commenced with only their own energy, now having farms and thousands of bushels of wheat to sell; and here in this comparatively unknown Territory of Assiniboia is a country larger than old Ontario, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick combined; a territory destined to contain millions of people, and land to be had free to all that come to it. And this is only one of the territories, some of which are larger in area than this, and some claiming advantages that, in some instances, surpass this one. Villages and towns are springing

up in all parts; the busy clatter of the hammer is heard on all sides. There are undoubted difficulties to overcome by all who undertake a pioneer life; some may not be fitted for it; but where to go, how to go, and who should not go, and the individual successes and fortunes, the drawbacks and requirements may be treated on in future issues. Suffice for the present to say that in this jubilee year of the reign of our Queen, the fact is fully demonstrated that we have in our North-West Territories a country that probably may be one of the greatest wheat producing countries in the world. Let us all unite in thanks for our blessings, and contemplate the appropriate motto used at Regina.

RETURNED.

Nov. 25.—We re-enter our office after an absence of nearly three months, to attend to duty's call. We left our office under the invitation from agricultural societies, Government officials and many friends. During our absence we have visited 14 agricultural and horticultural exhibitions in Canada. Also, under special invitations, we visited the Experimental Farm at Ottawa, and three private experimental farms in the North West. After filling as many of our Canadian invitations as possible, between Sherbrooke, P. Q., to Wellington, B. C., in response to invitation we visited San Francisco, southern California and Kansas City, passing through Washington and Oregon Territories to California, returning by Colorado, New Mexico, Kansas, Illinois and Michigan. We found that during the past year we have travelled nearly 9,000 miles by rail, besides steamboat, carriage and stage rides. We, or rather you, our readers, have already paid for this, as we are acting in a different capacity to those whose fares are paid by either of the Governments, or either of the railroad companies, or any of the existing societies.

We believe that we have gained information that will be of much interest and importance to you all. But to condense, write and prepare our matter and have our illustrations made, will take a little time after one gets settled to quiet work again.

We have met with the kindest receptions, unbounded hospitality, and more invitations than we could possibly accept in Canada, for which we feel highly honored, and return our sincere thanks to those of whose hospitality we have partaken, and to those whose hospitality we have been under the necessity of declining for the present.

To our Canadian and American friends in the United States and Territories, whose kind invitations we have for the present felt it our duty