

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE —AND— HOME MAGAZINE.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Our Prize Essays.

The prize of \$5.00 for the best essay "on the seeding and management of permanent pastures" has been won by Mr. Joseph Fisher, of Willow Bank, Milton P. O., Ont.

The judges to whom have been referred the awarding of prizes for "the best collection of drawings and descriptions for making home-made labor-saving implements for the farm," have declined to make any award as all the competitors have sent at least one or more patented and not-original implements.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on "dairy management either in respect to butter or cheese." This essay to contain the actual, practical experience of the writer in the management of the dairy. The competition to be restricted to the wives and daughters of farmers. The essay to be handed in before the 20th inst.

Obituary.

Since the issue of the last number of the ADVOCATE, we have heard the sad news of the death of Mr. James Vick, of Rochester, N. Y. Mr. Vick was a native of England, and emigrated to America when a young man. He became connected with the horticultural press at an early age, and soon commenced business as a seed merchant; in both avocations he has been well-known for years, and especially as a horticultural writer. His *Floral Guide* was a welcome guest in every family throughout North America that loves the beauty of flowers. More than any other man in the country he has been successful in promoting its horticulture.

The Month on the Farm.

The last month, so generally considered as the most pleasant month in all the year, has not this season maintained its good name. The weather was, on the whole, very changeable and backward, though crops promise well.

Fall Wheat—From the reports of farmers and of our exchanges, we are inclined to think that the report of the Bureau of Agriculture is of too sombre a coloring. Land badly prepared, especially any on which the surface water has been allowed to remain stagnant, does not promise well; this was to be expected, but on land properly prepared, and rich and dry, fall wheat gives excellent promise. Our opinion of the state of the fall wheat was confirmed when travelling on the L. H. & B. Railway, and on the G. W. R. to Sarnia. The condition of the growing crops was highly encouraging.

The present month is not an idle one for the farmer. His attention is first to the sowing of turnips. We need hardly remind our readers that the land for this crop should be well manured, and in good tilth. If these simple conditions be complied with and an early rain succeed, the germination is pretty sure, and on an early germination the promise of a good crop, in a great measure, depends.

Keep down the weeds! Why should they be allowed to deprive the farm crops of the necessary plant food? In hoed crops especially they are easily extirpated.

Another most important work of the month is haymaking. No date can be definitely named for mowing. This depends somewhat on the controlling influence of the weather—a late or early season, and also, no little on the variety of grass. There is as much difference in the time of maturing of different grasses as there is in various varieties of wheat or oats.

Timothy, the grass mostly used here for hay, is in greatest perfection when the first joint above the root has become yellow and hard. If left to ripen its seed the hay is little, if at all, better than straw. The nutritive juices become changed into woody fibre, and although there may be a gain in quantity of a few hundred pounds per acre, this will be but a very poor remuneration for the deterioration of quality.

Clover should be cut when in full bloom, and cured without an undue exposure to the heat of the sun. To have clover hay of the best quality it should be cut when the plant is richest in saccharine juices, and those juices should be retained in the hay by curing it in the very best manner, so that those juices do not evaporate by exposure to the heat of a midsummer sun. Clover hay, when properly saved, is an excellent provender.

Dipping both sheep and lambs to destroy ticks should be attended to as soon after shearing as possible.

A little work on agriculture was once given to Mr. Merrimam, of the Onondaga Club, inscribed sensibly as follows: "Put with this book, in equal quantities, practical knowledge and common sense; mix these thoroughly and apply the compound to your farm every morning at sunrise and you will have tremendous crops."

It is said, we know not on what authority, that "salt scattered over growing crops will save them from chinch bugs."

Beautify Your Farms.

The appearance of many farms could be much improved by levelling the grass on the road next to the fence. To do this need not take up much time. Before stowing away your plow, &c., for the summer, devote a couple of hours to plowing the strip of grass land in front of your farm, and level it after seeding it down, and passing the roller over it you will in a short time have a nice lawn instead of unsightly knolls and water holes. A few evergreen and other trees planted on it at intervals of a few rods, would further add to the appearance, in fact boulevarding the front of your farm; it would be pleasanter for pedestrians than having to walk on a dusty or perhaps a muddy road. It would also enhance the value of the property in case of sale. How pretty the boulevards look on the main avenues of our cities; the roads in front or along your farms can be made to look just as pretty and at the cost of only a little trouble.

Premiums at Fairs.

In many cases it is not the money value of the premium that gratifies the winner. It is the fact that a premium was given at all. Now that fair prize lists are being—or should be—considered and published, we would suggest that a number of societies offer as premiums a year's subscription to the "FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE." Those who have done this in a small way at first have found it so satisfactory that they have added to the number of premiums of this kind, and this custom is increasing. Such premiums do vastly more to promote the objects of the society than money prizes. Aside from the fact that one cannot fail to be greatly benefited by the teaching of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE, its regular coming once a month is a frequent reminder of the society and its fair, and thus the interest of the winner of the prize in the fair at which it was given is kept alive the whole year. If the officers who have yet to arrange their premium list will think of this matter, they will see that they can in no other way make the money at their disposal go so far, and at the same time do as much good, as to award a large share of it in the manner suggested.

Fair for 1882.

Several announcements of fairs and exhibitions have already come to hand. We would suggest to the different societies to fix your dates as early as possible, and issue your prize list at once, also send a copy to this office.

"Let the buyer beware."

Two farmers fight about a cow while the lawyers milk her.

It has been observed by Mr. Gregory that "this ensilage question has a grave side to it."

It is noted with satisfaction by *The Mark Lake Express* that in England the use of blinders on horses "is slowly but surely dying out."