

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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It is impartial and independent of all cliques 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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The Pork Tariff and "Over-Production"—Discriminating.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Your favor of 2nd April came to hand when the writer was away and got mislaid. As to the new tariff as it now stands the farmer need have no fear, and as to over-production also there is a market for all the hogs Canada can produce; but there are times when they must accept low prices, as the markets will not justify high prices.

We don't think, as long as hogs don't go below 4c. to the farmer, he is losing any money, and hogs are an article that bring the cash any week of the year.

We have to discriminate as to the right style and weight, as we get severely punished for shipping anything that is not just right to England. We want long, lean, fleshy hogs, such as the crosses produce between the Tamworth and Improved York with other breeds. We consider they are the best breeds to cross with yet introduced into this country.

Yours truly,
JAS. L. GRANT, & Co.
Ingersoll, Ont., April 21. (Per WILSON.)

The Thoroughbred Stallion Grand Falconer.

The subject for our plate page illustration in this issue is the thoroughbred stallion Grand Falconer. This horse is the property of Mr. Adam Beck, London, Ont., and was imported from England during the past winter. Although the portrait is a fair likeness of the horse's head, neck and foreend, the artist has neither done him justice nor does the illustration give an adequate idea of his grand proportions or handsome conformation.

Grand Falconer is a whole colored bay with black points. He has a beautiful head and neck, and is exceptionally long in the rein. His shoulders are well nigh perfect, as they are beautifully sloping without a shade of coarseness. His back is strong and short, and so closely coupled as to leave only room for the saddle. His hind quarters are handsomely moulded, while his capital, deep, well-sprung ribs and round barrel give him plenty of middle. His knees and hocks are wide and strong (an essential point in breeding half-breds), while he has fully eight and a-half inches of bone below the knee. His feet and ankles are both of the form and material to stand work.

Grand Falconer is sixteen hands high, although his cobby build detracts slightly from the appearance of his height. We hail with pleasure the advent of a horse which is not only a superb individual, but his royal breeding will make him a most valuable addition to the choice of those who are seeking to improve their horses and breed them for the present demand.

Grand Falconer was bred by Mr. Burdett-Coutts, M. P., and was foaled in 1889; he was sired by Hampton, dam Lady Peregrine, by Toxophilite. Grand Falconer is a sound young horse of fashionable breeding. His half-brother, Ladas, is favorite for this year's "Derby," while such good ones as Peter, Timothy, Queen Adelaide, St. Simon and other celebrities are products of the same family. But it was the handsome conformation which the offspring of Hampton are known to possess which induced Mr. Beck to purchase him at a high figure, and place his services at the disposal of the farmers and horse breeders of Western Ontario at a nominal fee, and by so doing encourage the breeding of a better class of horses throughout this part of Canada. Mr. Beck, as all are aware, has not only been eminently successful in the "show ring" of late years with his harness and saddle horses, but he has obtained the highest average at the New York sales. He is therefore competent to judge of the requirements of the day, and is much interested in the improvement of the horses throughout the district from which he obtains his supply.

It was with a view of encouraging the farmers to breed a better and more suitable class, that led him to place this excellent stallion within their reach. The fact that there is no department of the farm which is so thoroughly demoralized as horse-breeding may be accounted for by the unfortunate manner in which breeding has been directed; as the services of the most useful brood mares have been lost through improper mating. All sorts of stallions have been patronized without any definite idea of what the offspring would be fit for, until any number of young horses may now be purchased at the price of a dairy cow, while at the same time buyers find it next to impossible to secure the class that are saleable. Several prominent buyers have recently made the statement that the actual expense incurred in buying, exclusive of price, has run up to \$40 or \$50 per horse during the late season, while others have given up in disgust on account of the labor required in picking up the proper sort. But how could it be otherwise, when stallions of every undesirable type have been brought in by syndicate tricksters and unprincipled dealers, until the country is overrun by the worst description of weeds? Farmers should recollect that the pure-bred weed is the worst weed of all, for his very breeding must of necessity make such a horse an impressive sire, and therefore his offspring will of a certainty follow the same pattern as himself.

Mr. Beck has placed Grand Falconer under the management of Mr. Frank Kelly, of Aylmer, who will stand him at St. Thomas, Fingal, Union, Sparta and Aylmer, in which district we are sure he will be appreciated, for it is in the locality where such numbers of good horses have been produced from Terror and Lapidist and their sons.

Fruit Growers' Association of Ontario.

I have read, with much interest, your editorial criticism upon the work of our Association, and as one upon whom much responsibility rests, I write to say that I, for one, appreciate friendly criticism, and am ready to profit by it.

The article demands a few explanations in order that the Association may stand properly before the public.

OUR REPORT.

True, this only contains the papers, discussions and reports of one meeting instead of three, as formerly; the reason is that the summer meetings were abolished owing to the difficulty in getting a local attendance in summer, when every one was busy, so, after much consideration, it was deemed best to double the length of the winter meeting, and thus gather an equal amount of information with less expense. The fall meeting, which was held at the time of the Toronto Fair, was never more than a meeting for the election of officers, and now, by holding the winter meeting in December, it is possible to have the election at that time instead, and save our money for better uses.

Through the Farmers' Institutes and affiliated Local Fruit Growers' Associations, our directors have also accomplished much of the work formerly done at the summer meetings, the Association paying the expenses of special trips, and selecting the best men to speak on fruit culture to go on the regular rounds of the Institutes in the month of January, and publish the information which they themselves have gained at the meetings of our Association.

I may be mistaken in my judgment, but, as a practical fruit-grower, I think there is little matter goes into our report that is not valuable. I cut it very close, and reduce it very much as it is; possibly I could do so still more and add a larger amount of practical information. Our journal is full of seasonable items each month, and perhaps much of this could be republished annually in the report for the good of those not members of our Association. I am willing to do this if it is thought desirable. The circulation of our report is no longer confined to our members, it is sent to members of Farmers' Institutes and to all persons applying for it.

The Committee on New Fruits was dropped for a year or two, but last year a committee, of which Prof. Craig was chairman, made us a good report, which may be seen in the report for 1893, just being issued; and for 1894, the New Fruit Committee consists of Messrs. A. McD. Allan, D. W. Beadle and Prof. John Craig, three fruit connoisseurs, whose report next December will no doubt have unusual value.

The Plant Distribution, which has usually cost us \$200 or \$300 per annum, has been the means of making known the value of many new varieties of fruit, as, for instance, the Wealthy, Swazie, Pomme Grise and Ontario apples, the Moore's Early, Niagara and Worden grapes, the Marlboro raspberry, etc.; and the worthlessness of others, as, for instance, the Burnett and Mills grapes, Russian apricot, Simon's plum, etc. True, no tabulated report of these has appeared as yet in our annual report, and this I acknowledge is a mistake on our part.

The Directors may not be chosen by the best method, but the nominating committee, which was once appointed by the chair—a method justly open to criticism—is now appointed, three by the open meeting and two by the chair, thus giving the public the controlling vote. This committee faithfully endeavors to nominate the best men in each district; and they do not change a director without reason, because it is more and more important to have the best men on the Board, even if they do chance to live in adjoining counties.

The frequent change of president may be unwise. Once it was thought a mistake to retain one man too long in the office, now we have reached the other extreme—a fault easily corrected when the best man appears.

I am doing my best, as secretary, to advance the general interests of Ontario fruit growers, whether members of our Association or not, both through the journal, the report, and in replying to innumerable questions by mail; and our committees have done the same, as is witnessed by our catalogues of fruits adapted to various localities, our lists for the guidance of judges, the legal enactment of brands for No. 1 and No. 2 inspected Canadian apples, etc., etc. Wishing success to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, I remain, sir, yours truly,

L. WOOLVERTON, Secretary.

It is of advantage to study the length and form of the roots of the plants. This examination can be made during leisure moments and hours by removing the soil above the roots and tracing them out. Some will be surprised to find that roots of the corn plant, when only half a foot high, have already grown horizontally a foot or occasionally a foot and a half; and potato plants, long before the new tubers have set, will have met together in the spaces between the rews. The corn roots will be mostly found much nearer the surface than those of potatoes.