

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

FOUNDED 1866.

VOL. XXII.

LONDON, ONT., APRIL, 1887.

Whole No. 256.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

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.

Terms of Subscription—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; single copies, 10c. each. New subscriptions can commence with any month.

The Advocate is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, and all payment of arrearages are made as required by law.

Remittances should be made direct to this office, either by Registered Letter or Money Order, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we cannot be responsible.

Always give the Name of the Post Office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.

Discontinuances—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrearages must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.

The Law is, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrearages are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.

The Date on your Label shows to what time your subscription is paid.

Advertising Rates—Single insertion, 25 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.

Address—**THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,**
350 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 *The Farmer's Garden*, has been awarded to Henry Ives, Batavia, N. Y. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Root Culture*. Essays to be sent in not later than April 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on the *Management of the Orchard*. Essays to be handed in not later than May 15.

Post Office Orders.

We have received numerous complaints of late regarding money sent by P. O. Order from Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, and, upon making inquiries, find that some people keep the order they get from the postmaster as a receipt instead of forwarding it to us. We have known instances where orders have been kept in this post office for over twelve months, after which they have been returned to the parties who procured them, when the mistake is explained. When remitting money care should be observed in writing the name and post office legibly. Please examine the label on your paper and see that it is marked '88.

Editorial.

On the Wing.

Having received a post card from the Secretary of the Agriculture and Arts Association, that an exhibition of Clydesdale stallions was to take place in Toronto on the 16th ult., and also that a meeting of the said Association would be held in the evening, we attended these two gatherings.

The exhibition of Clydesdale stallions took place under the auspices of the Agriculture and Arts Association, on one of the leading streets in Toronto, near the market, on the 16th ult. The unemployed of Toronto appeared to be the principal spectators, and crowded so close to the horses that it was impossible for a farmer to see them without danger, and even then often only one at a time. Why is it that our public agricultural institutions should be thus deprived of all grounds, and forced to descend to be mere beggars on the street, without protection?

On the evening of the 16th, the Agriculture and Arts Association held their annual meeting. The Secretary's report showed that the Provincial Exhibition had been but meagrely attended, and that the finances were at a low ebb.

A deputation of veterinary surgeons, presenting a petition bearing between four and five thousand names, waited on them. They asked that a fine of from \$25 to \$100 be imposed on any person practicing the veterinary art for pay or expectancy of pay or reward, without a qualified certificate. The speakers claimed in justification of their demand that such an act was passed in Manitoba, etc. Mr. Charles Drury, M. P. P., one of the members of the Board, said that it would now be impossible to pass such an act; that a similar act had been previously attempted; that there were more farmers in the House now than ever before. He considered that blacksmiths and farmers did a great deal of good, often more than the regular veterinarians. He had for many years employed a veterinary, but now employed one that they might term a quack, as he had no diploma; but he was a natural practitioner, and he was more successful in the treatment of his stock than the veterinary had been. There were many parts of the country where no veterinary resided for 30 or 40 miles. The farmers would employ veterinarians if they found them most skilful. Mr. Wade, the Secretary, and Mr. Craig, the President, favored the petitioners. Mr. Drury rose a second time and suggested an alteration. The proposed changes are: The limiting of the distance, the amount of the fine, and requiring the sanction of County Councils to approve of the law before it can be enforced.

We had a brief interview with the Hon. A. M. Ross, the Commissioner of Agriculture, in reference to the injury being effected by the erroneous governmental reports in regard to seeds, stock, fertilizers, and the pandering, partizan publications under the name of agriculture. We much regret that the Commissioner has been misinformed, or our judgment is erroneous. He read the following, which we had prepared for another purpose:

We should not be doing our duty unless we occasionally presented ourself before you and endeavored to obtain your aid and assistance in remedying some of the existing evils that farmers are complaining of and suffering under.

You hold what we conceive to be the most important position as farmers in Ontario. This Province embraces, we believe, a finer tract of country and more enlightened and prosperous agriculturists than are to be found in any part of the Dominion, and it is generally conceded that it is from the agricultural classes that our future legislators must to a large extent come—that the education they now receive must tend to the honor or degradation of our nation—that partyism is now standing on the most uncertain and tottering pinnacle that has existed at any time during the present generation; and the chief hope of our national peace and prosperity lies in the hands of our agriculturists. It is on their behalf we solicit your aid and influence. We are aware of the difficulties all have to contend against, and the odium we all incur in the discharge of duty.

One grievance is the undue proportion of the national burden that is borne by farmers.

Our struggling farmers living on small homesteads pay a much heavier tax directly and indirectly than any other class of the community. The control of their own affairs has been wrested from them, and the power placed in the hands of those whose interests are not agricultural, and the means adopted to gain these positions have too often been by demoralizing devices and corruptions. This uniting to frustrate the exertions of the practical farmer, and the unfair means used to defeat the sound convictions of right, should be, if possible remedied. We cannot hope for perfection, but only hope for improvement in the exposing of errors and then devising remedial measures. Much money has been granted annually for the benefit of the agricultural class, but a large proportion of such has been used to attempt to popularize plans that are not in the interest of the agriculturists. Our Government agricultural expenditures should be made popular with farmers if they are to be beneficial. Despite all the uniting of parties, and the paid orators who have