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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WM. WELD, PROPRIETOR.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED
IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month. 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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Special Notice.

On January 6th last Mr. Wm. Weld, proprietor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, purchased the Job Printing and Lithographing Departments of the London Free Press Printing Company, and is now operating the same. This office is probably the largest in Canada, certainly the largest in Western Ontario. The work done is not excelled on this continent, and efforts will be made to push it more than ever to the front. In Lithographing, Engraving, or Printing, the facilities for all classes of work are unsurpassed, and rates reasonable. Breeders' catalogues completed and delivered six days after receipt of copy. Posters, Diplomas, Letter Paper, Envelopes, Cards, Circulars, etc., returned a few hours after copy reaches us. We have hundreds of stock cuts, covering different breeds, that patrons can select from; no extra charge will be made for the use of these engravings to parties placing their orders with us. Mail orders promptly attended to.

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Notice to Correspondents.

From lack of space we have been forced to leave over much important editorial and departmental matter. This includes editorials concerning one of the large Fair Boards, The Imperial Produce Company, Two rowed barley, Mr. J. C. Snell's reply to Mr. Dryden's "Quality vs. Quantity," and much besides. Our friends will accept the explanation in lieu of private letters. All these articles will appear in our April issue. In sending manuscript to us, post it so that it will reach our office by the 15th of the month. Write to the point, and briefly. No single article should occupy more than one column and a-half; if you require to write at greater length, arrange your article so that it can be continued. *Practical, seasonable articles condensed* are what we want and what the farmers will read.

Editorial.

Editorial Notes.

Many farmers in Canada to-day are deploring the low prices of farm produce, and for many a sober, industrious, hard-working toiler the outlook is anything but bright. The farmer with only grain to sell has, however, the darkest outlook. Prices are away down. It is true that in some sections the yield for the past year was larger than usual. In some rare cases the extra quantity was enough to make up for the lowness of price. With others the low prices mean actual loss, and there is no prospect of things becoming better in the immediate future. The causes for this are many and various. Increased transport facilities have very much lowered freight rates; new land is coming into cultivation, and competition is lowering prices. Wheat is now largely grown in British India, with very cheap labor; other grains have similar competition, and chemical substitutes are said to be largely used instead of barley. The stock farmer has a better prospect—cheap, coarse grains mean a better chance for him. It is true that many feeders complain of the low prices paid for fat cattle, but the shrinkage in value is not nearly as much as in the case of grains. Canadian farmers must keep more stock, and send the products of their farms to market in a better shape. Grain growing exhausts the soil, and to keep up its fertility manure is required.

The best manure for Canada is barn-yard manure. To get plenty of it and cheap, more animals must be kept. Different sections may be differently situated, and require different kinds of stock farming, but as a general rule mixed farming will be found the best, with one leading department pushed for all it is worth. There are now very many farmers who feed all the grain they raise, and there are others who buy feed in large quantities, and whose farms are yearly increasing in fertility and value. These men find it pays to feed well, no matter what class of good stock is handled, but the stock must be good of its kind. There is no profit in keeping scrubs. They will never pull off the mortgage, or swell the bank account.

Horses the past year have sold for fair prices. There is a good demand at paying prices for matched carriage teams. There is a sure and steady market for good, sound, heavy draught teams, which are always wanted. If medium sized, the prices are fair; if very heavy, prices are always high for good animals, with flat bone and good pasterns. Those who are breeding regis-

tered heavy draught animals have found a good steady demand at good prices. This is a line of stock-raising not likely to be overdone, and one that can be carried on to a moderate extent on almost every farm. Cattle have not been high in price, but have, when good and well fed, left a fair margin.

We regret that in many sections of Canada the feeding cattle are not so good as they were years ago. This is not as it should be. More and better animals are needed. In Britain a great many cross-bred animals are raised for the butcher. They feed well, mature early, and give greater weights than the pure-bred. Almost any good cross will do. Shorthorns on grades, Herefords, Angus or Galloways on Shorthorn grades. They feed well and make good beef. Much is lost every year by breeding scrubs. Let them go, good animals can be got at reasonable prices. Try them instead. Much money is lost by wintering young animals on straw—starvation rations. Grain is cheap; let them have some of it—they keep better, winter better, and they will pay better.

Much has been done to help on Canadian dairy interests. Let the dairymen feed some of the cheap grain. It makes good milk, good butter, good cheese, and keeps the cows in good heart. The coarse grains are needed to help on this most important industry, and the value of the manure from grain fed cows is not always rated as high as it deserves.

In Great Britain they have an industry not yet developed here, and that is raising the calves of the dairy farmer. Calves are contracted for and taken away when young. They are raised partly on milk and partly on specially prepared foods, are well cared for, well fed and well wintered, and the following fall are sold to the feeders as store stock. A special business is made of this. For this purpose the dairy cows are usually crossed with a bull of a good beef breed. Perhaps in this way a number of good stores could be raised for our Aberdeen friends, who have inaugurated the live cattle trade.

Many are crying out against shipping store cattle. They say we should feed our cattle here instead of sending them in one ship and the feed in another to enrich the shrewd Scotch feeder. If they can be raised and sent out at a profit, we may as well do it. There is plenty of room to raise far more cattle than we do; and the prices realized at late sales would seem to show that there is money in the trade. The Scotch farmer has his feed laid down in some cases