

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—

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. 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 or stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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Our Monthly Prize Essays.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *How could the Middlesex Agricultural Council utilize an Experiment Ground for the best interests of the Farmers?* has been awarded to Mr. Thomas Elmes, Princeton, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *Advantages and Disadvantages of the Proposed Model Farm for the Dominion.* Essays to be handed in not later than October 15th.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *How can Public Expenditures for Agricultural Purposes be Turned to the Best Interests of the Farmers?* Essays to be handed in not later than November 15th.

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Good till December 1st only.

In consequence of some of our old subscribers complaining that we have given greater advantages to our new, and in order to advance your interests, and increase our circulation, we make you the following offer:—

For two new subscribers' names, accompanied with \$2.00 cash, we will send you the FARMER'S ADVOCATE free for the year 1886. You are permitted to give the remainder of 1885 free to each new subscriber.

This offer is made solely to our present subscribers.

We have much pleasure in observing that so many of our subscribers have already taken advantage of our unprecedented offer. All who have not yet commenced the canvass should do so at once.

On the Wing.

AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS.

During the past month we attended the Dominion and Provincial Exhibition in London; the Industrial, at Toronto; Central, at Hamilton; the Aylmer Township Exhibition, and saw a little of the County of Oxford Exhibition, at Woodstock. We met with many and warm friends, and many kind invitations were received, which, for the lack of time, we were obliged to decline. What we saw and heard at these exhibitions should furnish us matter to reflect on, and to talk and write about, until the next fall exhibitions. If we judge by cash alone, we must give the laurel crown to the Industrial Exhibition of Toronto. Here the efforts of the leading powers of the Dominion were united. The Dominion was represented by Sir Charles Tupper, General Middleton and the Gatling gun, and the Province by the Lieutenant-Governor and Hon. O. Mowat. The city of Toronto made a great and successful effort, and the industrial and productive resources of the country were well represented. The managing committee had left no stone unturned whereby they could make the Fair pleasing, entertaining and profitable. The railroads furnished increased accommodation and cheap rates; the weather was as fine as could be desired. The grounds were neat, ornamental and attractive, the buildings commodious, and the visitors and exhibitors were generally well satisfied. The managers were business men, and no more selfish than other men. Their aim is to build up Toronto and themselves; they are accomplishing the end in view, and are candid in their remarks about it. The parliamentary and other interests add their strength by lending their influence towards its advancement. This institution has been gaining the two elements of success which the Provincial Agriculture and Arts Association has been losing, namely, *money and popularity.*

The people need recreation and amusement, and Toronto has undertaken to supply them; she has succeeded, and deserves all the credit. It is not claimed to be an agricultural exhibition, but an industrial fair. This admits of all kinds of amusements, and its object is to make money; it combines a holiday and a market day for anything and everything.

Some of the managers of this institution have condemned the means we have taken in exposing some of what we considered to have been improper steps taken by this institution in securing possession of what appeared to us to be the rights or property of the farmers. Your ADVOCATE would be undeserving of its name or its existence, were it not to attempt to maintain your rights. Despite all the united powers that may oppose such a course, duty prompts the following remarks: Whereas political, military and entertaining influences are all necessary, and the combination of them with agriculture may cause greater gatherings, the question may arise: Are such gatherings for the interest of agriculture or agriculturists? It is mostly our agriculturists who pay; the others are the recipients. Yet, by the combining influences of other powers the real interest and influence of the farmer, if not totally disregarded, are at least made subservi-

ent to all other interests. Even many leading farmers are entrapped or inveigled by the other interests to such an extent as to use their influence to serve the interest of designers, and against the real interests and requirements of the farmer; thus instead of the exhibitions becoming a strength and benefit to farmers, are they not becoming detrimental? The uniting of all influences at Toronto, and the great success that attends this undertaking, will most assuredly be followed by all agricultural exhibitions. The plan is now commended by all office holders and office seekers, from the Governor-General down to the smallest officer. The farmers' lands and rights and influence are being taken from them; they are fast becoming serfs and slaves to the tax collector.

We give the accompanying illustration to show what our agricultural exhibitions must be unless our legislators' minds can be turned. The accompanying attractions were seen in Toronto this year. Probably the best acrobatic feats that have ever been seen in Canada; perhaps the best ladies' band, the best lady riders, the best lady aeronaut, the best lady acrobat, the best lady skipper, and the best male contortionist. You see the man standing on the chair; he first stood erect facing the grand stand, bent his head and body backwards, facing the spectators at his back, drawing his head under his body, and again facing the grand stand as seen. The Hon. O. Mowat and General Middleton were amongst the admiring spectators; and this is the main attraction of the masses to this the most successful industrial exhibition of the season.

The impetus has been given and taken hold of by the public, and whether we may be right or wrong in having opposed the combination of the race course and all other speculative or even demoralizing influences, we must submit to the powers that be, and avoid too harsh a censure of what we believe to be a growing evil, and say to you that are the managers of other exhibitions, that to draw the largest crowds you must now stoop to the demands of the masses, that is: give us amusements and pleasures without stint, and we will patronize you. If you attempt to oppose it you will be condemned as a crank or a fool; you may be tyrannized over, you will not be wanted in office, or asked out; and if you are an exhibitor, if you have the best, you will have to be satisfied with a second or third or no prize, and you will be falsified and maligned; therefore, your only hope, unless you make a martyr of yourself, is to do your duty as quietly as possible, and await results. The hippodrome has been the great educator of those nations whose walls and people are now no more.

Every institution, and every man, and every enterprise should stand on its own merits. We leave the Provincial and Dominion Exhibition to another pen.

THE AYLMER TOWNSHIP EXHIBITION,

in the county of Elgin, was a grand success. The ladies' work was astonishingly good and extensive. Some of the horses compare favorably with the best at other exhibitions, but we thought the Shorthorn exhibit not as good as in some other parts of the country, where the lands are heavier and pastures richer than many in this party of the country.