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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.

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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 has been awarded to Mr. D. E. Smith for the best original essay on *What Profit is Derived from the Average Canadian Dairy Cow? Can this Profit be Increased? How?*

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *Potato Culture*. The writer must also name the six best varieties suitable to the north; stating the merits and other qualities of each sort. Essay not to occupy more than one page, and to be handed in not later than March 15th.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay showing the relative profits of *Soiling Cattle, Partial Soiling, or Grazing*. The subject to be considered from the standpoint of the older and richer provinces. All essays to be in by the 15th of April.

Editorial.

To Our Subscribers.

By consulting the labels which are always attached to your papers, you can see at a glance when your subscription expires. A paper marked "Dec. '86," means that the receiver is in arrears since Dec., 1886, and owes us for the years 1887 and 1888; a label marked "Jan. '88" shows the subscriber to be now fourteen months in arrears. These amounts are insignificant to each individual, but the total arrears now due us amount to a large sum. We ask every subscriber to consult the label on his or her paper, and kindly forward amounts due us without delay. We are now sending out accounts; among so many thousands there will doubtless be a few errors. Should any of you receive an account you think wrong communicate with us at once, that we may rectify the matter. When you send us your subscription, see that the label on your next paper is changed to give you credit for money sent. A paper marked "Jan. '90" means that your paper is paid up to that date. If the proper changes are not made, write us immediately, that we may be able to trace your money or detect the error. We ask the prompt attention of all our readers to these matters, and must insist on prompt payment from all. We have heretofore been very liberal with all our subscribers, and ask prompt and liberal treatment from them now.

New Seed Grains for Trial

We have procured some new seed grain, which we believe is of more than usual merit. One of which is the Manitou spring wheat. The crop from which we secured our stock, we were assured by a reliable grower, produced sixty bushels to the acre. Another is, the Colorado wheat, described in other columns. The Cave oat is another. It is a very strong grower. The straw is of good quality and much relished by stock. It ripens about the same time as spring wheat; is a heavy cropper; grain has a very thin hull, and weighs heavy. This is a very promising new white oat, and has given splendid satisfaction wherever sown. It is very much superior to the Welcome oat, and produces more straw than Vick's American Banner, the grain of which it much resembles. The White Canada oat (described in other columns) is the last, but is not excelled by any oat we have ever seen growing. We will mail a 4-oz. package of any or all of the above grain to any of our subscribers who will send us 5c. to pay postage and packing. We ask this as a pledge of good faith, not as a remuneration for our trouble. Last year we sent

a great many packages of seed grain free to our subscribers, and asked them to report on results. We have since learned that some packages were never sown, yet a great many did sow them. Hereafter we will send promising new grains only to those who will send to us for them. All who wish us to send them packages must apply before the 10th of April.

Norway Spruce as Premiums.

For twenty-four new subscribers prepaid for one year, or twelve prepaid for two years, we will give 100 trees; for twelve new subscribers prepaid for one year, or for six prepaid for two years, we will give 50 trees, and for six new subscribers we will give 25 trees. These trees will be twenty to twenty-four inches high, transplanted three times. Express charges will be paid to any part of Ontario.

If some prefer smaller trees and more of them, to such we offer by mail, postage paid, for 20 new subscribers prepaid for one year, or 10 for two years, 140 trees of the same variety, 12 to 14 inches high. For 10 new subscribers prepaid for one year, or 5 for two years, 70 trees. For 5 new subscribers prepaid for one year, 35 trees.

The Last of the Provincial.

The motion of Mr. Awrey, of Wentworth, re the Provincial, was well timed, and, had it passed without being amended by Mr. Fraser, London would not have mourned the loss nor called Mr. Drury to task for not carrying out the promise to hold the exhibition at London this year. But as it is now a settled fact that London is to have the Provincial Exhibition this season, even though it be against her wishes, let us hope it will be, as usual here, a success, and, as it is doomed to expire, let the final flash be a brilliant one. That the Provincial has been useful in the past, none will deny; that its continuance, under the present system of management, would be unwise is not even a debatable question. The very system of itinerancy subjects it to financial loss, and that the management has not been characterized with strictest economy must be admitted. Men have been taken from the western portion of the Province away east to Ottawa and paid three dollars per day and railway fare for departmental superintendants and other minor positions, when local men could have been had for half the money and saved the railway fare. Even the judges have been, in some cases, appointed in a manner to at least give color to the assertion that "toadyism" prevailed. In some cases judges have been taken over two hundred miles to judge a class for which they had no special qualifications, and sometimes only a modicum of ability. But