

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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—OF THE—

Farmer's Advocate

AND HOME MAGAZINE

FOR 1880

WILL BE ISSUED ON OR ABOUT THE
TENTH SEPTEMBER NEXT.

60,000 Copies to be Issued.

Our fourth annual issue of this fast increasing and most successful advertising medium will be the best one ever issued. While thanking our patrons of former years, and the patrons of the ADVOCATE, for their confidence in our endeavors to promote their interests, we can assure them that our endeavors will not be relaxed, and that the increased facilities now in our hands will be used to the utmost for their benefit.

The circulation will be carefully divided among the leading farmers throughout the Dominion.

Prospectuses are now ready, and space can be reserved.

Send for a Circular at once.

Our Prize Essays.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on the question, "Whether is Sheep breeding or Cattle raising the most profitable to the general farmer." Essay must be in our office by the 15th of October.

Competitors must write on one side of the paper only. The essay receiving the prize is to be the property of this journal. Unsuccessful essays will be returned on request by sending stamps for return postage.

C. J. Yorke, of Wardsville, Ont., has won our prize for the best essay on the "Management of Agricultural Exhibitions."

The Month.

The month now numbered with the past has been a very important one to the farmers and to the country at large, as the securing of the great grain crops of Canada and the United States and the maturing of the cereals of Europe rule the prices of farm produce throughout the year. But little is to be added to our monthly summary in our August number relative to our crops.

In Canada fall wheat has been a good crop; spring wheat generally a failure. Fortunately, the acreage of spring wheat was much less than in former years.

Oats have been a good crop.

Barley a good crop, but in many cases stained.

Potatoes, till within a few days, gave promise of abundant produce, but there has been a premature cessation of growth, caused, it is said, by a blight that will make the crop lighter than was expected. There will, however, be a fair produce of good quality.

Corn has been more extensively grown than in former years, and as far as we can learn promises well. In Western Ontario, at least, the raising of corn, farmers say, will receive more attention than heretofore. Feeding stock on home grown corn with other cereals they find pays well.

In England the weather has for some weeks been dry and warm, just such as was wanted. The wheat crop is now estimated at 80,000,000 bushels in round numbers; 29 bushels per acre on 2,800,000 acres. The annual consumption of wheat in the United Kingdom is placed at 190,000,000 bushels, thus leaving a difference of 110,000,000 bushels.

FRENCH CROPS.—Excellent accounts are received of the grain crops. Rye is being cut all over France, and the wheat harvest has commenced in the South. In another week the grain will also be ripe in the central zone. The reports of the wheat are good, and the yield is expected to be a full average—perhaps a little above. The rye, which is largely grown in France, is in many places described as the finest remembered. Oats are also a heavy crop and of magnificent quality. 200,000,000 bushels will, it is believed, meet the requirements of all the wheat importing countries of Europe. The surplus wheat of exporting countries will, it is estimated, reach 250,000,000 to 300,000,000 bushels, thus leaving a net surplus of 50,000,000 bushels.

The general impression of business men is that a high range of prices is out of the question, and also that an extremely low range of values will not prevail.

The shipments of grain have been large, and the prospects are such that producers and merchants are realizing early on their stocks.

The hundreds of thousands of acres of fertile lands still unoccupied in the Dominion are not the least among the industrial resources of the country. There is now a fair prospect of large tracts of these lands being occupied by farmers who have means to turn their dormant capabilities to the best account. Four English delegates have been spying out the lands of Ontario and Manitoba as a country for English farmers to emigrate to. They have visited some of the important centres of agriculture, and have expressed their surprise and delight with what they saw and the prospects of the country.

The efforts made to have removed the restrictions on the importation of live stock into Britain from the United States have been so far unsuccessful, and they will be so as long as there are so many diseased cattle among those imported. From Canada only is live stock admitted to English markets without being slaughtered, as Canadian cattle only are free from contagious diseases.

Prospect for Barley Growers.

This season has given the farmers a fair barley crop on the whole, and gives promise of a fair remuneration for expenses incurred. Barley, it is true, is a good crop in England, the best buyers of our surplus crop, but that country does not grow barley enough for her own consumption, and we expect that she will continue to be a good purchaser.

Canadian malsters may find the exportation of malt to the United States less profitable than it has been, in consequence of the increase of duty imposed on barley imported to that country; and if we were dependent upon that market the price of Canadian barley might be expected to suffer a corresponding decline, but good samples of malting barley will, we have no doubt, always find a ready market in Europe. The area adapted to growing malting barley is limited, and in that article Canada will meet less competition than in other cereals.

The repeal of the malt tax in England must also have some effect on the price of our barley. All of No. 1 will as heretofore be malted for brewing, and inferior grades that were often almost unsaleable will, now that there is no longer a duty on malt, be malted for cattle food, and for these there will be an increased demand. Before the removal of the duty the demand for all inferior samples had been so limited that they were sold at very low prices, and such large quantities of them were found upon the market that there was a depression in prices, even of the very best samples.

Of the value of malt for feeding purposes, Dr. Voelcker says:—"Food, in order to become assimilated, must first be dissolved. The undissolved or undigested portion of the food passes through the intestinal canal, and is expelled with the faeces; a portion of the fattening effect of the food is thus lost. Malt greatly assists the dissolving action of the stomach, and thus supplies the absorbing vessels more abundantly with liquid food. At the same time the cellular fibre or husk of grain is more easily and more thoroughly exhausted of starch, when the crushed grain is mixed with an infusion of malt, than otherwise. The full fattening effects of the grain are thus realized, and none of the starchy matters are carried off with the faeces. We can thus understand why a small portion of malt may produce a very striking effect when added to other food; for it will assist the solution of the food in the stomach, even when given in small quantities."

The experience of stock feeders has fully confirmed the observations of Dr. Voelcker, and we may now expect a better demand for barley of every grade. Much of the stained barley would have been malted for cattle and sheep food, in England, were it not for the duty, and now there is no prohibition. Nothing will make hay and corn straw when cut so appetizing a food for stock as malt. Our Canadian stock feeders will in the course of time discover the real value of barley, and barley malt for feeding. When they do this it will be no longer a drug in the market.