

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY
THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED),
LONDON, ONTARIO, AND WINDSOR, MANITOBA.

JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the first and fifteenth of each month.
2. 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.
3. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; sample copy free. European subscription, £s., or \$1.50. New subscriptions can commence with any month.
4. ADVERTISING RATES—Single insertion, 30 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.
5. DISCONTINUANCES—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter or post-card when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrearages must be paid. Retaining 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.
6. THE ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrearages must be made as required by law.
7. THE LAW IS, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrearages are paid and their paper ordered to be discontinued.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. THE DATE ON YOUR LABEL, shows to what time your subscription is paid.
11. SUBSCRIBERS failing to receive their paper promptly and regularly will confer a favor by reporting the fact at once.
12. NO ANONYMOUS communications or enquiries will receive attention.
13. LETTERS intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
14. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.
15. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve the ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
16. REPLIES to circulars and letters of enquiry sent from this office will not be paid for as provided above.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD CO.,
LONDON, ONTARIO, CANADA.

we are persuaded be will soon realize the desirability of doing very much more. No work gives a more prompt and satisfactory return than tile draining. It will of course be wise in doing this much to lay one's plans in such a way that this partial work may ultimately form part of a more complete system of drainage when circumstances permit. With this end in view it might be economy to start with some main drains for the center of a system; but if this is considered too large an undertaking, temporary outlets may be made to answer a good purpose for the present. The writer has seen very gratifying results from partial draining, and especially in the case of low, slack places which formerly were useless for cropping on account of surplus water, but which with a few tile drains and at trifling expense have been made to yield equal to the best parts of the field. To those who contemplate a more thorough system of underdraining we commend the very able and practical article of Mr. Simpson Rennie in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for May 15th.

Agricultural Exhibitions.

The fair season will soon be with us again. Manitoba leads the van, holding its chief fairs in July, before the harvest season, the Winnipeg Industrial being slated for July 19th to 24th, an arrangement which, while it suits the Western condition best on account of the harvest, and the fact that time is so fully occupied during the early autumn months with the gathering, threshing and marketing of grain, followed closely by the extensive fall plowing necessary for the following crop, is also most suitable for the Eastern Provinces, where the harvest is now generally earlier than formerly, and where it is most convenient to hold the fairs from August to October, inclusive. It is rather unfortunate for the Western Ontario exhibitors who wish to make a circuit of the four leading shows of Ontario and Quebec, that a better understanding has not prevailed among the fair associations in arranging their dates so that these exhibitors could make the round with greater economy of travel and expense. As arranged, Montreal has its exhibition from August 19th to 26th, followed by the Toronto Industrial, August 30th to Sept. 11th, and the Western Fair, at London, Ont., Sept. 9th to 18th, followed by the Ottawa show on Sept. 17th to 25th. Eastern exhibitors are probably satisfied with the present arrangement, as they can take in the Ottawa show on their return trip home. It would, however, appear

to be the best arrangement for the greatest number of the exhibitors who elect to make the circuit of these fairs to have the Western Fair take the earliest date and the others follow in the order of their geographical position, ending up at Montreal for the central circuit. The Maritime Provinces, where the exhibitions are growing in interest and importance every year, arrange dates to best suit the convenience of exhibitors, visitors, etc., in three Provinces, N. B., N. S., and P. E. I.

The question of fair circuits is one which the breeders' associations might well keep in view and use their influence to secure the most convenient arrangement in future. Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, and London ought to maintain first-class exhibitions in perpetuity, and their leading citizens should take sufficient interest in them to see that the prize lists are such as to induce stockmen, farmers and manufacturers to patronize the shows, and visitors in large numbers to attend them. Fair boards and citizens should not lose sight of the fact that in so far as these are agricultural and industrial events it is the exhibitors who make the show, and that but for their contributions to the entertainment the "special attractions" on which so much care and money is bestowed would fail as completely to draw the people as does the average circus in this age of enlightenment. We are firmly convinced that the last-named element might in time easily be largely eliminated from our fairs without materially lessening their popularity or attractiveness, and with a much more elevating effect if a wise and judicious use were made of the live stock exhibits by a strict adherence to a well-arranged programme, in which the horses and cattle were shown before the seated pavilions, where the people could comfortably witness the judging and daily parades of the animals bearing numbers corresponding with the numbers of the entries in carefully prepared official catalogues, giving the necessary information in regard to each animal, such as its breed, age, owner, and pedigree. Purely agricultural exhibitions in Great Britain are made attractive and popular by just such means as we have indicated, which are vastly less expensive than the means resorted to in the conduct of not a few American shows, the influence of which in many respects is far from being desirable, and which is, indeed, to say the least of it, distracting if not demoralizing. To our own mind there are few sights more enjoyable than a well-conducted and systematic parade of high-class animals of various breeds, colors and classes, and the complete success with which this feature is carried out at the Royal and other leading shows in England, to the delight of visitors who attend in gratifying numbers, gives assurance that it is possible and practicable to adopt it here. Of course to make it a real success the cheerful co-operation of exhibitors is essential, and if a firm stand were taken, the prizes made large, and the penalties for failure to comply with the parade rules made involve forfeiture of all prizes, the most stubborn of exhibitors would soon be led to see that it pays to be law-abiding, and that from a business point of view it is profitable, being an effective means of advertising. None but those who have seen it worked out as it is done at the English shows can fully appreciate the beauty of a well-arranged live stock parade, where the animals are collected in a separate enclosure, arranged in their classes in the order of the catalogue and passed into the showing to make the circuit while the next class in order is being made ready to follow. We quite appreciate the difficulties in the way of the adoption of this system in this country, especially where, in some cases, the management is not in the hands of practical representative farmers and stockmen, or those who are likely to take sufficient interest to carry out the idea; but making due allowance for all the difficulties, we submit that in this matter what has been done can be done again, and that where there's a will there's a way. If we are ever to make our agricultural exhibitions what they ought to be in the best sense of the term "educational influences," we need to make a forward movement of considerable proportions to get out of the ruts we have been traveling in and take higher ground. Practical exhibitions of a working dairy might also be made attractive as well as instructive, including the use of the most improved appliances, such as the milking machine, the cream separator, the test for butter-fat, and the process of butter-making. The actual manufacture of many articles in other departments of the show could be made interesting to visitors as well as means of advertising machinery and goods, and thus promoting trade and business. We are persuaded that a wide field is open for improvement in the lines we have referred to, and that it is possible, with the co-operation of the organizations we now have, such as the stock breeders' associations, the dairymen's associations, and the manufacturers' associations, with fair associations, to make a distinct advance in the matter of elevating the character of our agricultural and industrial exhibitions, making them at once attractive and educational as well as profitable from a business standpoint of view, and we commend these ideas to the consideration of all concerned, with the hope that they may be found to be capable of practical application.

In the meantime let us make the best possible

use of our fairs as we have them, and we are free to say they are second to none on the Continent in their management, in the enterprise and liberality of their boards of control, in the excellent and extended classification of exhibits, the substantial prizes offered, the courtesy of their officers, the accommodations provided for exhibitors, and the character of the judges selected for the awarding of prizes, whose work is as a rule as faithfully and fairly done as in any country in the world. We confidently anticipate for 1897 the most successful fair season Canada has ever witnessed.

One word more in conclusion: The question may be asked, Are we likely to overdo the exhibition business? Turning again to England for an example, we should say not, for we find there a series of grand agricultural, live stock and dairy exhibitions, numbering nearly 200, beginning in February and continuing till December, and nowhere in the wide, wide world has the profitable rearing of pure breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine been so developed and brought to such a high degree of perfection as that "tight little isle."

How to Start a Jubilee Era of Agricultural Progress.

Mr. Wm. Morley Edwards, of Wellington Co., Ont., under date June 24th, writes: "Please find enclosed the sum of \$1.00, a year's subscription to the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Now, if it is at all possible, I would very much desire my year's subscription to commence with your 'Jubilee number.' I have just seen it at a friend's. If Canadian farmers would yet more, when possible, follow its leading thoughts in practical and educational action, the result would be but the beginning of a Jubilee era in the line of agricultural progress."

STOCK.

Stockers Going Out of Manitoba.

Hundreds of young stockers, yearlings and two-year-olds have been shipped out of Manitoba within the last two months, the majority of course being sent to our own ranching country. We saw several droves being driven westward through Southern Manitoba, the owners saying they intended driving them all the way west to the ranching country. Several hundred head have been sent south across the border. Farmers who sell thin stockers in the spring of the year with six months' unlimited grass ahead of them are shortsighted indeed, especially in the face of a rising market. It's the man who finishes these stockers, whether in the stall or off grass, that stands to make the profit.

Those who are keeping over a bunch of good quality young steers for next winter's finishing in the stall have a pretty safe thing, judging from present appearances. Already (early in June) the local markets have gone up, the export cattle went out early, grass beef is not yet ready, and butchers' cattle of reasonably fair quality are scarce on the Winnipeg markets. With such numbers of young cattle sent out of the country it would look as though beef must be scarce next spring. With the stimulus better prices will give to breeding, it is important that every farmer should keep quality rather than quantity in view, and use only pure-bred sires, the best obtainable.

Let Us Finish Our Cattle at Home.

There is undoubtedly a scarcity of young steers fit to fatten in Canada at the present time, due largely to the heavy exportation to the United States that has gone on within the last few months. According to our Chicago Stock Letter of last issue some 21,500 Canadian cattle arrived in Buffalo during the four months preceding June 1st. This cannot by any means include the entire number that has gone over the border, as many have been taken by other routes to the Western States. At the time the embargo was placed by Great Britain upon our live cattle the more optimistic of us saw good in the effect it would have in compelling the finishing of our cattle in this country, which we must agree is the most profitable way of handling them. We were led to believe that the lesson was so easy to learn that even though the embargo were removed in a few years young half-fat cattle would never be sent away to make their finishers a profit that we so much need and appreciate. Our expectations, however, have not been realized, as we well see. When a chance comes along to turn great numbers of those very cattle we want over to our American cousins we are just eager to let them go. The reason that they want them is that they have a great amount of surplus cheap feed and need animals to convert it into salable products. It seems a great pity that such a condition exists that compels farmers to realize at once at a certain loss when holding them for a short period would place to their credit many an additional dollar. Such a course is especially regrettable at the beginning of a season that promises a large return in fodder crops. Not only that, but reports from all quarters of the United