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OF THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE
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VOL. II.

LONDON, ONT., and WINNIPEG, MAN., AUGUST, 1891.

No. 20.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first 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 and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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Address—

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
WINNIPEG, MAN., CANADA.

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. Henry Newmarch, Strathewen, for the best essay on "The Profits of Hog-Raising in Manitoba and the Northwest".

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on "The Best System of Feeding and Method of Caring for Cows in Winter for Winter Dairying". Essay to be in this office not later than the 15th of September.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on "The Advantages of Mixed Farming over Wheat Growing as a Specialty". Essays to be in this office not later than August 15th.

We want Good, Live AGENTS to canvass for the "Farmer's Advocate" in every locality in the Dominion and United States. Sample copies and subscription blanks free to canvassers who mean business.

Timely Notes for August.

Cut your wheat a little on the green side, especially if the nights get dangerously cool after the 15th of the month. Shock up the sheaves systematically in dozens in straight (or nearly so) rows in the field. Take a little pains in the shocking (or "stooking"), and it will pay well in saved time in hauling, besides preserving the grain better from chance showers.

Oats specially should be cut on the green side, as they do not shell out then, and the straw also is better food for stock.

Barley should be left till just ripe, then cut at once. All grain is better stooked in dozens—five sheaves on a side and two "cap" sheaves.

Do not tie your oats too tight, as the amount of twine saved will be more than offset by the insufficient curing of the grain. Do not use poor twine, it is dearer in the end.

Take sufficient time in stacking to do a good job,—last year's wet harvest time should be a warning to you this season. Before building any stacks consider well which is the most convenient place for the straw for feeding to your stock. Too often we see straw stacks left in awkward places, necessitating a lot of work in winter which could have all been guarded against by a little thought in harvest. I do not believe in threshing from the shock, except in rare instances, as there is always a considerable loss of grain from imperfect separation.

HORSES.

Feed your horses on oat sheaves in harvest, if you have no oats. Don't feed wheat sheaves. Water them often in warm weather—you want a drink yourself pretty frequently in August, so does your team. A horse too many on the binder is better than a horse too few.—So provide plenty of power, especially if your horses are thin or old.

STOCK.

A few white turnips or green feed of some kind to supplement the drying pastures will be well repaid by the cows. This is a good time to sell a young steer or two, especially if they are of the "scrub" persuasion. A little bacon fat or pure lard rubbed on the cows' teats will prevent the flies from annoying them, and will also heal up cracks and sores.

POULTRY.

If not already done, kill off all the old roosters you do not mean to keep for next year. Sell early chickens now, if they weigh from four pounds upwards; the high price now will more than make up for the pound or so lost in weight by selling so early.

SWINE.

See that your pigs are kept growing steadily,

and have plenty of water and food. Give them plenty of ashes in their pens and an occasional small dose of sulphur. A good feed of green refuse from the garden will also be appreciated.

WANTED—A DOG TAX.

How many of us who keep stock have not been annoyed times without number by the depredations of stray dogs—useless curs that come from nowhere and depart suddenly to the same places? No one seems to own them, and still it is considered almost a crime if one shoots one of these brutes. There is no need of a dog at all on most of our farms; and even where one is wanted, the Scotch Collie is about the only one that should be tolerated. In very few places in this province at present is there employment to be found for a sporting dog. I contend that to abate the nuisance of wandering dogs—canine tramps—a dog tax is the only remedy. Let the municipalities levy a tax of say \$1 on all dogs over a month old, and I venture to say the number of these vagrants would rapidly diminish. Any dog seen abroad without a tag and collar, giving his number, etc., should be liable to be shot. An indirect benefit would also accrue to the country in the increase of sheep kept, as I know several men in my neighborhood who say it is the fear of these dogs that prevents them going into sheep-raising. No one owning a useful dog, of whatever breed, would object to paying the small tax of a \$1, and those who keep these mongrels would refuse to pay for them and they would be promptly given the "coup de grace".

EGGS BY THE POUND.

Eggs by the pound! Well; why not? Is there any real reason except that of custom why they should not be sold by the pound, like almost every other article of food? Does not an egg weighing three ounces contain more nourishment than one only weighing one and three-quarters or one and a-half ounces? Yet, as the practice is now (except, I believe, in Boston), a dozen of these big eggs are only entitled, in most of our stores, to the same price as a dozen of the little fellows, which do not contain much more than half the amount of food. In some of the more progressive Winnipeg grocery stores they will not buy these small eggs, or only at a reduced price, and this is a move in the right direction. Let them go a step further and buy them by the pound, or by a sliding scale, according to their average weight. Say a dozen of eggs weighing two ounces apiece, or twenty-four ounces, the dozen is worth twenty-four cents, that is twelve cents a pound; then, a dozen of smaller eggs, weighing only eighteen ounces, or one and a-half ounces each, is only worth eighteen cents, while twelve of the common eggs of the country would only weigh fifteen ounces, and would consequently only bring fifteen cents.

"INVICTA."