

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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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.

CONDITIONS OF COMPETITION.

- 1.—No award will be made unless one essay at least comes up to the standard for publication.
- 2.—It is not necessary for essayists to agree with our policy, so long as they give sound reasons for differing from us.
- 3.—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.
- 4.—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, the sum being decided by ourselves in each case, and the essay will appear in the same or in a succeeding issue.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best *Criticisms on the General Purpose Barn*, has been awarded to Frank Howell, St. George, Ont. The essay appears in this issue. The objections made to the plan by all the essayists will be commented on in a future issue.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *How should the Farmer Treat his Hired Men, and how can he Employ them most Profitably?* Essays to be handed in not later than April 15th.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *What Out-door Work should Farmers' Wives and Daughters Perform?* Essays to be handed in not later than May 15th.

Editorial.

On the Wing.

We contemplate taking a trip to the Colonial Exhibition, to be held in London, England. We also hope to visit Scotland and Ireland, and to be able to furnish you with information that may be of interest and profit to you.

We had a conversation with the Commissioner of Agriculture in Toronto, also with the Minister of Agriculture at Ottawa. We find that some changes and increased expenditures are contemplated in regard to agriculture. You will hear of them through partisans and the political organs. We expressed our views to both of the above officers, disapproving of most of the contemplated expenditures. They say they are recommended by their advisers, and by the people. We advised caution in laying too great a stress on the opinion of office-holders and office-seekers, or of journals published in party interests. We would most willingly aid these gentlemen in their plans, if we were satisfied that the majority of the farmers in any township would endorse them. After a fair explanation we believe that both these gentlemen would be willing to advance the interests of the farmers if they could do so, but we fear that the interests of party stand before that of agriculture, and that both of these gentlemen are bound to support their respective parties; that these parties both consist of too many that are elected for or do regard the interests of cities and monopolists more than the interests of agriculturists.

The little good done by government agricultural expenditures is greatly over lauded, and the injury done is too closely concealed. Reactions from booms do more harm than booms have done good. Some expenditures are being boomed too strongly. It is not additional grants that the farmers want; it is the proper expenditure of the moneys now granted. We informed the Commissioner of Agriculture that we considered the interest of agriculturists would be better served by a reduction of the expenditure.

During the past month we were in some of the townships in the Province of Quebec, and conversed with several leading farmers there. In one township a meeting was held, and the general feeling appeared to be that instruction and information were needed for the farmers, and that it could be imparted to advantage by instructors that were similar to the inhabitants—men who really knew their requirements and were able to impart information in an unassum-

ing manner. The existing system of imparting agricultural information was considered by all as of very little good, by some of no good to the inhabitants of that Province. The expenditures that had been made to introduce beet culture and the introduction of artificial manure, were considered as useless. The agricultural schools were considered of very little benefit, and the Government literature was thought to be of very little value. It was considered that a tax on stock animals would not be popular, and that the power of saying what animals should or should not be used would be very apt to be used injudiciously. It was considered that township exhibitions should be encouraged and the farmers encouraged to assemble and talk over agricultural matters, and brought into competition to improve their products. The system of giving prizes to the same individuals every year for over-fed stock was not approved of. The controllers were considered to be looking more after their own advantage than that of producers. One intelligent person said that some of the professors were a combination of impudence and ignorance, and working for their personal interest, and that the voices of producers should be more regarded than those of office seekers. Another well informed person said that some students had been sent to the Agricultural College, at Guelph, and that they returned to their parents, to whom they were of more expense and of less use than they otherwise would have been.

At Montreal we had a private conversation with Mr. Hickson, the Manager of the G.T.R., which we trust will be found beneficial to you as well as to the company. We also had a conversation with another leading railway authority, who complains of the acts of some very unscrupulous agents of Dakota lands; he says they waylay intending settlers and poison their minds by false statements about the advantages of their lands, terms, etc., and falsely depict our Canadian lands. Many have been misled by these means, to the very great injury of the settlers and of our country, as many of the poor dupes are fleeced of the little money they have, or what the sharpers can get from them. He instanced one case where a lot of one hundred settlers were duped at one time by these false allurements, and actually taken from our borders. After having been put to the expense of going into Dakota and spending a lot of their money, they returned to Canada disgusted with the trap they had been led into. We would advise our readers to examine into the real state of affairs before they are misled.