

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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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. It is impartial and independent of all classes of 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.

Terms of Subscription—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; single copies, 10c. each. New subscriptions can commence with any month.

The Advocate is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, and all payments of arrears are made as required by law.

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.

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Advertising Rates—Single insertion, 30 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.

All communications in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
360 Richmond Street,
LONDON, ONT., 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.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay which will name and describe the six most promising varieties of potatoes grown in the district in which the writer resides, and the mode of culture which has given the best results. Essay to be in this office not later than March 15th.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay on corn and corn culture. The writer to name and describe the three most promising sorts grown in the district in which he resides, also the best and most economical mode of cultivation before and after planting. Essay to be in this office not later than March 15th.

We will give a prize of \$5.00 for the best essay treating on the question of farm fences, setting forth the desirability or otherwise of doing away with them or lessening their number. All essays to be in our office not later than April 15th.

Editorial.

A NEW FEATURE.

Notice to Our Advertisers.

In order to encourage the spread of useful knowledge among the farmers, and also to increase our circulation, we offer, as a prize, a two-inch space for six months to be awarded to the live stock breeder who will send us the largest list of new subscribers during 1891. The advertising space may be used any time the winner desires after the award is made. To all who are not winners in this competition we will allow the regular commission advertised. (See page 69, February number.)

Editorial Notes.

Now is the time to clean and prepare your seed grain.

Put all your implements in readiness for spring work.

The most suitable tools for preparing land for the reception of the seed is the Chisel-Toothed Harrow, spoken of by Mr. Snell in this issue, and described by us one year ago; the Spade Harrow, the Cutaway Harrow, the Disk Harrow, and for certain work the Acme Harrow. Any of these tools properly used will prepare fall plowed land better than the gang plow.

Land properly prepared by a harrow will give better results than land spring plowed.

Fields to be sown to oats, wheat, barley or small peas should not be worked in spring deeper than two inches.

A fine but solid seed bed is a very important feature.

Carefully selecting seed, in order to obtain the best grain of the kind best suited to your land and section, is imperative.

Seed grain may be line bred as well as live stock.

A team hitched to a good and suitable implement, which is in good repair, will accomplish as much in one day as the same team would do in three if hitched to a poor tool.

Write to the various seedsmen and obtain a copy of their latest catalogues.

When a new and promising seed grain is introduced by a reliable firm or man, carefully test it, to see whether it is really good, and suitable to your neighborhood.

A variety of grain or roots that may do very well in one section may not be profitable in another.

Always sow the bulk of your land with well-tried and reliable seed—kinds that are known to be profitable in your neighborhood. Although

a new sort is highly recommended by reliable men, do not sow largely of it until it has been thoroughly tried in your neighborhood.

What seeds you have to buy be sure and get them from reliable and experienced dealers. Do not buy seeds from the corner groceryman because he sells very cheaply.

Remember your crop depends on the quality of your seed grain. You will lose the work of an entire year if you sow poor seed. Cheap seed is usually untrustworthy.

We have been told, and believe it true, that there are a certain class of so-called seedsmen who always have in stock whatever the buyer calls for. Several cases have come to our notice where farmers and gardeners have been miserably swindled by such parties, who are worse than highway robbers. Be on the lookout for such dealers, and acquaint us with any crooked dealing you may observe; we will promptly publish such, that our readers may take warning.

All articles should reach us not later than the 15th of the previous month, in order to insure publication in the following number.

The ADVOCATE should reach our readers not later than the first week of each month.

A full report of the meeting of the Dominion Grange will appear in April number.

Several essays have been received by us regarding varieties of seed grain, but lack of space prevents us publishing them in this issue. The names of those who win the prizes will appear in the April number.

Subscription Prizes.

From lack of space we were compelled to lay over our list of prizes given to those who send us clubs of new subscribers. We refer our readers to page 69 of the February issue. Send in good large clubs and obtain some of these valuable prizes.

Farm Prizes for 1891.

Prizes will this year be awarded by the Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario for best managed farm in group five, which is comprised of the electoral districts of Victoria, north and south; Peterborough, east and west; Northumberland, east and west; Prince Edward, Lennox, Addington, Renfrew, north and south, and Frontenac. Any farmers in these constituencies who desire to compete must notify the Secretary of the Township Agricultural Society in whose district he resides, not later than the 15th of May next. No township is allowed to return more than three competitors. Those desirous of competing should take immediate steps to gain admission. Send to Mr. Henry Wade, Secretary of the Agriculture and Arts Association, Toronto, for full particulars, if you cannot obtain them from the Secretary of your township society.