

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—  
HOME MAGAZINE.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

The Only Illustrated Agricultural Journal  
Published in the Dominion.

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### Our Prize Essay.

Our prize of \$5, given for the best essay on "WILL IT PAY TO SOW THE CLOVER TO BE PLOWED UNDER IN THE FALL?" has been won by Joseph Fisher, "Willow Bank," Milton P. O., Ont.

A prize of FIVE DOLLARS will be given for "THE SEEDING AND MANAGEMENT OF PERMANENT PASTURES." This essay should contain particulars relating to the kind of grass seeds, other than clover and timothy, to be sown, and must be in this office by the 15th April next.

Our aim has been through the FARMER'S ADVOCATE to make it a medium for the interchange of ideas, whereby the experience of some farmers may be made serviceable to many.

We have at all times invited correspondence from our readers; also, we give from time to time prizes for essays on agricultural topics. A farmer, a subscriber to the paper, appreciating the information disseminated by such means, has sent us the sum of Ten Dollars to be given for the best essay on a very important subject of farm husbandry, namely, "The benefit derived by farm crops from the application of salt." The essay must be based not on theory, but on the actual experience of the writer, and state the quantities to be applied to different soils, and crops, and the best time for the application. With thanks to the gentleman who has made this generous offer, we invite our subscribers to send in essays in competition for the prize, to value of salt, to be in this office by the 25th April.

Besides the Prize Essay competition, a prize of \$5 will be given for "the best collection of drawings and descriptions for making home-made, labor-saving implements for the farm." Drawings, etc., to be in this office by the 10th May. No prize for any patented implements, nor for less than three implements.

### Agricultural Statistics.

At the session of the Provincial Legislature just closed, there was passed an Act establishing what is called "A Bureau of Industries." As the objects and aims of the Act are of vital importance to our farmers, we proceed this month to give a summary of it, and shall next month proceed to a more careful consideration of its provisions.

The ultimate object is to "promote improvement within the Province, and to encourage immigration from other countries," and the more immediate one is "to institute inquiries and collect useful facts relating to the agricultural, mechanical, and manufacturing interests of the Province, and to adopt measures for disseminating or publishing the same." The more specific and detailed object is "to procure and publish early information relating to the supply of grain, breadstuffs, and live stock in the other Provinces of the Dominion, in Great Britain, and in the United States and other foreign countries in which the Province finds a market for its surplus products, and as to the demand therefor." In other words, the Act authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture to procure and publish agricultural statistics. The latter word is not used, doubtless, we dare say, because "statistics" is left by the British North America Act, in the hands of the Dominion authorities, and if the word had been as expressly used as it is thoroughly implied, the Act could be legitimately disallowed.

The machinery to be used in accomplishing this laudable object is to be directed by means of the Bureau. Its chief officer is a Secretary. He is "to conduct all correspondence; to prepare and send out to the proper parties the necessary schedules of questions and instructions; to receive and tabulate the information so obtained; to publish the same monthly or oftener during the growing season; and to prepare an annual report which shall contain, besides an abstract of such information, a tabular abstract of facts relating to land, trade, government, population, and other subjects."

The parties from whom the information is to be obtained, are the officers of our agricultural societies, mechanics' institutes, township councils, school boards, public institutions, and public officers generally. The penalty for "refusing or willfully neglecting" to give the information, is a fine of forty dollars, "recoverable by any person suing for the same, &c." and the reward for furnishing it is "one copy each of the publications and reports of the said Bureau." Such is a summary of the Act.

With its aims and objects we heartily sympathize, and we would express the hope that those of our readers who occupy the positions we have indicated will lend their utmost endeavours to make its working a complete success. Of that success, however, we are not so sanguine as we would like to be. In the first place, we are of the opinion

that the work is one which should be undertaken by the Dominion Government rather than by the Provincial; and, in the second place, we are very doubtful if complete returns can be obtained through the agencies indicated. But we shall return to a fuller general consideration of the subject in our next issue.

### The Month.

The past month has been a rough, stormy one, with plenty of rain and snow and any quantity of mud. The roads in many sections are about impassable. The sudden changes and sharp frosts that have prevailed have been pretty hard on the winter wheat and clover. Wheat where late sown and on low, wet land, is looking pretty hard, whereas, that which has been well drilled in on good, dry land, or underdrained, is looking well. A large acreage of peas will be sown this season, many farmers dropping corn and sowing peas. We would say, plant a piece of corn as well. Good butter is scarce and high, and farmers will do well to make the most of their cows by liberal feeding and good care.

### Contagious Diseases.

The Hon. J. H. Pope, Minister of Agriculture, having noticed the letter from one of our correspondents on the above subject, writes under date of 25th ult: "In reply to your extract from an American newspaper on the above subject of cattle disease, there is no pleuro-pneumonia in Canada. The disease referred to is in Nova Scotia, special to one county, and has existed there for over twenty years; but an effort is about to be made to secure its entire extirpation. The Canadian Government does not admit the general importation of American cattle, but only for breeding purposes at one port—Point Edward—on the western frontier, subject to a quarantine of 90 days. No disease has been found among the cattle which have been admitted from the United Kingdom for breeding purposes, nor is it likely that any could be in the face of the precautions exercised."

Subscribers will kindly remember that the editor and proprietor of this journal is not in the seed business, and where orders for seeds, &c., are sent to this office, it may cause delay and confusion, whilst the best we can do is to hand your order and cash to local or other seedsmen, as we deem best for your interest.

The Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ont., will close on the 31st ult., and re-open on the 17th inst. for the summer session. The Government will, hereafter, give three medals—a gold and two silver—at the close of each year. They will be presented on the 30th June to the three students of the second year, who shall rank highest in general proficiency on all the work of the course.

OUR GRAND PREMIUMS—Subscribers will send in their lists of new names at once, and make their choice of premiums. Be sure and obtain at least one of our unrivalled prizes.

The Russian Mulberry is likely to be worth many times the subscription to you. Make a relative or a friend a present of the ADVOCATE for one year and win one.

The Russian Mulberry can be procured from the St. James' Park nurseries. See advt.