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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WILLIAM WELD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

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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.—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 \$5.00, but no balance will be remitted in cash. When first prize essayists mention nothing about books, we will remit the money.

A prize of \$5 for the best original essay on *The Best Method for the Registration of Stock* has been awarded to Ernest L. Black, Amherst, N. S.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *How can Farmers Best Protect Themselves Against Combines*. Essays to be handed in not later than June 15.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *Is Sheep Raising Profitable in Canada, and What are the Future Prospects?* Essays to be handed in not later than July 15th.

Examine your Address Label and see that it reads "89." If you have not remitted for this year, please do so now.

On the Wing.

VICTORIA, THE CAPITAL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA.

(Continued from May.)
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We will for the present step from Assiniboia, and leave the Rockies for some future remarks. We do so because we are much pleased with what we have seen, and the grandeur of the prospect before us. Victoria was formerly an old Hudson Bay station, probably the most important one. It is an old fashioned town; the inhabitants have not until recently been awakened by the whistle of the locomotive. Its advantages are but comparatively little known, and consist of the following: It has a beautiful and spacious rock-bound harbor. The summer climate is the most delightful of any on the Pacific Coast. The earthquakes that frequently shake the houses in California and other southern points are unknown here. The fearful tornadoes and thunder storms are drawn from this place by the high hills, both on the north and south of it, and it has not the continued rain so detrimental to progress and comfort in the northern part of the Island, nor the oppressive, debilitating heat of the southern coast. The beauty of its semi-tropical trees, shrubs, plants and flowers; its handsome fruits, and the peaceful, quiet habits of its inhabitants, are such that many who desire quiet, rest and repose, will erect their summer residences here as soon as its advantages become known, especially as it is now found necessary for the health of many of the inhabitants in the sunny south to leave their residences for a time each year and go to cooler latitudes. Although the temperature is warm and sometimes hot in the day time, it is always so cool at night that a slight covering is comfortable.

We were so much pleased with this place that we had the accompanying engraving made to convey to you ideas, that our pen cannot depict. Just beyond the bridge, partly concealed by the trees, are the parliament buildings. In the distance may be seen the approaching steamer from Australia. Yonder are forts guarding the entrance to Esquimault harbor, which is hidden from view in this illustration by the foliage and hills. In that beautiful harbor are lying the floating fortresses of our nation, with their thick coating of steel armor, carrying monster guns and steel shot weighing hundreds of pounds. There the marines are practicing with their torpedoes. Recently an immense raft was made of the large Douglas pines, crossed and recrossed, which were sent flying high in the air and into fragments by their explosives. Here the subtle torpedo boats are stored ready for use.

The Canada Pacific R. R., a road of which every Briton ought to be proud, being the longest

in the world under one company, surpassing in luxuriance of its equipment, and the grandeur of its mountain scenery, any railroad on this continent, connecting Vancouver by rail, and Victoria by rail and boat with our forts and ports at Halifax and Quebec, thence onward to Great Britain, thence from British port to British port around the world.

We are at first almost enchanted in our walks and drives. It is autumn, the honey-suckle, the rose and the ivy vie with each other in taking possession of the houses. The holly, with its scarlet berries, vies with the cypress and laurestinas in beautifying the lawns; the gladiolus, the dahlias and chrysanthemums attain greater perfection here than any place we have seen them, and rival all other floral productions in decorating the gardens and plots. Hanging even over the streets in some places may be seen large and beautiful looking pears and apples. Running out from under the huge ferns, in the suburbs of the city, are seen the English pheasant in its wild state, which have increased so much as to become a nuisance, and the past season permission has been given to anyone to shoot the male birds. They are the result of an importation made a few years ago, and turned loose in this vicinity. Deer are so plentiful as to be brought in on farmers' wagons from twenty to thirty miles around. Large numbers of fawns were seen hanging in the butcher shops. Grouse and venison have been so profusely supplied at nearly every meal we partook of during our stay of one week, that we in future would give preference to a good piece of Ontario beef or mutton.

We have passed through the clouds and looked down on them from clear atmosphere above—this was at Mt. Washington, in New Hampshire. We have ascended to the top of St. Paul's, in London, and could hardly see anything but smoke. We have seen Paris at one view from the top of the Arch d'Triumph. We have been at the tops of the capitols at Washington and Ottawa. But at no point or time have we experienced greater pleasure at the sight than when standing on Church Hill, Victoria. Here the steamers may be seen going and returning from Australia and other southern, northern and western stations.

Despite the beauties of the scenery, its ever-greens and flowers, its mercantile location and beautiful summer climate, etc., Victoria has its disadvantages; the principal are in our estimation the soil and climate, neither being as well adapted to agriculture as our eastern Provinces are. There is comparatively very little good agricultural land in British Columbia. When it is wooded it is extremely expensive to clear of timber and