

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, or
THE WILLIAM WELD CO.,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

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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.
- 3.—Should any of the other essays contain valuable matter, not fully covered by the one awarded the first prize, or should any present different views of the same topic, and we consider such views meritorious, we will publish such essays in full or extracts from them as we may deem best, and allow the writer ten cents per inch (one dollar per column) printed matter for as much of such articles as we publish. By this rule each writer who sends us valuable matter will receive remuneration for his labor, whether he be the winner of the first prize or not.

See section 9 and four following in publisher's announcement above.

Everyone interested in dairying should not only read, but study that instructive little book, "Dairying for Profit, or the Poor Man's Cow," which may be obtained from the authoress, Mrs. E. M. Jones, Brockville, Ont. Price, 30 cents. Over 62,000 copies have been sold, and in order to further stimulate its circulation, we will give two copies to every old subscriber sending in his own name (renewal), and that of one new yearly subscriber, accompanied by two dollars.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on "Poultry Breeding from a Farmer's Standpoint." Essay to be in this office not later than February 15th.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on "Profitable Horse Raising for the Manitoba and Northwestern Farmers, with Suggestions on Breeding, Feeding, Training and Marketing." Essays to be in this office not later than March 15th.

Readers, Please Notice.

The illustration of Dorset Horned Sheep referred to in paragraph has been held over. It will appear in a later issue.

Canada's Columbian Victors.

Every farmer in Canada should secure a copy of our handsome premium picture, Canada's Columbian Victors; price, \$1.00. A copy will be sent to any of our subscribers for sending us the name of one new subscriber, accompanied by \$1.00.

Russian Thistle.

They seem to have made up their minds south of the 45th parallel to eradicate the Russian thistle, and from all accounts none to soon.

In the second issue of September last of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, we reproduced from an U. S. Agricultural Department bulletin a descriptive article, accompanied by cuts of this fearful pest, and we urge every farmer, and more especially those in the south-eastern portion of Manitoba and in the adjacent territory, to familiarize himself with the character of this weed, and on the appearance of the first doubtful specimen, communicate at once with the district weed inspector or with the Department of Agriculture, so that it may not get a foothold on this side of the line.

It is almost certain to drift over here, either with the wind or to be carried in seed, and if noticed and destroyed when it first appears will save the country hundreds of thousands of dollars. The following from an exchange shows to what an alarming extent this weed has spread in the United States and the vast sum of money considered necessary to exterminate it:—

"The culmination of a good deal of thought and discussion, concerning the spread of the destructive Russian thistle, was reached by the presentation of a bill in the Senate on Monday last by Senator Hansbrough, of North Dakota. Briefly, the bill provides that the Secretary of Agriculture shall employ the necessary help and so direct it as to destroy and exterminate the Russian thistle in every part of the United States wherever found, and the bill carries with it an appropriation of \$1,000,000 to pay expenses. While just at present the devastation of the Russian thistle is especially marked in the Dakotas, Northern Nebraska, Western Iowa, and sections of Minnesota and Wisconsin, it is spreading very rapidly, and this bill deserves the hearty aggressive support of every one directly or indirectly interested in agriculture. It may be urged that it is a form of paternalism, but it surely is no more so than the Government's action with reference to pleuro-pneumonia and to the work of the Animal Industry Bureau as a whole. Of all pests to agriculture, the Russian thistle is not only the worst but is more dangerous than all the others put together. It not only drives out useful crops, but makes the land impassable to man or beast. In the sections in which it is spreading most rapidly, there is a great deal of vacant land, and unless concerted action is taken, little good will be accomplished. The Orange Judd Farmer is heartily in favor of this legislation, not only for those now suffering, but as a precautionary measure in the interests of the farming population of the Mississippi Valley." Let us beware of what Americans so dread.

Winnipeg Industrial.

The annual meeting of the Winnipeg Industrial Exhibition Association was held on January 18th. The following gentlemen were elected as members of the Board of Directors for the present year: W. B. Scarth, E. L. Drewry, D. E. Sprague, W. Brydon, A. Strang, J. Mitchell, I. M. Ross, W. W. Douglas, H. S. Westbrook, D. Smith, J. W. Harris, F. A. Fairchild, J. Galt, J. Y. Griffin, J. Wolf, G. J. Maulson, E. Benson, C. V. Alloway, H. S. Croty.

There was considerable discussion on last summer's fair. Referring to the attractions, some gentlemen seemed to think the Directors during the past year had lost sight of the true objects of an agricultural exhibition. And, to show the feeling of some of the members, we reproduce the following from the report of the meeting as it appeared in the Free Press:

Mr. Ashdown was opposed to a summer fair, and advocated it being held in the fall. He believed that the fair was not now an agricultural exhibition, and deplored the fact that so much attention had been given to the attractions and not enough to the farm produce. He did not want to see the fair degenerate into a week of carnival sports.

Ex-Mayor Macdonald endorsed what Mr. Ashdown said, but said that he intended no reflection on the actions of last year's directorate.

J. Wolf spoke in an entirely different strain. He believed the success of last year was entirely due to the attractions. Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Riley also spoke briefly in the same line, and were followed by Mr. Burrows, who endorsed what the previous speakers had said. Ald. Hutchings, Dr. Hinman and Mr. Scarth also placed themselves on record on this matter. (The italics are ours.)

As we have already expressed ourselves very frankly on the subject, we will not devote any more space to it at present, but merely refer to two items which appear in the financial statement: Prizes and attractions are charged \$8,216.56; attractions are charged \$2,506.85. Now, we judge that half the first item was for attractions and half for prizes, or they would not be coupled, or say \$4,000 for attractions and \$2,506 for special attractions, making in all upwards of \$6,500 paid out at the last Industrial Exhibition for "attractions."

Patrons of Manitoba.

The Patrons of Industry held their annual convention in Brandon, commencing January 16th, and continuing till the 20th. There were present considerably over one hundred delegates from all parts of the province, and a great deal of important business was transacted and plans for future action laid down. Mr. Charles Braithwaite was again elected Grand President by acclamation. We are in receipt of the following communication from Mr. Lambert, corresponding secretary of Grand Association, which will prove interesting to many of readers who are not members of the Patrons' Association:—

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

DEAR SIR,—Having received several enquiries as to the real aims and objects of the Patrons of Industry in this Province and the Northwest Territories, and as the general public seem to have formed a wrong impression of their position as a body, namely, that we are organized solely for the purpose of berating merchants, implement dealers and capitalists generally, should be glad if you would allow a little space to try and correct these misapprehensions, as it is considered that if more correct information was given to the farming public, among which your paper has such a wide circulation, the true aims of the Association would be better understood and appreciated. The objects of the Association are threefold, viz., to place the farmer and laborer in a better position financially, socially and intellectually. 1. By using our united effort constitutionally in breaking down combines, trust, high tariffs, and any other form of oppression which hinders the agriculturist from obtaining the fair and just results from his labor. 2nd. By meeting together in our Subordinate County and Grand Associations and debating live questions on the issues of which depend the welfare and comfort of our homes, and the stability and the purity of our national life. It is not a one from our legislative halls that the laws proceed, but from the sentiments expressed at meetings of the farmers, etc., who are in such a large majority in this Canada of ours, giving an idea to our governments of the desires of this majority, and I am pleased to see that they are demanding and receiving the recognition they claim in this respect. 3rd. And intellectually, by meeting together and discussing these questions in a manner that would be no discredit to the legislative halls of this country; showing that there is enough sound common sense and business ability among the farmers of this country to conduct its affairs, and that we need not depend on the professional men of this country to go to Winnipeg and Ottawa to decide what the farmers of Manitoba require. Now, Mr. Editor, these are the aims in general of our Association. I read in your ADVOCATE the platform of the Grand Association of Ontario. Ours is similar in many respects, being as follows:—

1st. Maintenance of British connection.
2nd. The reservation of the public lands for the actual settlers. Minerals and timber lands to be reserved and preserved by the Crown for the use of the people.

3rd. That the representatives of agricultural constituencies shall be farmers; candidates to be selected for ability, integrity and independence.
4th. Rigid economy in every department of the public service.

5th. Simplification of the laws, and a general reduction in the machinery of government.

6th. Tariff for revenue only. Farm implements, binding twine, fencing wire, lumber and coal oil and nails to be free of duty. A policy of protection to industries which supply the farmer with necessities for the production of grain, whilst the farmers' produce is sold in an open market in competition with the world, is a manifest injustice and imposition, especially taking into consideration that agriculture is the principal industry of the Dominion.

7th. Legislation that will effectually protect farmers and laborers from monopolies and from combines which have unduly increased the price of all necessities.

8th. Preparation of Dominion and Provincial voters' list by the municipal officers.

9th. Conformity of electoral districts to municipal boundaries, as constituted for municipal purposes, so far as the principle of representation by population will permit.

10th. One man one vote in elections for both the Dominion Parliament and the Provincial Legislature.

11th. The ballot box for the Northwest.

12th. That women be admitted to the franchise.

13th. Disfranchisement Civil Service and abolition of Senate.

There has just closed in Brandon the best convention ever held in Manitoba, where, as you will see by the press (which a year or two ago disdained to notice us), measures were discussed relating to exemption laws, tariff questions, railroad rates, farmer representation in Legislature and Commons, and various other questions of importance by some as good speakers as can be found in this country, and provision made for running farmer candidates at the next election. I will not take up any more space, but it is desirable that the farmers of Manitoba should know what is being done by the Patrons of Manitoba.

I am, yours respectfully, O. T. LAMBERT,
Corresponding Sec. Grand Assn.