

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

FOUNDED 1866.

VOL. XXIII.

LONDON, ONT., MARCH, 1888.

Whole No. 267.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & 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. It is impartial and independent of all classes or 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 payment 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. Always give the Name of the Post Office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.

**Discontinuances**—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrears must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.

The Law is, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.

The Date on Year Label shows to what time your subscription is paid.

**Advertising Rates**—Single insertion, 25 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.

Address—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.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *Farm Accounts*, has been awarded to W. A. Hale, Sherbrooke, Que. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Spring Management of Cows*. Essays to be handed in not later than March 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Farm Drainage*. Essays to be handed in not later than April 15.

Now is the time to subscribe for the *Farmer's Advocate*, the best agricultural paper in Canada.

## Editorial.

### The Central Farmers' Institute.

We attended the first annual meeting of the above organization, recently held in Toronto, our object being to ascertain its designs and tendencies. It was composed of delegates from the local Institutes, most of them sending two delegates in response to an invitation to this effect from the central authority.

The programme contained quite a variety of subjects, and we inferred from the discussions that the delegates were for the most part farmers who had a good deal of experience in municipal matters, as they discussed municipal politics much more intelligently than agricultural questions.

It is rather difficult to find a seat for the Central Institute, amongst all the other agricultural associations organized under the auspices of our Government. Every branch of agriculture, except grain growing, is already organized; the Institute does not appear to supply this deficiency, and it cannot be regarded as representing the mixed husbandry farmer. In some respects it appears to approach the objects of the Experimental Union, being, however, more political and less scientific; the resemblance lies mainly in the breadth of subjects discussed. It differs from the Dominion Farmers' Council in the following particulars:—1. It seeks to accomplish by Government expenditures what the Council attains through the instrumentality of a powerful and independent organ. 2. It works from the circumference to the centre, instead of from the centre to the circumference; that is to say, the central authority is a creation of the component parts, while the Council, originating as a central authority, accepts all local clubs who desire amalgamation under its rules. In the former case, the Institutes can make or destroy the central authority, while in the latter, the central power exists independent of the affiliated clubs. 3. It is aggressive; that is, it presupposes that industrial and political force, exercised through professors, lecturers, etc., is necessary to organize the farmers and keep them organized, while the Council presumes that permanent power can only be attained through free impulse on the part of the farmers. 4. The Central Institute does not, and cannot, exercise censorial authority over the other agricultural organizations.

Nobody recognizes the necessity of farmers' organizations more than we, but we cannot see how success can be achieved without a definite aim and a vigorous policy. We even go so far as to say that our farmers are burdened more than they should be, and that they are as much entitled to

their share of the spoils as any other portion of the community. But we have strived to educate them to the conviction that the greater the Government expenditures the greater the burden upon themselves, and that the best "plan of campaign" is to abolish the spoil system altogether, thus forcing each class of the community to work out its own political and industrial salvation. Then agriculture, being the fittest to survive, would flourish, and the necessity for elaborate organizations would be diminished.

We regret the action which the Central Institute took on the question of Commercial Union. They laid down the principle that all questions pertaining to the interests of our farmers should not be further discussed in the local institutes after they became political issues, thus giving the politicians an opportunity of choking discussion when it serves their purpose to do so. The presumption is that the life of an institute depends upon the presence of hot-headed politicians. We believe it would be to the advantage of the institutes to lock the noisy politicians out, permitting all questions affecting the farmers' interests to be discussed, thus fostering and strengthening the spirit of independence, and, by the fact of their organizing, they would weaken the force of partyism. The spirit of the times is with them; partyism is losing its bitterness, as every keen observer of current events must know. The harmonious organization of our farmer M. P. P.'s strikingly illustrates this tendency.

The members of the Central Institute have not yet learned how to evade the audaciousness of designing men, neither have they distinguished themselves for modesty in their demands. Before demanding so large a Government grant as \$1,000 annually, they should have been able to show that they have accomplished some useful work. We question if their discussions are yet worthy of the expense of publication and distribution as a part of the Government literature. However, they have made the demand, although they have arrived at no sound conclusion on any important question they discussed. There is a possibility that the Institute may be turned into a side-show for our dairymen, who attempted to place the local institutes under the control of the professor of dairying at the Model Farm, by which means our dairy industry would receive the lion's share of the Government expenditures.

### To Our Legislators.

It is our impression that a very large proportion of the beverage sold as cider in Canada is made from drugs, and that such decoctions are not as beneficial to the human system as that of the apple. A more rigid attention to the enforcement of the Adulteration Act in this particular would be in the interest of the orchardists of the country, as well as beneficial to the general health. We believe that some of the M. P.'s and M. P. P.'s are already aware of the existence of these adulterations, and it would be adding to their usefulness to take the necessary steps to have the evil remedied.