

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE and HOME MAGAZINE is published on or about the 1st of each month, is handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for dairymen, for farmers, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

TERMS:—\$1.00 per year, in advance, postpaid; \$1.25 in arrears. Single copies, 10 cents each, postage prepaid; sample copies free. Subscriptions may commence with any month. Remittances at the risk of the subscriber unless made by registered letter or money order. Subscribers who desire to change their P. O. address must send both old and new address. Remember that the law requires the subscriber to notify the publisher whenever the former wants the paper stopped, and all arrearages must be paid. The date on the address label shows when the subscription expires.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

OUR Clubbing Combinations

Open Only to 15th January, 1885.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT!

We have arranged with the publishers of the most extensively circulated, leading representative, and what we consider the most reliable papers, to enable you to procure any of them at the lowest possible rates.

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Read our list of choice, new premiums offered in another column of this issue for sending in new subscribers. Send for sample and begin your canvas now.

When sending your subscription try and avoid sending postage stamps. Five per cent. additional should be sent when stamps are remitted.

Please examine your address label, and if **YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS EXPIRED,** or is about to expire,

RENEW AT ONCE

You will find envelopes and blank forms for the purpose enclosed herewith. To avoid mistakes send Post Office order or registered letter.

All subscribers whose labels are marked "Jan. 85" should understand that their subscription expires with this (Dec.) number.

Our Monthly Prize Essay.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on "The best Methods of Encouraging Tree-Planting on Farms," has been awarded to P. E. Bucke, of Ottawa, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on "The Future Management of Agricultural Exhibitions." Essays to be in not later than the 10th December.

We purpose setting aside *One Hundred Dollars* to be expended annually in promoting the interests of the farmers. Several suggestions have been made to us with regard to the best method of expending this amount, some saying it could be advantageously given for prizes at exhibitions, some for the encouragement of farmers' clubs or agricultural education, some for the best conducted farms, etc. We now, therefore, offer a prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay or the best suggestions on "How can the Farmer's Advocate best expend \$100 annually in the farmer's interest?" Essay to be handed in not later than Jan. 15.

1884.

It is with feelings of pleasure and gratification that we now issue this the last number of the 19th volume of your journal. We are satisfied that we have done our best to give you a volume that no person need feel ashamed to leave behind—one that will be referred to when we are forgotten, one that will tend to good. There are undoubtedly some defects and errors; perfection is not yet attained. Many improvements have been made in your journal during the past year. We return our sincere thanks to all of you for your continued and generous support, particularly to those who have assisted in increasing the circulation so much during the past year, and are pleased to inform you that despite the cry of hard times, in no year since its commencement have we ever added so many new names to our subscription list. Our aim in the future will be as it has been during the past, to improve your journal and make it of more value to your families and to the country. Its improvement or degeneracy remains in your hands. If it has omitted or neglected its duty to you, its pages have always been open to you, and its existence depends entirely on your voluntary support. If your ADVOCATE refuses any of your valuable contributions to its pages that would be beneficial to farmers, for some other interest rather than yours, then we should consider ourselves unworthy of your support. We shall be pleased to secure your continued patronage and support, hoping to receive a continuation of the support of all our old subscribers and even as large an increase of new ones as during the past year. Wishing you all a merry Christmas, we bid adieu to 1884.

Editorial.

Duties of Farmers' Clubs.

Apart from the duties which farmers owe to themselves and their families, the duties which they owe to the state ought to be sufficient incentive to make them organize. The state is merely the name of individuals in their collective capacity, so that what is good for the whole must be good for the component parts. It is for the benefit of the state that at least a majority of its citizens are people of disciplined intelligence. In this country, where a large majority of the electorate belongs to the farming community, the education of the farmers is a matter of pressing urgency, and the most practical school is farmers' clubs. Here subjects can be discussed which will be to their interests both in their personal and in their collective capacity. First of all let them bear in mind that it is in unorganized communities that sharpers seek their victims; amongst societies an insult or a fraud perpetrated on an individual is resented by the whole body. We thus hear every day of farmers being victimized in some way or other.

After the club is formed, the next precaution to be taken is that it stays formed. It must come to stay, and the matter for consideration is, What are the influences which tend to create disorganization? The most effectual of these are the discussions of subjects from which the members derive no real practical benefit, and the election of members who have personal or political aims that are foreign to the farmer's interests. From a political point of view there are two ways of preventing a disruption of the club. First, banish all questions which have any relation to political parties; and, secondly, ballot out or banish all hot-headed politicians. Sometimes there are political issues which have a direct bearing on the farmer's interests, in which case their discussion should not, if possible, be evaded; but such questions should invariably be discussed from principle and not from party lines. There is in every locality farmers who believe in elevating themselves in preference to elevating party, and the discussion of such questions should be strictly confined to these men. If there is the least symptom of the club becoming endangered by such discussions, postpone their consideration until the questions cease to become party issues. There are also farmers in every locality who have interests to serve which are antagonistic to those of the practical farmer. Such men will bring destruction on any club. If the plain, honest farmer, those whose only desire is to receive and impart such information as will be of practical use to them as farmers and citizens, begin to see that their labors are attended with success, they will remain united, and no power can break them asunder.

Free.

Subscribers for 1885 sending in their names now will receive the last three numbers of the present year free.

Attention!

We must ask our readers not to select premiums or forward money for books except those which have been advertised in the last two issues, as we shall not be able to supply them, and it would necessitate the returning of the cash.