

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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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 of 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.

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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 \$3.00, but no balance will be remitted in cash. When first prize essayists mention nothing about books, we will remit the money.

The 1st prize of \$5 for best essay, *Showing the Benefit Which has been Derived from the Various Specific Associations, Such as The Dairymen's, Horticultural, The Poultry Keepers', etc., etc.*, has been awarded to Mr. John Robertson, London, Ont.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *The most Economical and Healthful System of Feeding Farm Horses, including Working Animals, Brood Mares and Growing Colts.* All essays must be handed in not later than the 15th of December.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on the subject: *What is the Average Cost to the Farmer to Rear a Steer to the Age of Thirty Months, said Steer to be Sold Fat at that Age. How Much Profit is Derived? If there is a Profit, How Can it be Increased?* All essays must be handed in not later than January 15th.

Editorial.

Editorial Notes.

We would especially direct the attention of our readers to the article on "Tuberculosis," written by Dr. Sweetapple for this number. How often do we find on farms, and in dairy herds which supply milk to consumers, some cows in a very unhealthy state. The doctor's views are very pronounced on such cases. He is very careful in drawing his conclusions, which we have always found were based on well established facts.

In the Poultry Department will be found a very admirable article on "Winter Feeding," written by Mr. W. C. G. Peter, who has had extensive experience in breeding fowls both in England and Canada. He is an extensive and practical poultry keeper, and a very successful exhibitor.

By errors made by our printers in last month's report of the Dominion Farmers' Council the sense of two of the speeches was somewhat destroyed. Page 332, second column and thirty-sixth line from the top, and three succeeding lines, should read, "replant, to test and disseminate all the newer kinds, and not make it only subservient in supplying the institution with small fruit for their own consumption." In Professor Robinson's speech, the last four lines in the first column of the next page should be at the top of the same column.

Announcement.

This number completes the 23rd volume of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and also finishes our contract with most of our subscribers. It is with humble thankfulness we acknowledge the mercies and blessings bestowed upon us by the Giver of all good. Although we are now in the "sere and yellow leaf," with pleasure we announce that we are still sufficiently strong and vigorous to put forth a special and determined effort to make the volume for 1889 superior to any previous one in utility, popularity and extent of circulation.

The office staff is improved by the acquisition of practical and scientific writers, and also very valuable additions have been made both in the Canadian and Foreign Correspondent Department. Each department of the paper will receive the attention of specialists and still greater attention will be paid to the Household Department, which charms and delights the children, and imparts useful knowledge to the frugal and economical housekeeper.

Our energetic labors and fixed principles should impress you with the fact that we are determined to make the volume for 1889 second to no other agricultural publication in America.

Thanking each one of our subscribers for their long continued patronage, we trust we shall be favored with a continuance of their support, feeling confident that we have the sympathy and support of thousands who are interested in a higher development of the agricultural capabilities of this great Dominion. The abundant crops this year and present prices will, no doubt, stimulate the farmer with encouragement, and will be the prelude to greater prosperity than he has enjoyed for some time. We add our congratulations and fervent hopes that the present prospects will redound to the farmer's prosperity.

Fall Calves and Colts.

Prof. W. A. Henry, in his article found in other columns, shows clearly that the feed fed to young animals pays much better than that fed to older beasts. We all like to feed fat slick-looking steers, but his assertion that, healthy, thin animals give better returns for the feed consumed, may have a point in it worthy of consideration when buying steers to fatten, but the trouble with our farmers is they insist in buying at public auctions, where long credit is given, and where they frequently (nearly always) pay more for their cattle than they are worth, after allowing the interest of the money for a year. We have frequently seen farmers pay as much, or nearly as much, for store cattle at these auctions in the early fall, as they sell them for in the following spring, when fattened. Experience has taught leading dairymen and farmers throughout the country that cows that calve in the fall are more profitable than those that calve in the spring, for reasons elsewhere explained in this number. Prof. Henry in his article tells our readers that a calf born in the fall is of greater value than one dropped in the spring. We believe fall colts are also to be preferred, one reason being that given by Prof. Henry; another is, colts foaled in November may run in a warm box with their dams all winter, and with plenty of roots, clover, hay and straw, supplemented by a little grain, both dam and colt will do well. The colt will be in good shape for weaning in the spring, and will be found to do well when turned on grass. The mare may be put to work, and give good service all summer if properly used. Considering the comparative idleness of most farm horses during the winter months, we believe the rearing of fall colts a wise and economical system of breeding. A good mare cannot be put to any work during the late fall and winter that will pay as well. We have tried the experiment and have been well pleased with it. Our mares lost much less time during the busy season, when managed in this way. This system always gave us a good colt.