

MANITOBA AND WESTERN  
OF THE  
**FARMER'S ADVOCATE**  
AND HOME  
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**THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE**

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The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month. It is impartial and independent of all cliques 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.

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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.
  - 4.—We invite farmers to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch (one dollar per column) printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve the ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
  - 5.—Replies to circulars and letters of enquiry sent from this office will not be paid for as provided by rule 4.
  - 6.—No anonymous communications or enquiries will receive attention.
  - 7.—Letters intended for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.
- A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on "Butter-making on the Farm, and the profits to be derived therefrom;" essay to be based on writer's own experience. Essay to be in this office not later than August 15th.

For conditions *re* prize offered for best plan of barn to hold 60 cattle, with silo inside, see June issue of the ADVOCATE, page 216. Plans and descriptions are to be in this office by July 15th.

A

**Timely Notes for July.**

HAY AND STACKING.

This season there will be in most sections of the province a superabundance of good hay, both wild and cultivated. I would advise cutting the coarser kinds first, such as Scotch Grass and Sword Grass, then the others in order of ripening. Cut before seeds are ripe in all cases, for the hay seeds are a most important part of the hay.

In stacking the hay, I would recommend the Old Country rick stands or "stathels." Set a row of posts two feet long in rows to support the beams or sills of rough logs, and on these lay small rails and brush, so as to raise the bottom of the stack some two and a-half feet from the ground. I would not advise making stacks too big, but the higher and more solid they can be built the better. Stack your hay to keep, not only for this year, but, if need be, for next as well, and let this season's abundance help you with next year's scarcity. You can't expect a good crop every year.

Those who have a number of stock to feed could profitably invest in a hay sweep, hay loader and horse fork, thereby saving the wages of two or more men, and in a dropping season get their hay saved in good condition. A little salt sprinkled through your coarsest hay and seeds will make it all the more palatable. My practice has been to allow a pailful or two gallons to every load. I just spread loosely on the stack after pitching off each load, and the tramping and moving about of the hay shakes it down through the stack. A pint of sulphur per load is also useful in keeping your cattle free of parasites in winter.

Above all stack well, expect bad weather of all kinds, and be prepared for it, whether:—  
"The rain may rain, or the wind may blow,  
The hail may hail, or the snow may snow,  
For it will na frichtin Jack McCrae,  
The smartest man in Manitoba."

DEHORNING.

Many of us who see no beauty in the "doddies," are looking out for the report of the Dehorning Commission in Ontario, for we think if dehorning is really the benefit its advocates claim for it, the sooner we start the better. Having had occasion a few times to cut off the horns of some fighting cows, I know they suffer greatly during the operation, but would calves suffer so much, especially when the little horns are still loose? I fancy that would be the right time to dehorn; and if so, is the knife the best method, or would caustic potash be more humane? Again, in nine cases out of ten, the rings on the horns are the only guide folks have of guessing the age of a beast, and there would be another method of deceit added if the horns were removed.

PRESERVATION OF OUR GAME.

Farmers are generally born sportsmen, in fact as well as in name, and it is only necessary to point out that the present game law allows them to forbid shooting or hunting on their

enclosed lands without their permission having been first obtained—that no hunting dogs shall be allowed to run at large. We may hope to enjoy the pleasure of eating at least a portion of the chickens or partridges that we carefully watched during the season of growth. If one or two of these "tramp" sportsmen from Winnipeg or the towns were fined for trespassing, it would be a decided benefit to the farmers all over the province. Last year in this particular district it was impossible to obtain a prairie chicken or a duck one week after 1st September. In many cases shooting was indulged in by these vagrants long before the close season ended.

THE WINNIPEG EXHIBITION.

The prize list of the Winnipeg Exhibition is to hand, and, with a few exceptions, seems to be very full in all branches. The prizes for butter and grains are exceptionally liberal. I would, however, take exception to offering prizes for Merino sheep. Are there any in the country? And are they suitable for us here? Why not give prizes for Oxford-downs, Lincolns and Dorsets in preference?

Why should certificates of registry not be required for Yorkshires and other pure-bred pigs, as well as for Berkshires? Why offer a prize at all for Percherons after last year's experience, and the general opinion of the country regarding Percherons as adapted for this country?

Can a trotting horse (*per se*), be called a carriage horse? Should there not be some regulations as to weight in carriage horses? A 1,100-lb horse is hardly a Coach horse.

In poultry, would it not be better to ignore Bantams, except as pets. It seems ridiculous to offer the same prize for them as for such really useful birds as Brahmas, Plymouth Rocks and Leghorns? Why not also offer prizes for single birds of some of the principal breeds? The rabbit class is altogether too small after the larger classes for pigeons and Bantams.

Why is the baby class not made more of? Are we ashamed of our youngsters? A Manitoba baby is as important a product of Manitoba as even Red Fyfe wheat, and should be given just as big a prize. May I suggest that the children entered should be judged by three physicians, and the prizes awarded not to the prettiest, fattest or biggest ones, but to those that are perfectly proportioned, healthy and vigorous. If we can't grow energetic and strong men and women here, and show the world that we can too, let us leave it out of the programme altogether.

GENERAL.

Let your horses go unshod for awhile in summer.

Use kerosene for spraying your horse stable, to keep out the flies.

Can, and preserve all the fruit possible, this year. Next year may be like last, and there may be only half a crop.

Keep the weeds down.  
Sow rape seed on your summerfallow—6 lbs. to the acre, and if you have no cattle of your own, let your neighbor's cattle eat it. It will do them good, and they will do your land good by tramping and enriching it.

Go to the Exhibition—all of you.

"INVICTA"