

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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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 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, 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 the following subject: *Can a Provincial Exhibition, purely Agricultural, be made Successful and Self-supporting?* has been awarded to John S. Pearce, London, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Winter Care of Cattle*. Essays to be handed in not later than Nov. 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *The Condition of the Canadian Farmer*. Essays to be handed in not later than December 15th.

Enclosed please find one dollar for my subscription to your valuable paper, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. We all prize your paper as an interesting addition to our family literature, and look eagerly forward to its arrival every month. Wishing its editor every success.—ROBERT T. FERGUSON, Smith's Falls, Ont.

## Editorial.

### On the Wing.

We left the Provincial Exhibition, Ottawa, on Wednesday night, 21st Sept., to fill accepted invitations from J. E. Perley, M. P., of Assiniboia, and from the Agricultural Society of Regina.

We arrived at Winnipeg on Saturday. We were considerably surprised to find peace and tranquility reigning, and that this city had made such rapid strides in improvement, having block roads far wider than any in Ontario, flag sidewalks, and the place presenting an appearance of real thrift, happiness and prosperity, and the spirits of the people hopeful for the future. From many of the accounts we had read and heard, we really thought the inhabitants were fighting mad, and that it would be necessary to be very guarded in our words, if we dared express an opinion that might not coincide with their views; that the mortgaged places were tumbling down, and that a financial wreck existed. This is our third visit to this city. We had thought on the first visit to invest a few dollars if we found a promising way to do so, but returned rather chagrined and disappointed with the country, between the grasshopper plagues and the floods we saw, the returning, tired, disappointed land seekers, and our ardor was checked. Our second visit was made five years ago, when our hopes of the country were somewhat reversed, but the erroneous statements made to us by some paid officials, caused us to doubt real facts when stated, and being of a sceptical nature, would only believe what we could see about the country.

Having now reached the Pacific coast, and having visited ten agricultural exhibitions in Assiniboia—having met so many of the subscribers to this publication who are prospering, happy, hopeful and satisfied with the change, many of whom have no desire to return to the east except to visit—when we see their farms, their stock, their progress, we are pleased, and feel a stronger hope and confidence of this becoming a mighty, powerful and prosperous nation of contented people, if properly managed. We have now been on the farms, have driven many hundreds of miles over the country, and have seen the threshings and the granaries filled to overflowing. Observing the infinitesimal part of the land yet occupied, finding seven or eight million bushels of wheat to be exported, cattle thriving and fattening in such a manner as in no other country we have yet seen, the hope of large cities and towns being destined to occupy these plains where the buffalo formerly roved, is in our estimation almost a certainty. There are drawbacks, and new settlers have much to undergo

and much to learn; in fact the oldest are yet but learners. There have been and will be hardships and privations, disappointments and failures, particularly for those who have all to learn—but such there are in every country and in every walk of life. Yet for the young, energetic, industrious, steady and persevering tiller of the soil, there is every promise, as there have been many instances of grand success here.

(To be continued.)

### Some Collapsed Booms.

Business crashes sweep over our land periodically, and the main reason assigned for their periodical occurrence is that new generations of business men spring up, who have not had the opportunity of taking practical lessons from the pains and sorrows of previous crises.

Not so, however, with agricultural booms. These we have always with us, and the dearly bought lesson learned by the perpetration of one fraud is forgotten simultaneously with the next change of wind. Never speak seriously of removing the burdens from our farmers' shoulders so long as such a condition of affairs is permitted to exist.

The ensilage boom is still green on our memories. Amongst agricultural writers, we stood alone in urging objections against it for our conditions in this country, but many practical farmers followed the breeze. No agricultural authority of distinction has now a kind word for ensilage, and the silos are being rapidly converted into root cellars and receptacles for other farm products. Many farmers were even led to believe that valuable nutrients could be manufactured in the silo, thereby enabling them to support larger flocks and herds. The breeze wafted the bubble over our Model Farm, and much time and money were squandered in fruitless investigations.

One of the latest and emptiest of all is the "record" boom. We were the first to point out the depths of degradation to which we were descending by our credulity. We did not believe, no matter how apparently convincing was the proof, that any healthy cow could produce milk containing 15 percent of butter fat and 60 percent of total solids, which record was said to have been performed by a Jersey cow in this Province, the details of which were described in a previous issue of the ADVOCATE, and even this bubble increased in size, weight, and density while sweeping over the heads of our neighbors on the other side of the line. When we see cows giving cream instead of milk, then we will also ride the bubble astride, all danger of explosion then being out of the question. Scientific authorities have