

ember.

thre boar
240
hire row
240
ner
270
at Toronto
285
Brooklin
287
188

eat North-
llingwood
202
357

acClaskie,
ham Bros.
71

and York-
of Mr. Jos.
ngfield-on-
270

ch Coach
ry of The
280

obertson... 67

of Jerseys.
Johnston,
urg, P. Q. 284

253
221

Wheat.170
Ruby Hill
of Messrs.
Oak, Ont. 31

and three
property of
M. P. P.,
36

port cart. 271
329

157
23

knives, the
rs. Everest
Man. 171

illions, the
rs. Everest
Man. 237

worth boar
241

erty of John
105

er's farm,
204

St. Jean
e property
282

33

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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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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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 has been awarded to John Parker, Stamford, Ont., for the best essay on *What Steps Should be Taken to Improve the Quality of Milk delivered at Cheese Factories.*

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *The Cost of Rearing a Sheep to the Age of Twelve Months, Eighteen Months, and Two Years Old Respectively, and the Profit Realized at the Various Ages.* Essay to be in this office by the 10th of January.

We want Good, Live AGENTS to Canvass for the "Farmer's Advocate" in every locality in the Dominion and United States. Sample copies and subscription blanks free to canvassers who mean business.

We want all of our old subscribers to send in some new subscribers and get some of our premiums.

Editorial Notes.

Souris wants a cheese factory, and has offered to guarantee milk from two hundred cows to begin with. There is certainly a good opening in Manitoba for cheese makers.

The losses sustained by the Cochrane Ranching Company, in Alberta, at the outset was considered by many to be proof that ranching there would prove a failure, but later returns prove the contrary, as their losses have been made up and ten per cent. paid on the investment, besides a sinking fund of \$100,000 set aside.

Both those who buy and those who grow fruit will be benefitted by reading Mr. T. T. Lyons' valuable paper. Not only is the room described suitable for fruit, but vegetables, fresh meat, and a great variety of eatables can be kept sweet and fresh in it. In his next paper, to be published in February, he will describe another building with a more extended system of ventilation.

At a late meeting of the executive board of American Shorthorn breeders, President Cobb, S. G. Praher, Springfield, Ill., and Richard Gibson, Delaware, Ont., were appointed a committee of three to represent this association in forming an organization composed of committees of this and other live stock associations, for the purpose of holding a national live stock show at some central metropolis.

At the final meeting of 1889 of the Ontario Agricultural and Arts Association, the Board recommended Chicago as the most suitable place to hold the World's Fair of 1892. The report concerning annual ploughing matches was presented. Some discussion took place on it, and several of the members asserted that in many districts the farmers had shown very little interest in the matches. In the end it was resolved that \$300 should be appropriated towards inspecting the prize farms throughout the Province.

It is said that the decrease in the number of sheep in the Eastern States is due to the fact that they cannot be grazed on high-priced lands and compete with free grass and cheap land in the West. There were 3,820,000 sheep in New England in 1840. In 1880 there were only 1,450,000. In 1840 there were 7,403,000 sheep in the Middle States. In 1880 there were only 3,801,000. Illinois had 500,000 sheep less in 1880 than in 1870, and Ohio had 26,000 less. Virginia decreased nearly 1,000,000 in the ten years ending with 1887. Indiana lost 500,000 sheep and Michigan over 800,000. How is it that England with her higher-priced land still keeps large flocks of sheep and yearly is increasing her flocks and reducing her tillage lands?

The late annual and winter meeting of the Ontario Fruit Growers' Association, held at Windsor, Ont., on December 10th, 11th and 12th, was one of the most successful, interesting and best-attended meetings ever held by that body. Nearly all the leading Canadian, and many eminent American horticulturists were present. Some of the papers read are published in this issue. Lack of space forbids us giving a report this month.

At the American Shorthorn Breeders' Association, held in Chicago, Nov. 20th, a resolution was passed urging Congress to take speedy and effective action in the interest of the cattle trade between that country and South America, so that stock might not be required to go by way of Liverpool to get a reasonable rate of transportation. The members of the Association who contributed to a Fat Stock Show prize fund a few years ago to the extent of \$2,700 are, by resolution of this meeting, to be reimbursed from the Association's treasury, without interest. A prize for Fat Stock Show for a calf, yearling and two-year-old bred and fed by the exhibitor was also authorized by resolution. A vote favored a continuation of the dairy prizes at the State Fairs. In this connection the sentiment prevailed that feeding and testing should be done on the fair grounds. The members of this Association were very enthusiastic because their cash balance was \$2,000 greater than ever before.

The English Agricultural Gazette says:—The value of the exports of live stock (from Britain) still keeps in advance of that of last year, the total for the ten months ended October 31st being £1,010,452, against £906,160 in the corresponding period last year. Of horses the value was £850,690, against £727,014 last year. There were altogether 12,095 horses exported, against 11,094 last year. Of stallions the numbers were 2,717, against 3,169, the value being £360,316 against £318,092, so that with a smaller number the value increased. Of these 573 went to the United States, against 584 last year, the value being £46,212, compared with £41,901. There were 1,271 sent to British North America, against 1,782 last year, the value being £102,067, against £155,144. "Other countries" took 784 against 648, the value having risen from £98,528 to £199,417. There were 4,981 mares exported against 4,824, the value being £305,607 against £278,538. Of these 397 went to the United States, compared with 685 last year, while 1,189 went to British North America against 838 last year. Of geldings the number sent out was 4,397 against 3,101, the value being £184,767 against £130,334 last year.