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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 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 \$5.00 for the best original essay on *Poultry Farming as an Occupation for Farmers' Wives and Daughters*, has been awarded to David Garvey, Ingersoll, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Country Life*. Essays to be handed in not later than July 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Fall Work on the Farm*. Essays to be handed in not later than Aug. 15.

Subscription.

Subscribers, please notice the label on your paper, and if you have not paid your subscription for 1887, do not fail to do so at once. If the date on your label is Jan., '87, your subscription is only paid to the end of '86.

Editorial.

Commercial Union.

Although, in our writings, we rarely deviate from agriculture proper, yet the question now before us is of such vast importance to our farmers that we cannot forbear alluding to it. It has not yet fallen within the domain of politics—it is to be hoped it never will—and should seriously engage the attention of every good citizen of Canada or of the British Empire. Our destiny is involved in it, and a false step taken now can never be retraced.

We advise our readers to peruse thoughtfully the paper by Mr. John Waters, M. P. P. for North Middlesex, published in another column—also the discussion by the Dominion Farmers' Council. Mr. Waters is a successful and progressive farmer, and we are pleased to learn that a man of his intelligence and independence has been chosen by the Council to prepare a paper. Mr. W. does not belong to the blind, subservient class of politicians which infest our country, and we believe he has the best interests of our farmers at heart.

The manner in which the question has been forced upon the attention of our farmers is to be deeply deplored. If the agitation had originated by a representative body of American citizens, we should have been highly pleased; but its being enkindled amongst our farmers by a tax levied upon them is a source of alarm. It may be answered in defence that the Ontario Government had no intention of fanning the flame of agitation when it granted subsidies to the Farmers' Institutes; but the sequence is the same, no matter how pure the motives may have been. This blunder, which should cause our farmers to pause and think, illustrates the folly of attempting to organize our farmers under government patronage. The system exposes the organizations to the pernicious breezes of the professional agitator; and, as in the present instance, he can gain the ear of many unguarded farmers by false or misleading representations. So far as we are aware, the agitators have not had the rashness to approach independent organizations, such as the Grange or the Dominion Farmers' Council, the Presidents or Secretaries of which would certainly not give away the names and addresses of associated clubs when mischief is brooding in the air. We yield to no man in our appreciation of the necessity for farmers' organizations to protect their interests against ever-increasing aggression, and nobody has labored harder in this direction than we have done, but artificial organizations under government auspices have proved a failure. Unless the spirit of union is within the farmers

themselves—not in the government bag—little hope for the realization of practical good can be entertained. Besides, our farmers are qualified to choose a leader superior to the one who is self-imposed, and when they fully realize this fact, the day of their prosperity will dawn.

If commercial union is to be brought about, would it not be more advantageous to form it with Great Britain? What has England done that we should not first consult her? Who could give us the best market? This point should be discussed before you should be asked to pledge yourselves to any measure. We may be paying for a thing that may disturb our present harmony, happiness and contentment. We doubt if any step will improve your present condition, except retrenchment in expenditures. It may be better to bear the ills we have, than to fly to those we know not of; distant fields may appear verdant. Stick right where you are and do your duty; the rolling stone gathers no moss. No farmers in the world have a better prospect before them. The late T. Scatcherd, M. P., one of the most respected, useful and hard working legislators, said the farmers should attempt to keep down taxation. We believe that to be our proper policy, but we regret to state that at the first general meeting in favor of commercial union increased taxation was commended for more government literature, and for the increase of officers; this move was made by a recipient of your hard earned cash, to be taken first from the government funds, then the farmers of Ontario. The health of your stock gives you a better market for your cattle and your dairy products than they would have. Your fruits are of more value on the British markets; you will receive greater benefit from the results of the Colonial Exhibition than you have had; time and patience are wanted. More light and more truth are needed before the question is settled.

We protest against entering a man's premises by the back gate. We believe our farmers to be loyal subjects, loyal to our Dominion and to the British Crown, and if they desire to change their present relations, they will not do so by underhand practices, but after due consultation with the proper authorities, and after sober reflection, having also distinctly in view the material interests of Canada.

In buying new stock, beware of the hippodrome or so-called "combination sales." No man sells off his best stock; the poorest goes to the sale. There it is boosted by all the arts of the professional auctioneer, and the bidding of agents who are not buyers, but "teasers," as it were, to lead on the too-hesitating purchasers. Many a man has rued his "bargains" thus procured, but to save appearances he bears his cross in silence, or makes his sad complaints—like the song bird—to the silent moon.—[N. Y. Tribune,