

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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The Farmer's Advocate!

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Letters enclosing remittances, &c., only acknowledged when
specially requested. Our correspondence is very heavy, and
must be abridged as much as possible.

Extra Exhibition Number

Of the "Farmer's Advocate."

Will be issued about the Fifteenth of September Next.

50,000—COPIES—50,000

WILL BE ISSUED.

A copy will be sent to each subscriber to the
Advocate. The surplus numbers will be carefully
mailed, or given, to visitors to the Exhibition.

FARMERS, MANUFACTURERS AND MERCHANTS

will find this an

UNSURPASSED—UNSURPASSED

MEDIUM FOR ADVERTISING.

Circulars and Terms sent on application to this Office.

On the Wing.

On the completion of the June number we took
a trip to the county of York. The Toronto Elect-
oral Society was holding its

SPRING HORTICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

There were some good specimens of hot-house
plants exhibited; they were principally from the
Government House and private gentlemen's con-
servatories. The display was not extensive, but
the plants shown were rare and choice of their
kinds, and showed great care on the part of the
gardeners to have them in such perfection. The
display was made in the skating rink; the band
played in the evening, and a fine promenade was
held on the grounds adjoining.

A poultry exhibition was also held in the same
building. The crowing of the birds was such as
to almost drown a person's voice; in future we
think it would be better to have the birds in a
separate building, as many persons may not be
over-charmed with the continual crowing of such a
number of birds.

THE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND ARTS.

This Board was holding a meeting. We sug-
gested to the members that a trial of implements
might take place in lieu of the plowing matches.
It had been decided to have the plowing matches
this year; next year we may have a trial of imple-
ments. The Board has made some alterations in
the prize list; the Prince of Wales' prize is to be
Berkshire pigs; prizes are to be awarded for Alder-
neys or Jersey cattle; an increased number of
prizes are to be offered for Essex, Suffolk and Berk-
shire pigs. The prizes offered for other small
breeds of pigs are to be struck out. We have not
a full list of the alterations, but they will shortly
be published.

We wished to see the great Durham cow, the
property of Mr. James Russell, Richmond Hill.

ISABELLA THE 5TH.

If there is a Shorthorn animal deserving of
notice on this continent, this is the animal,
as she carried off the highest honors that
were given to any animal at the Centennial Exhi-
bition. She conquered the great American breed-
ers on their own grounds and by their own judges;
she was the leading cow in the ring that carried
off the herd prize. In addition to this high posi-
tion, our Canadian Commissioners awarded her the
only gold medal given at the Centennial Exhi-
bition for Shorthorns of any kind. One American,
we hear, imported a cow from England for which
he paid \$5000, on purpose to show against this
cow. Isabella the 5th is a large animal;
her color is a light roan; one of her horns is
rather bent. Her appearance, as we took our first
side view of her, was not so prepossessing as you
might imagine; neither the color nor the horn
suited our fancy. On walking around and view-
ing her back, our opinion changed. She has the
most astonishing top or back we ever saw on a
cow; it is the broadest, the most even and level,
and, what is of still greater importance, she car-
ried more flesh on it than we ever saw on any cow
in similar condition. The sight of the top or back
of that cow alone is worth a long journey to any
farmer that has a particle of admiration for fine
stock in his composition. You must see this cow
before you can credit the size of her enormous
back. We do not know what to compare it to—a
bed, a door, or the bottom of a wagon-box. The
directors of the Provincial Exhibition should erect
a platform at her stall, if she is shown, and we pre-
sume she will be, so that the spectators might look
down on her back, as they cannot see it to advan-
tage when standing on the ground. It was not
till we saw her waking up a slight hill that we
more particularly noticed it. If one of our artists

had been with us, we would have given you a cut
of this cow walking up the hill. Mr. Russell
has a fine farm, about two miles from Rich-
mond Hill; in fact we thought it the best
farm we had seen on the whole road.—
We had noticed many very poor farms along the
line of rail to Richmond Hill; farms so poor and
light that it would be hard for good farmers to be
confined to them if in some other parts of the
country. But large cities have their attractions
and advantages. The crops on Mr. Russell's farm
were looking very well. He has a family. The
management of the stock is left in the hands of his
sons; they are workers, and understand the require-
ments of the country. Mr. Russell has 350 acres
of good clay loam. He came to the country poor,
has made his farm, and has it now stocked in such
a manner that some of our leading stock men must
go to him for first-class stock, and might profitably
copy from his example. We will not go into
minuteness in the Durham class. Mr. Russell gained
the only gold medal at the Centennial Exhibition,
and five silver medals for Shorthorns. He has also
a flock of Cotswolds that are equal to any English
or Scotch flock to be found as regards size of sheep,
quality of wool, and health of flock. Mr. Russell
has a winding stream of water running
through his farm. He had straightened the
course on about half the farm, leveling uneven parts,
improving the land, and making it appear, as it
really is, an improved farm. The work requires
to be seen to be appreciated.

Mr. Russell has just erected a good, substantial,
brick house, and is now about to plant ornamental
and shade trees; he has as yet been too fully oc-
cupied with his farm work to pay as much atten-
tion to tree planting as he would like to have
done.

We passed from Mr. Russell's farm to the farm
of Mr. R. Marsh, whom we found busy preparing
material for building. Mr. Marsh holds his head
up stiff and erect as soon as Southdown sheep are
mentioned. Well he may, as he has the finest flock
of that class of sheep we have yet seen in Canada.
If you doubt our word, examine them for yourself
at the next Provincial Exhibition.

Mr. Marsh, like many more, is bothered to get
rid of the Canada thistles. He says about ten
years ago he had a thick patch and was cutting
them with a scythe; he was called from his work
and did not finish the job for some days afterward.
The following year no thistles appeared on the part
he first cut, nor did they appear there for several
years. On the part that was cut after the
lapse of a few days the thistles grew luxuriantly—
as luxuriant as ever. Mr. Marsh tried to find the
right time to cut to have the same effect again, but
has not succeeded; he kept no record of the day,
but he is convinced that there is just such a
time to cut them that will kill them, and would
again like to find it. There are many more like
Mr. Marsh who have given the thistles a severe
check by cutting them at just such a particular