

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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The Farmer's Advocate

—AND—
HOME MAGAZINE.

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TO SUBSCRIBERS:

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Our rates for single insertion are 20c. per line—\$2.40 per inch, space of nonpareil (a line consists on an average of eight words).

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Condensed farmers' advertisements of agricultural implements, seeds, stock or farms for sale, or farms to let, not to exceed four lines, 50c., prepaid.

Advertising accounts rendered quarterly.

Advertisements, to secure insertion and required space, should be in by 20th of each month.

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

On the Wing.

WALKERTON.

This is the county town of Bruce. It is very prettily situated on the banks of the Saugeen River. The town has been nearly swept away by a fire. Numerous blocks of brick buildings are now taking the place of the old frame and log buildings. It is located in a pretty valley, having fine hills almost surrounding it; the hills have sufficient slope to admit of cultivation. The land is of excellent quality. These hills will soon be occupied by handsome residences; some are erected already. The place has the appearance of thrift and prosperity, and is becoming a place of importance; in a few years it may be one of the prettiest inland cities in Canada. It now has about two thousand inhabitants. The residents along the lakes and frontier have been accustomed to consider their position much superior to that of the inhabitants of the northern part of Ontario.

Bruce raises more wheat than any other county in Canada. The land is much better than in many localities south of it. The appearance of the growing wheat crop could not be better than in this county; the blade of the wheat, the grass in the fields, and the turnip crops to be seen along the line of rail from Walkerton to Harrisburg, showed a decided and marked difference. We heard a farmer remark that he would rather have one acre of land near Walkerton than three near Harrisburg, Paris or Brantford. At the time when we came to Canada, land near Brantford or Harrisburg would be worth ten times more than at Walkerton. Now the farmers in the north can show a greater profit than those along the frontier.

The additional amount of snow that covers the ground is found to be more beneficial to farming than where there is a smaller quantity. Both crops and stock thrive better. Feeding stock on frozen grass and allowing them to eat the pasture bare to the ground, as we have too often seen where the snow does not cover the ground, is not as good for either stock or land as when it is sealed closely by the snow until the proper time arrives to use it. We should say to Canadians who desire to make a home—Do not fear the cold or snow of Bruce.

THE NORTHERN AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

We arrived at Walkerton on Wednesday evening. The great formal opening of this Exhibition took place on Thursday. Triumphal arches and banners were erected; the band announced the approach of the Lieutenant-Governor, Vice-Chancellor Blake and many of the leading local politicians; suitable addresses were given, and the Great Northern Fair was formally opened.

They have good grounds and have erected a large and commodious building, about as good as the main buildings in which our Provincial Exhibitions have been held; long rows of stabling and sheds for the stock are erected. The stables and sheds were well filled with good stock, far superior to what we expected, some of which had exhibited against Provincial prize animals and had gained the prize over them. Some sheep exhibited here would have gained Provincial prizes, but the owner considered he could not spare the time to attend that Exhibition.

Some very good horses were on exhibition here, just such as the country requires.

The general display inside the palace was highly creditable. The display of plums we thought far surpassed the display at any other exhibition; this fruit succeeds better here than it does in more southern localities.

A great luncheon was prepared in the town for the Lieutenant-Governor and others. The tables spread were not more than half surrounded by guests; the price of tickets, 75 cts., was rather more than the farmers liked to pay. Office-bearers and seekers were the principal attendants. The addresses were more of a political nature than agricultural. It is well for farmers to expend a little money in listening to good addresses; many farmers would not have begrudged the cost had they been there. Such luncheons, dinners or suppers are good schools. The addresses are well worth attention when our leading speakers come amongst us. The small attendance at the luncheon may partially be accounted for by the unfavorable state of the weather.

The rain paid no regard to the Exhibition. The grounds had been newly plowed, scraped and leveled, so you may imagine the effect of three days' rain on them. It was all mud and water; not an animal could be taken into the show rings,

they were in such a state; plants would swim or be buried; no one ever saw such a mess on any exhibition ground. As we were on our way to the main building, an elderly, stout old lady was standing on the end of a plank, umbrella in one hand and dress held up by the other. Some one asked her as we waded past her what she was going to do. "Do!" said she; "I will wait till they bring more planks."

Notwithstanding the mud and rain, there were a great many people on the ground. In another year the ground will be covered with grass; it never can be as bad again. Walkerton may ere long be raising its voice to get the Provincial Exhibition there. The expenses of this commencement have no doubt been principally paid by many of the town's people of Walkerton. Farmers are generally rather backward in establishing such exhibitions. Those who have been in the habit of opposing progress, or leaving it for others to labor for and pay for, we hope in future will take more active measures to aid all agricultural societies and agricultural meetings, as they tend to the advancement of farming.

The Hessian Fly.

In the August number we gave illustration and accounts of this pest in three parts of the journal, with some suggestions in regard to preventing its damaging effects. We find, as expected, that the early-sown wheat is badly injured. Some pieces would yield a greater profit if ploughed under and the land sown with an other crop. We know of no other effectual remedy to stop its ravages on the present crop; it is our impression that it will be best to abandon wheat culture for a time in localities where the fly has made its appearance. If we pay more attention to stock, we shall find more profit than sowing wheat to feed this pest. Wool, mutton, beef, pork or poultry will be found more profitable than sowing a precarious crop. Now the long evenings have set in, farmers have time to get up Farmers' Clubs and hold discussions. We had hoped that the Grangers would have had more discussions on agricultural subjects, but mercantile arrangements have drawn their attention too much from the course where we think they would have been most useful, and perhaps the most profitable. We hope to hear of more agricultural discussions from Grangers, or that Agricultural Clubs may be formed. The Hessian Fly must draw forth discussions. The wheat that is not affected by the Hessian Fly is looking unusually rank; many have not fed it off enough to prevent its smothering or rotting. We would prefer having it ready for its winter covering with half the blade that it now shows. If it is eaten off rather close the roots have now a good hold in the ground, and will be ready to throw up a good top in the spring.