

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

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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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
360 Richmond Street,
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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.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay which will name and describe the varieties of spring wheat, oats, barley and peas which have yielded best during the past season in the district in which the writer resides. Essay to be in this office not later than the 15th of February.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay which will name and describe the six most promising varieties of potatoes grown in the district in which the writer resides, and the mode of culture which has given the best results. Essay to be in this office not later than March 15th.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay on corn and corn culture. The writer to name and describe the three most promising sorts grown in the district in which he resides, also the best and most economical mode of cultivation before and after planting. Essay to be in this office not later than March 15th.

Editorial.

DEATH OF MR. WILLIAM WELD.

With very deep sorrow we have this month to announce the death of our beloved chief, Mr. William Weld, the founder and proprietor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE. Our grief is the greater owing to the heart-rending circumstances connected with his death. On Saturday, January 3rd, Mr. Weld was in his usual good health, and attended to the many duties connected with the office of this journal; he had gone over his afternoon letters and given instructions to his assistants concerning them, and later made an engagement with his chief assistant editor to discuss some important business matters in the evening. He went home about 4.30, where he chatted with a few members of his family, who were then just leaving the house, and was never again seen alive. He was thought to have gone out again, and, not returning at six o'clock as usual, it was supposed he had been detained at his office, as he frequently was. About 7.30 his son, Dr. Weld, went into the bath-room, and was horror-stricken to there find the dead body of his father drowned in a tank of water, which was fastened to the ceiling and overhung with a swing window, into which he had evidently slipped head-first while investigating the cause of a leakage of water, which for some days had given a great deal of annoyance. No one was on hand to assist him; no one heard his struggles, and from the position in which he had fallen he was entirely unable to extricate himself. At the time of his death a maid-servant only was in the house, and she was out of hearing, had the sufferer been able to give any alarm.

Mr. Weld was the son of the Rev. Joseph Weld, M. A., of Westwell House, Tenderden, Kent, England, and was born Dec. 10th, 1824. Educated by private tuition, he early conceived the desire to try his fortune in the colonies, and at the age of nineteen came to Canada. In those days Canada was sparsely settled and railroads were unknown, and it was with considerable difficulty he made his way as far west as Oxford county, where for a short time he remained in Woodstock. After prospecting for some time, Mr. Weld purchased a farm in Delaware township, Middlesex county, and at once settled down to make a home, and here, with earnestness and vigor, he carried on the work of a pioneer farmer. He soon recognized the desirability and economy of keeping and breeding pure-bred stock; he always highly appreciated, and eagerly read works treating on stock and advanced agri-

culture generally, and came to be looked upon as one of the most progressive farmers in the Province. After having spent twenty-one years in farming he saw that a practical agricultural journal was very much needed, and, therefore, in 1866, commenced the publication of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. For several years he conducted it in conjunction with his farm, but as the business of the ADVOCATE gradually increased, he found it necessary to devote his whole time and energies to it. He then removed to the city of London, leaving the entire management of his farms to his two eldest sons. The progress of the paper was at first slow, and many were the difficulties and trials in his early days of journalism; but he was confident of his cause, untiring in his endeavors, and fearless in advocating the interests of the farmer, and his perseverance and energy were ultimately rewarded. This paper, through his ability and untiring energy, gradually increased in circulation and size, and is now the oldest and most widely read agricultural paper in Canada, circulating all over the Dominion, being a welcome visitor each month to thousands of homes in Canada and the United States. He also founded the "Canadian Agricultural Emporium," from which he sent to farmers all over Canada many new and improved varieties of grain, among which are many of the most productive and best kinds known to Canadian agriculture. Of the more important varieties of new seeds, grains, etc., introduced through the Emporium and the ADVOCATE, our readers will recall the Scott, Clawson, Democrat and Scotch Fife wheats, Early Rose potatoes, Emporium oats, and many other sorts too numerous to enumerate, the last important variety being the Canadian Velvet Chaff wheat, which was introduced only last year. After successfully conducting the Emporium for many years he sold this branch of his business to Mr. John S. Pearce and his son Henry Weld, who jointly conducted it till the death of the latter, making it one of the most important seed houses in the Dominion, under the firm name of Pearce, Weld & Co., now J. S. Pearce & Co. In all business transactions Mr. Weld was honorable and generous to the last degree. Avoiding public life he was ever ready to use his means and talents to promote the interests of the class of which he was always proud to be considered one—the agriculturists. He was a true and loyal Englishman, a firm believer in English institutions. In the future of Canada he had the utmost confidence. He has done very much to advance her agricultural welfare. By his efforts and writings he has done more than any other man toward keeping out of Canada any infectious or contagious stock diseases, and to this end he has