

FOUNDED 1866.

**The FARMER'S ADVOCATE and HOME MAGAZINE** is published on or about the 1st of each month, is handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for dairymen, for farmers, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

**TERMS:**—\$1.00 per year, in advance, postpaid; \$1.25 in arrears. Single copies, 10 cents each, postage prepaid; sample copies free. Subscriptions may commence with any month. Remittances at the risk of the subscriber unless made by registered letter or money order. Subscribers who desire to change their P. O. address must send both old and new address. Remember that the law requires the subscriber to notify the publisher whenever the former wants the paper stopped, and all arrears must be paid. The date on the address label shows when the subscription expires.

Address—  
THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,  
LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

Please examine your address label, and if **YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS EXPIRED**, or is about to expire, please

**RENEW AT ONCE**

All subscribers whose labels are marked "Jan. 85" should understand that their subscription expired with the Dec. number.

Renew at once and see that your label is marked "Jan. 86."

When sending your subscription try and avoid sending postage stamps. Five per cent. additional should be sent when stamps are remitted.

**Our Monthly Prize Essay.**

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on "*The Future Management of Agricultural Exhibitions*," has been awarded to F. H. Honsberger, Springfield, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on "*The Best Methods of Encouraging Our Beef Industry*." Essays to be in not later than Feb'y 15.

We purpose setting aside *One Hundred Dollars* to be expended annually in promoting the interests of the farmers. Several suggestions have been made to us with regard to the best method of expending this amount, some saying it could be advantageously given for prizes at exhibitions, some for the encouragement of farmers' clubs or agricultural education, some for the best conducted farms, etc. We now, therefore, offer a prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay or the best suggestions on "*How can the Farmer's Advocate best expend \$100 annually in the farmer's interest?*" Essay to be handed in not later than Jan. 15.

**Choice Premiums.**

Read our list of choice, new premiums offered in another column of this issue for sending in new subscribers. Send for sample and begin your canvas now.

We want good, live, energetic agents in every county to canvas for subscriptions for our paper. We pay a liberal commission to agents who devote their time to our work. Send for specimen copies. Address—  
FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, Ont.

The ADVOCATE is a welcomed visitor in our house; I cannot well do without it.  
HENRY PLUMSTELL, Clinton.

**Editorial.**

**The Moral of Fat Stock Shows.**

These institutions are rapidly gaining in public favor, and while it is desirable to encourage every good tendency, yet injurious influences are apt to creep in, which may lead to disastrous results unless checked in their inception. Every producer and consumer is more or less concerned in the production of cheap and wholesome beef; and as the farmer is the producer, also to a large extent a consumer, his interests are inseparable from those of the rest of the community, and should be regarded to be of primary importance.

We were told by a prominent member of the Oxford Fat Stock Club, whose duty appears to have been to increase the membership, that the farmers took very little interest in the success of the Club. He stated it was the townspeople to whom he was largely indebted for the cash received and the enthusiasm manifested. Exhibitors are compelled to be members, but it is optional with others, townspeople or farmers, and if all the members were on the option list, it is quite probable that the townspeople would be masters of the situation. It is a speculative affair from beginning to end.

We were told by a prominent butcher that he calculated to lose a few hundred dollars in purchasing prize steers, but he was compelled to do it or let his trade competitors snatch the reputation for enterprise. There were two sources of loss, he said; firstly, the fancy price paid, and second, large portions of the carcasses being unfit for human consumption, had to be made over to the ashery establishments, or donated to charitable institutions. He concluded by saying that such a style of advertising costs too much money. The merchant, hotel keeper, and other citizens of the town, run little risk in speculating with the membership fee of \$1; it does not require an immense crowd or a very pleasant day to reduce their risk to a minimum.

Under the present system of judging, the prize feeders are foremost in the ranks of speculators. Like the butcher, the feeder has to prevent the snatching of his reputation at any price. Unless he is a man of means he must aim at prizes with unerring certainty, or lose both his name and his investment. He must bring out the "highest possibilities" of his animal. An admirer of fat stock shows informed us that if the "highest possibilities" of an animal were brought out even at a considerable loss in the cost of production, this was proof positive that the animal had the most profitable carcass under lower possibilities; that is, in plainer English, the animal which can produce the most worthless carcass has also the greatest aptitude to produce the most profitable one. This argument may be quite sound from a fat stock point of view, but it is bad logic and worse common sense.

The present low prices of fancy fat stock are largely due to the fact that fashionable consumers are recovering their senses, and are losing their relish for famous fancy fed Christmas steers, even though nurtured by the tender care of so illustrious a feeder as our Government.

**Council Meeting of the Agricultural and Arts Association.**

The fall meeting of the Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association was held in Guelph on the 16th and 17th ult. There were present Messrs. Legge, Morgan, Parker, Shipley, Aylsworth, Drury, White, McKinnon, Reid, Moore, and Snell.

The first business was a consideration of the requests from different municipalities for the next Provincial Exhibition. A letter was read urging the claims of Stratford, and Mayor Gordon of that town appeared in person to emphasize its claims. A request was also read from Collingwood, claiming that this town had the requisite facilities for the exhibition. Chatham was also spoken of as a favorable location; and it was stated that tents could be used instead of buildings in the smaller towns. Petitions were then read from the Board of Trade and City Council of London, praying the Board to hold the next Provincial in that city; and a deputation of aldermen waited upon the Board to support these petitions.

A deputation from the City of Guelph was also entertained, urging the claims of that city upon the Board. After some discussion, it was decided to hold the Provincial Exhibition of 1885 in the City of London.

Mr. Drury, on behalf of a finance committee, recommended that the Government be requested to provide the following estimates for 1885:—Prize farms, \$250; Council expenses, \$725; Veterinary College, \$125; essays, \$100; salaries, \$1,500; exhibition, \$5,500; postage and printing, \$600; educational schemes, \$500; fat stock show, \$700; total, \$10,000. The last year's grant of \$1,300 for plowing matches was wiped out, and there is an increase of \$500 for exhibition purposes.

Mr. White, chairman of the committee appointed to select subjects for prize essays for 1885, reported the following subjects:—1. The apple; its importance as an article of commerce in Canada, and for exportation; the adaptability of the different kinds to the various localities; its propagation and cultivation; its principal insect enemies and the remedies thereof. First prize, \$30; 2nd, \$20; manuscript not to exceed 25 pages. 2. Underdraining; the best methods of underdraining the different soils of Ontario; the cost, and the practical benefits resulting therefrom. Manuscript not to exceed 20 pages; 1st prize, \$30; 2nd, \$20.

Some of the members of the Board thought the apple essay would trespass upon the grounds of the Fruit Growers' Association; and Mr. Snell suggested the substitution of an essay in connection with the relation between farm employers and employes. After some discussion the essays as recommended by the committee were adopted.

A report of the committee in relation to the request made by the Department of Agriculture of the Dominion, asking for a collection of grain, roots, etc., to be sent to the Industrial Exhibition at Antwerp, in Europe, was adopted. The report stated that these products had already been forwarded.

It was moved by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. White, that the date of the next Provincial Exhibition in London, be from the 7th to the 12th of September. The motion created considerable discussion, and Mr. Reid wished his