

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the first and fifteenth 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, dairy-men, gardeners, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
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"BEYOND PRAISE."

COMMENTS FROM ALL QUARTERS ON THE CHRISTMAS
NUMBER OF THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

C. B. Beanan, Prescott Co., Ont.:—"The Christmas number is beyond praise."

John Renton, Deloraine, Man.:—"The Christmas number is very fine, the best I have ever seen."

W. J. Sackville, Bewdley, Ont.:—"We all consider the ADVOCATE the best paper on the continent."

Principal Sheraton, Wycliffe College, Toronto, Ont.:—"I was greatly pleased with the Xmas number. It is the best thing of the kind I have ever seen."

William Sharman, Souris, Man.:—"I beg to congratulate you upon the handsome and interesting character of the Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. It certainly is the best yet."

C. E. P., Hyde, N.-W. T.:—"I feel very thankful to you for the answer to my veterinary question, which appeared in December 5th. Your journal costs \$1.00, but saves thousands in return."

George Rankin, Hamiota, Man.:—"Just received your Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and I think it is the best yet. I am sending it to the Old Country."

W. E. Baldwin, Manitou.:—"The Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is by far the best illustrated farmer's paper that has ever struck this Province. The farm and stock illustrations are very tastefully gotten up. The issue is indeed an ornament and a credit to the publishers."

John Gregory, Antigonish Co., N. S.:—"The Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has arrived, and I must congratulate you upon the success of your undertaking. It is by far the finest number of any agricultural paper I have ever seen. The illustrations are very fine, and more than anything else will serve to show what can be done by skill and perseverance in building up a farm in Canada. With best wishes for a happy and prosperous New Year."

W. W. Kenney, Wellington Co., Ont.:—"We like the ADVOCATE very well. The Xmas number is a gem."

G. N. Gerrow, Ontario Co., Ont.:—"Your Xmas number is, I consider, a great work of art, the best I have ever received from any publisher."

Peter Smith, Kent Co., Ont.:—"I consider the Christmas number worth the subscription price. All my neighbors around take the FARMER'S ADVOCATE."

C. S. Barney, one of the directors of the New York State Agricultural Society, writes:—"Please send me your paper for one year. Mr. Frank Parr sent me your Christmas number, and I have enjoyed it very much."

A. V. Wallace, Lamont, N. Y., Jan. 10th, 1899:—"I cannot pass this opportunity of inclosing a token of my admiration and congratulations on your Dec. 15th Christmas number. It is not only a fine work of art, but illustrates the highest type of agriculture, for which your magazine will feel proud."

W. A. Hale, Quebec, Jan. 11th, 1899:—"I must congratulate you upon the Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. It is thoroughly good in every way, free from the cheap chromo style, and admirably represents the leading agricultural paper of the most desirable farming country in the world. You have an important future before you."

Alex. Glen, Carleton Co., Ont.:—"I think it is as fine a Xmas paper as could be sent out, and could do no better than make my American cousin a New Year's gift of it, to show him to what a height of excellency a Canadian agricultural journal can attain, and the prominent position Canada has gained among the nations as an agricultural country."

A PERFECT GEM.

Senator D. Ferguson, Charlottetown, P. E. I., writes:—"I have to thank you for the beautiful Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE which you so kindly sent me; it is to my mind a perfect gem of its kind. The articles are good and the illustrations fine. Wherever this number of the ADVOCATE goes it will convey a capital impression of Canadian agriculture."

SURPASSED EXPECTATIONS.

Mr. G. de W. Green, of Toronto, writes:—"Please allow me to congratulate you on your excellent Christmas number, which, I venture to say, has greatly surpassed the expectations of your subscribers. The illustrations are the best and most lifelike I ever saw in an agricultural paper, and their value is increased from the fact that they represent farm scenes all over the Dominion. I hope the Dominion and Provincial Governments will circulate copies throughout Great Britain and Europe, for nothing will give intending emigrants a better idea of the advanced state of agriculture and live stock breeding in Canada than the admirable illustrations to be found in your Christmas number."

A SUPERB NUMBER.

The *Christian Guardian*:—"The Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, Ont., is a superb number. All interested in agriculture and in Canada's ability to raise stock, etc., should keep in touch with this live magazine. There is a valuable article on "Canada's Agricultural Resources and Her Opportunities," and many others of special interest to our farmers. Mr. J. W. Bengough contributes a stirring poem on "Miss Canada Abroad," which the poet-artist illustrates by his facile pencil. The home and children are treated to a number of pages full of interesting matter especially for them."

"DOES CANADA PROUD."

A Nova Scotia reader, in sending us a list of ten new subscribers, writes:—"I have much enjoyed the ADVOCATE during the past year, and must compliment you especially upon the very excellent Christmas number. I must say it is the very best agricultural number I have ever seen. I think you have hit upon a splendid way of increasing the circulation of your paper and I extend you my heartiest congratulations. It is something to be proud of that Canada can produce such a very excellent agricultural paper. Wishing you every success during the coming year," I remain, etc.

FROM THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL OF NOVA SCOTIA.

DEAR SIR,—I have to acknowledge receipt of the Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I must say that it is a publication of once beautiful and in every way creditable to its proprietors. It is a periodical which has already a strong hold upon the farming population, and yet I am satisfied that its circulation is not one half that it should be. It could be read with enormous advantage by all intelligent farmers throughout the Dominion. I should like to see it much more widely circulated in Nova Scotia.

Yours very truly,
J. W. LONGLEY,
Halifax, N. S., Dec. 28th, 1898.

STOCK.

Among the Ayrshires in Scotland.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

On my last trip to England this year, I carried with me a commission to try and import a couple of Ayrshires. It was not my first visit to bonnie Scotland, therefore I knew something of what was in store for me.

There is no question but that England is the most beautiful country in the world (that is, the rural part), but there is something about Scotland that makes me enjoy it better even than England. I think it must be the Scotch people. I have been visiting among the best farmers and breeders of cattle, horses and sheep of several foreign countries (as well as in the United States and Canada), and there is no class of men I more thoroughly enjoy than the Ayrshire breeders of Scotland. They are not only the most hospitable people I ever met, but, better than that, they are the best breeders of dairy cattle in the world. There is no other breed of dairy cattle that has been brought up to the same high standard in type, style, dairy conformation (and utility as well), as the Ayrshire "coo" of Scotland. I wish some of my Canadian friends who sneer at type, and style, and symmetry, and beauty of form, and go in for what they call utility (dollars and cents at the pail), could have been with me during the four days I spent in Ayrshire. I am sure that unless they are like an Englishman I once knew in Wayne Co., N. Y., who—getting the worst of a political argument, backed himself against a sugar barrel—said "I would not be convinced if I wer";—unless they are of that sort, I think they would have taken home with them such a picture of elegance, grace, beauty, carriage, symmetry of form, that when they came to compare it to their own work in their own herds they would acknowledge that as breeders of pure-bred animals for improvement they did not know their A B C's, and when they asked these Scotch tenant farmers the price of some of their most perfect shaped, perfect styled Ayrshires, and heard them mention sums from two hundred and fifty to one thousand two hundred and fifty dollars, see that they were getting such prices, and not from fancy buyers alone, but from their neighbor tenant farmers; and when they saw other cows in the same stable—utility cows—cows that will give as much milk in a year, perhaps more, go without a buyer at fifty dollars, they would be dull indeed if they failed to notice on which side of the Scotch breeder's (or any other breeder's) bread the butter is. Certainly it is not the thickest on the "utility" side. What I like to see in a man who pretends to be a breeder is that he spreads his bread thick on the *dollar side*, and then eats it with the dollar and the "utility" side up.

Call these figures fancy prices if you will, but don't say, as many do, that it is only the rich, fancy farmers can have such stock. It is true that the rich can have such stock, and that they want such stock and will pay the price; but it has always been and will doubtless always continue to be a fact that these rich men must ever go to the Scotch tenant farmer and the everyday Canadian farmer to buy these cattle, for those and not the rich men are the ones who are the best breeders of all domestic animals. Look at the peasant farmers on the Island of Jersey. Many of them can neither read or write, but they can breed and grow a heifer to two years old, and sell her to Lord Rothschild, or the Duke of Marlborough, or to Her Majesty the Queen, or some wealthy American or Canadian gentleman, for \$750 to \$1,000. True, these American and Canadian gentlemen can buy an animal that will produce, perhaps, twice as much for half the money at home, but it is done up in such an inferior, uncouth-looking parcel, in such a carelessly bred animal as to style and type, and therefore beauty, that they prefer to pay the difference and get an up-to-date animal.

I send you herewith a few photos of some of the up-to-date Scotch Ayrshires, which will give you but an imperfect idea of the exalted state of perfection to which the tenant farmers of Ayrshire have brought their cattle. It has come to this in Scotland, that the style of walking, the carriage of the head, have alone been sufficient reasons for deciding the winner of a \$250.00 champion cup.

"You's a bonnie coo," said my conductor, "but sa can na walk fer a rood, neither could her mither or her granny." This was his comment on one of his own animals that had, as he admitted, justly lost a prize simply because she could not walk with the proper dignity and grace; or, as Mr. James Howie expressed it, "Sa wer na so queenly in her way o' going as the quays (heifers) that stood aboove her a' the show; a doot na she is as good a coo, but she failed a wee in the walking and they set her doon." There is another point the Scotch breeders of Ayrshires have given special attention, and a point, I regret to say, that has not been as well cultivated among American or Canadian breeders either as it deserves. We have, I fear, made the udder the center and circumference of our aim. This is all right as far as it goes, for I admit an Ayrshire cow with an imperfect shaped udder had better be left at home in a dark stable until the butcher calls for her; but breeding perfect shaped cows is such a particular business that we must not lose sight of any other point. The fault I wish to point out is the carriage of the head and the setting on of the neck to the shoulders; the next thing to a perfect udder that sets off an Ayr-

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