

**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.

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#### Our Monthly Prize Essay.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on "*Women as Farmers*" has been awarded to Mrs. Robert Warwick, Wingham, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will also be given for the best original essay on "*The best Methods of Encouraging Tree-Planting on Farms*." Essay to be handed in not later than Nov. 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on "*The Future Management of Agricultural Exhibitions*." Essays to be in not later than the 10th December.

#### Read This!

Examine your address label, and if your subscription has expired, or is about to expire, please renew at once.

#### Choice Premiums.

Read our list of choice, new premiums offered in another column of this issue for sending in new subscribers.

#### 1885.

The remaining numbers of the **FARMER'S ADVOCATE** for the present year will be sent free to those new subscribers for 1885 who send in their names now.

We want live, energetic agents in every county to canvas for subscribers to our paper. We pay a liberal commission to agents who devote their time to our work. Send for specimen copies.

Keep down barn-yard odor.  
Are your implements under cover?  
An impostor—The straw-stack king.  
Autumn is the germ of the harvest time.  
A well summered animal is half wintered.  
Change from pasture to stall feeding very gradually.  
Icelanders numbering 580 have settled in Manitoba.  
Cattle feeding now belongs to the higher mathematics.  
Purslane only abounds on a rich soil. It is good food for hogs when fed green.  
The farmer is the only business man who persistently conducts certain branches of his business at a loss.  
Some dairymen in the United States are beginning to save fodder by giving their cows artificially warmed water.

### Editorial.

#### How to Organize Farmers' Clubs.

The idea of an organization or a club is usually associated in the farmer's mind with a crowd of people. The sooner they disabuse themselves of this impression the sooner will they become a powerfully organized body, equipped to procure their rights and defend themselves against the ever-increasing assailants of their interests.

Every fireside gathering of two or three neighbors on a winter's evening is a farmers' club, and the only thing required is for the members to know it. Every return of a friendly visit constitutes a separate meeting. The only difference between this sort of a club and the largest one in the land is in degree, the former one being the first step and the latter the last. The only ground for complaint is the hesitancy between the first step and the second. If there are only two farmers present at one of such meetings, and the subject in dispute or debate cannot be satisfactorily concluded by the leader of the affirmative or the negative, one of the ladies present is usually in the chair. If it should now occur to one of the members present that a considerable amount of talk and time is being wasted on account of a lack of system, the foundation of a great and successful club is complete. This little pivot has become the fulcrum of the lever which moves the world.

The first thing that suggests itself in economizing time is to convert talking into speaking. Instead of both leaders talking at once or presenting one argument at a time, let the leader of the affirmative present all his points first, and in order to prevent clashing, let him stand upon his feet, indicating the length of time he requires to point out his side of the case. This is speaking—the parent of action. The speaker who feels frustrated at the conclusion of the argument will naturally ask for time to consider the next question, and a subject for debate for the next meeting will accordingly be decided upon. Before a week expires these changes will get abroad through the whole neighborhood. Curiosity will draw one neighbor to attend the next meeting; another will be drawn by the interest which he feels in the subject to be debated. There are now four members in the club. If one member now relates what transpired at the previous meeting he is the secretary, and if another suggests that each speech shall not exceed ten minutes, or that each speaker shall not speak more than three times, he is the president of the club. After a few weeks the secretary will likely suggest that he can't carry all the proceedings in his head, and somebody will then propose that each member subscribe a penny to get some paper and pencils, and if the secretary offers to account to the other members for the way he spends their money, he is also treasurer of the society. It will soon be found that a good deal of time is wasted in discussing routine details. If two or three members, on their way home from the meetings, discuss suggestions which would be promptly accepted by club, they would form a committee of management. The second stage of organization is now complete.

By and by it will be found that the fireside accommodation of the farmer's house is too limited, and the school house should now be utilized. It will be found that the questions of the most practical and vital importance have all been discussed, and new light will be required; other farmers' experience should now be compared with their own, and finally the combined experience of mankind systematically arranged. The latter is called science—or, in common parlance, "book-farming." The farmer who concludes that his experience may be of use to other farmers casts his vote in favor of science. The question now to be decided is, Where is the necessary information to be obtained?

It is an error to suppose that the constitution and by-laws of other organizations should be copied. This has often proved the ruination of many a club; for the natural aims and rules of no two societies can scarcely ever be exactly alike. Let the name and objects of the club be drawn from the bents and circumstances of the people of the locality, and written down under the heading of "constitution." The regulations governing the officers, members, meetings, etc., come under the head of "by-laws." The rules of order being naturally identical in all organizations, small and great, can with propriety be copied.

The aim of organizations is to help their members, and where burdens exist, they are shifted on the shoulders of the unorganized portions of the community. The interests of the plain farmers are therefore in the greatest jeopardy.

#### The Proposed Bureau of Agriculture.

It being announced that the Dominion Government have determined to establish a Bureau of Agriculture, it becomes the duty of every farmer to inquire into the origin and tendencies of such institutions. It is to embrace two distinct features, viz., (1) an experiment station, and (2) a bureau of statistics. It is to be a counterpart of similarly named institutions in other countries.

The science of agriculture may be said to have had its origin half a century ago, and since that time various experiment stations have been established until they now number 140 on the continent of Europe alone. The earliest stations were founded by societies of practical farmers, and their usefulness soon became so great that the governments undertook to foster them, but it is to the individual energy of the great experimenters of Germany and France that we are indebted for the agricultural science of continental Europe.

In England we find a different aspect of affairs. About the same time English agriculture was in a most deplorable condition, and every change was regarded as a benefaction by the tillers of the soil. Relief soon came, not by any sympathy or support from the government, but by the means and enterprise of Sir J. B. Lawes, aided by Dr. Gilbert, who established an experiment station at Rothamsted. There are now three stations in England, all free from government influence, and it is conceded that the universal worth and fame of the Rothamsted experiments are chiefly due to their freedom from government control. England is now the foremost country in the world in her