

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WILLIAM WELD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the 1st of each month. It is impartial and independent of all classes or parties, judiciously 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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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.

A prize of \$5 has been awarded to Mr. E. B. Smith for the best original essay on *The most Economical and Healthful System of Feeding Farm Horses, including Working Animals, Brood Mares and Growing Cols.*

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on the subject: *What is the Average Cost to the Farmer to Rear a Steer to the Age of Thirty Months, said Steer to be Sold Fat at that Age. How Much Profit is Derived? If there is a Profit, How Can it be Increased?* All essays must be handed in not later than January 15th.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *What Profit is Derived from the Average Canadian Dairy Cow? Can this Profit be Increased? How?* All essays on this subject to be handed in by the 15th of February.

Editorial.

Editorial Notes.

From a Northwest exchange, we learn that land has been in good demand recently. The Hudson's Bay Company has sold more lands this year than in the last five, and the sales by the Canada Northwest Land Co. and C. P. R. Land Department have been equally great. The most gratifying feature in these sales is that they have always been made in small lots and mostly to resident farmers, wishing to make sure of an extension of their present holdings. Sales have been quite as brisk since the frost as ever before; the October sales of the C. P. R. have surpassed those of any previous month. Private dealers tell the same story.

The show of the Poultry Association of Ontario, which will be held at St. Catharines, on January 8 to 11 inclusive, promises to excel any previous record. The local association of that place is giving a silver cup for the largest exhibit. The Secretary, Mr. Robert Hammill, donates a gold medal, value \$10, as a special on Brown Leghorn cockerel. It is the intention to have a special on every section besides the regular prizes. Specials will be donated, not taken from the funds of the Association.

The Farmers' Institutes.

"The Institute" meetings are just commenced for this season; one was held in London on the 20th ult. Several good speeches were delivered on agricultural topics and relative subjects, but few farmers attended. The directors of each institute should be well spread out over each county. Each municipality should have representatives, and whenever it is determined to hold meetings local committees of energetic men should be appointed to advertise and work up an interest. The Institute is the farmers organization, and by it he can become what he ought to be, the controller of the province. Those who have been successful in any particular branch should be asked to read papers on such subject, which should be thoroughly discussed. Again, any particular grievance which the farmers wish to overcome should be discussed and re-discussed throughout the land, and through their central organization brought to the notice of the Government in such a way that those hon. gentlemen will be inclined to heed. United action on any particular line will always bring the farmers out victorious. Professor Robertson is now advocating reforms in our school system which should receive the hearty support of every farmer in Canada. He advocates the introduction of agricultural text books into all public schools.

Ontario is an agricultural province. Why should our boys and girls be taught about everything else, and left in ignorance, as far as our public schools go, in regard to the occupation by which they must earn their daily bread? Farmers have long felt that things were not right in this particular, but as a class they are slow to raise their voice in any public matter; but the day has come when our farmers can and should let their voices be heard in determining the policy of our rulers. Go and hear the Professor, and give him your hearty support, for he deserves it.

The Model Farm.

When at Guelph last month we visited the "Farm" and Collega. They have now eighty-five students, sixty-five of which are Canadians, so we were told. They could accommodate a good many more at a small additional expense. Since the fire they have sold nearly all their original stock, but are wintering still more than they ought, considering the fact that the greater part of all the food consumed has to be bought, most of which is high. Straw, which they need badly, is scarce and hard to get. They have a flock of thirty-six sheep, composed of different breeds, which are the best lot we have ever seen on the farm. They have also kept four bulls, one of which was recently bought, one Holstein cow, one Polled Angus cow and heifer, two female Galloways, and eleven grade milch cows which have been in milk an average of seven months, and are not a particularly choice lot. If milk could have been procured, as we think it might have been, it would have been much better to have sold these instead of buying feed for them; it is doubtful if they will pay for their feed and care with the milk they will yield. They have also kept six teams for the use of the college and farm, surely four could have done the work required this winter, and if more are needed in the spring they can be easily procured. Buying feed for idle horses will be found rather expensive at the present price of hay. Removing old fences and stone heaps, and cleaning up generally is being vigorously prosecuted. There are lots of chances for this kind of work on the farm. Teams and men were busy cleaning up about the ruins left by the fire. All possible speed should be made at once toward re-building. Buildings have to be erected, and the sooner they are completed the better. Every advantage should be taken of the present fine weather and the work prosecuted most energetically. If this is not done, the work of building will interfere with next year's operations on the farm more than they should.

You will greatly oblige by inserting my advertisement in the January issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. Although I have advertised in many other papers, some of them leading journals, yours is the only one I receive answers from. W. J. Bell, Banda, Ont.