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THIRTY-SIX PAGES

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

VOL. XVIII.

LONDON, ONT., MARCH, 1883.

No. 3

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

FOUNDED 1869

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE —AND— HOME MAGAZINE.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE 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 or stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

1. \$1.00 per year, in advance, postpaid; \$1.25 in arrears. Single copies, 10 cents each, postage prepaid.
2. Subscriptions can commence with any month.
3. Remittances at the risk of the subscriber unless made by registered letter or money order.
4. Subscribers who desire to change their P. O. address will send both old and new address.
5. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is continued until otherwise ordered. The name of a subscriber is taken off from our list with the same promptitude in all cases that it is put on, provided all arrears are paid up, but we cannot stop a paper unless the name of the Post Office, as well as that of the subscriber, is sent to us.

ADVERTISING RATES:

Will be furnished on application, and manufacturers, seedmen, stock breeders and others will find this journal an unrivalled advertising medium.

The ADVOCATE has the largest circulation among the best people in Canada. Its advertisements are reliable and are read.

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

Our Address Labels.

Our subscribers will bear in mind that no notice is now given of expiration of subscription, as the "address label" is a sufficient notice, showing as it does the date up to which the subscription is paid, or from which the subscription is due.

Receipts are no longer necessary. Each subscriber can ascertain by the change of his date on his "address label" whether his remittance has been received. If forwarded after the 25th the change will not probably be made until the second issue from date of remitting.

In this issue we give you an engraving of the "Soja Bean," of which Dr. Sturtevant, of the New York Experimental Farm, says:

"The soja bean, which serves such a universal food purpose in Japan and other Asiatic countries, seems from our one year's trial well deserving of encouragement. Enormously prolific, abounding in foliage, apparently hardy, and sufficiently hardy to mature in our climate, it seems well adapted for general trial, not only through these circumstances mentioned, but also as being the most nutritious of all known plants, and according to some German authorities, extremely relished by stock. Trials with this should be at first upon a small scale, and the plants should be treated as beans, that is, planted in hills and hoed during early growth."

To any of our subscribers who wish to try the Soja Bean, and send us their experience, we will on receipt of a new name and one dollar send them per mail a package for trial.

Also, on receipt of two new names and \$2.00 we will forward a plant of the Hydrangea Grandiflora.

Scan our advertising columns and give our advertisers a trial. If you don't find there what you wish to purchase drop a card to this office.

"THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE" PRIZE OF \$100

given annually by Wm. Weld, Editor and Proprietor of this paper, will be awarded at the next Provincial Exhibition, to be held at Guelph, Ont., from the 24th to the 29th of September, inclusive, for the best samples of wheat.

The prize will be divided as follows: Two prizes of \$30 and two of \$20 each. The first prize of \$30 to be given for the best variety of fall or winter wheat for the general farmer to raise, and \$20 for the second best variety of fall or winter wheat; \$30 for the best variety of spring wheat, and \$20 for the second best variety of spring wheat.

RULES.

Two bushels or 120 pounds of the wheat to be exhibited. The name of the wheat, together with a written description, to be given, stating where the wheat was procured, how originated or introduced, as far as can be ascertained, a description of the soil and situation on which grown, what fertilizer used, and general history of cultivation. (The wheat must have been grown in the country for at least three years.) Also a report as to its milling and marketing qualities—a practical miller to be one of the judges.

The prizes will be given to four distinct varieties, and the descriptions and reports must be furnished to the Association before the bags are opened, the reports of all competitors to be the property of THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE. It is not necessary that the finest sample of wheat should in any way effect the award of the prize except that the wheat should be pure, clean and unmixed, the object being to decide the most valuable variety from actual yield and general qualities.

Our Monthly Prize Essay.

Our prize of \$5.00 given for the best essay on the advantages and best results to farmers from planting trees, has been awarded to E. D. Smith, of Winona.

We will give a prize of \$5.00 for the best essay showing the advantages and results derived from the application of artificial manures to grain, grasses and roots. The essay to be the practical experience of the writer, and must be handed into this office before the 20th of April next.

We will give a prize of \$5.00 for the best essay on the following subject: The best five varieties of potatoes grown in Canada, and which are best adapted to the soil and climate. The essay to be from the actual experience of the writer, and must be handed in to this office before the 20th of March next.

To help your canvass send for a sample copy for a friend, or a few for your own use, and carefully read our Premium List, and have one of our Illustrated Posters put up in a conspicuous place.

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE should be in the home of every farmer in the Dominion of Canada. For my part I would not be without it. In my opinion the advice and suggestions contained in the ADVOCATE are worth, to any intelligent or inquiring mind, ten times the amount of the subscription.

S. H. E., Aylmer, Que.

Winter Wheat.

The heavy crust of ice that now covers the winter wheat renders it liable to smother. We would suggest that you would procure an iron rod sharpened at the point, with a wooden handle, and walk over one part of your field making holes through the ice to the wheat so that it may have air. The cost will be but trifling in comparison to the prospect of saving a crop. Try a ridge and leave a ridge, and report results.

By the Way.

Old fogy says, the old is good enough—enterprise says, give me the improved, and prosper.

To amuse the children, we spelled "ammonia" in big letters on a sloping grass-plot by the door, using sulphate of ammonia to do it. They say Ben. Franklin was able to spell "plaster" in green on some side-hill sward.

To test seeds, a certain number should be counted out, and planted in a box or flower-pot, keeping them in a warm room. By counting the number that grow, the germinating qualities can be very nearly ascertained, and thus sometimes a complete failure prevented.

Farmers trying to make a living off worn-out lands must stop selling their calves and pigs, and sell fat oxen and hogs instead, and they will soon see an improvement in the fertility of their land and in their bank account.

"Roll down the seedbed hard" is a bit of good advice by the writer on onions. A good question for an agricultural debate would be the "why" or why's for this practice of plowing ground up loose and then immediately packing it solid again.

Fifty years ago it was accounted wasteful and wrong to put manure anywhere but in the bottom of the furrow or under a thick covering of soil to make compost for meadows. Now, practical men and scientists agree in commending Nature's own way of making land rich solely by surface dressings.

All who are entitled to prizes, but who have not as yet sent their choice of premium, must name their premium before the 20th inst., otherwise we shall feel at liberty to send our own choice.

Every subscriber should win a collection of vegetable and flower seeds. Read in our January issue the grand collections offered for only one new subscriber for each.

Send for sample copies, and make a start immediately after reading this month's number.

Show your paper to your friend, who is not yet a subscriber, and send along two or three new names.

We hope that none of our subscribers will miss having a Russian Mulberry, a Jas. Vick Strawberry or the Soja Bean to test this year.

Remember this is the last month during which premiums can be won for spring delivery. Send your names at once. Don't delay.

I do not think that I cast any reflection upon farmers, when I say that the system of working of those who take no agricultural journal must be as a ship without a compass going by chance. And for all branches of farming, in my estimation, the articles that appear in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE are the most instructive.

D. C., Wavybank, Man.