



FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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The Farmer's Advocate!

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY WILLIAM WELD.

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ONT.

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Our rates for single insertion are 20c. per line—\$2.40 per
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should be in by 20th of each month.Letters enclosing remittances, &c., only acknowledged when
specially requested. Our correspondence is very heavy, and
must be abridged as much as possible.

State of the Crops.

The gold-producing garment kept the wheat well covered during the past winter; the spring opened favorably. Now we have as fine promising fall wheat as we can desire; every farmer is pleased who has fall wheat; in every place it is looking most favorable. Unless something unusual should occur, we shall have the largest fall wheat crop harvested that ever has been raised in Canada. We consider the crop safe.

The young grass plants are all alive; the land has been in good order for sowing the spring crop. The stock has come through the winter well; there are no virulent diseases among horses, cattle, sheep or swine in any part of our Dominion that we have heard of. The prospects of a bountiful harvest were never more promising.

PROSPECTS OF PRICES.

Our first crop to dispose of will be our wool. The market promises to be quite as good as ever for this staple. Butter and cheese will be in the market about the same time; for these the present price is high, and the prospects are that it may advance. The market now opened in England for our live stock is such that we may expect an increase in the value of all our stock; in fact, this is felt already.

A war cloud is hanging heavily over Europe; small clouds are beginning to show themselves where they were not expected. War, like fire, when once started cannot easily be controlled; no one can tell where it may end. It may increase the price of our products very materially; the prices without war prospects will be good, as our stocks are at a lower ebb than they have previously been. Thus the prospects of crops and prices are as cheering as they can be.

THE PRESENT FINANCIAL STATE OF AFFAIRS.

Crashes, failures, incendiary fires and burglaries

have been too frequent. Men in business have had great trouble to meet liabilities; bankrupt stocks have injured honest dealers; a great deal of merchandise has been sold below cost, and trade and business have been at a very low ebb. Very few merchants have been able to hold their own; expenditures for improvements have been very cautiously made; many weak and shaky institutions have ceased to exist. Cash has been difficult to procure; at the same time immense sums are being held by the banks. Farmers have been closely pressed to meet payments, and a general depression has fallen on all. Nothing could show it more clearly than the some three or four hundred letters that have been received at this office. They run pretty much thus: "Times are so hard I must stop my paper." "I cannot get a dollar; have payments to make; I like the ADVOCATE well, and will send for it as soon as I can afford it." These letters should be read by our legislators, because they are indicative of the depression among our producing classes. Some may censure us for publishing this, but a few hundred names off our list now will not stop this journal; a few years ago it might have done so.

The return of prosperity is very evident. The prospect of a good crop will cause holders of cash to seek investments for it. The in-coming crop, if at all equal to present appearances, will add to the feeling of confidence as every favorable day appears.

Wholesale merchants, bankers and capitalists pay quite as much attention to the weather as the farmer does, and base their works accordingly. Property will increase in value. The most successful and safest farmer is the one who attends to his own business, that is, to raise produce and sell it. We repeat this—to raise and sell it.

As soon as the wool market is fairly open, sell your wool. Do not wait for higher prices, or hold for speculation. As soon as your butter or cheese is fit to sell, get your money; do not hold for higher rates. The prices are good; speculators may gain or lose trading, and mercantile business requires as much learning as farming does. There are enough speculators and merchants. Let no war prices work your imagination, or cause you to withhold your produce. The war may soon be over, and the value of produce will then recede. We regret that war should be necessary. Canada may be called on to furnish aid to our mother country; it is our duty to respond cheerfully; in fact, we should volunteer our unasked assistance to strengthen the British lion.

We are pleased to feel a certain assurance of a speedy release from the tight monetary pressure from which Canada has been suffering.

The Great Shorthorn Sale of 1877.

This year the great sale of the season is to be held in the city of London, on Wednesday, the sixth of June. Mr. R. Gibson will sell his entire herd, J. Hope will sell his imported herd, Col. Taylor and several American gentlemen will add

some choice animals. We understand this sale is to be different to most Shorthorn sales: The cows are to have their calves by their sides; no barren animals, or animals with short pedigree, are to be offered; neither are culled bulls to be sold at this sale. Some leading breeders have desired to send animals to this sale, and their stock has been rejected. In many sales there is often a tail or fag end which comes pretty close to the head; this lot, from what we have seen and heard, are to be of a very high merit throughout. Gentlemen desirous of obtaining the best and choicest animals will attend this sale from all parts of the States and Canada. Every farmer desires to obtain a better animal than he has; some will begin by using a grade bull, next a half-bred animal, then a short-pedigree animal. The best farmers always desire something better than they have. It is from such a sale as this that the greatest improvements are made.

The Provincial Exhibition for 1877.

To the Directors of Canadian and American Railroads:—

As cheap postage has so greatly increased the transmission of letters, in a similar manner cheap rates might induce increased travel. As letters increase traffic and trade, so does the increase of passenger traffic increase freight. Also, persons once induced to travel, are more desirous to travel oftener. The great success of the Centennial Exhibition was greatly due to the cheap rates allowed on the American lines. It also resulted in an immediate profit to the railroad companies, and has increased the desire to travel in future. The rates from some cities to Philadelphia and return were one-third the usual rates. We believe you will find it much to the advantage of your present and future receipts to allow passengers to pass over your several lines, at a cheap rate, to attend this Exhibition, which is to be held in the City of London in September.

The Exhibition Grounds are the best and most conveniently situated in Canada. The railway facilities are unequalled, not only affording direct communication to all parts of Canada, but also being situated on the direct line of rail between the Atlantic and Pacific, thus affording the Americans an opportunity of seeing the Exhibition without extra travel. The finest farming lands are in this locality. There has always been a larger exhibit of stock in London than at any other place in Canada, and the present Exhibition promises to exceed any previous one.

We would respectfully request that our Canadian railroad managers should allow passengers to visit this Exhibition at one-third the usual rates per return ticket, on all their lines; and that our American neighbors would grant return tickets to our exhibition at half rates on their lines, as Canada contributed so handsomely towards making the Centennial Exhibition a success. This small favor might be granted to make our Exhibition a success. Having been requested by the Managing Committee of the Association to endeavor to obtain favorable passenger rates, I shall be pleased to have your reply to the above request.

Yours respectfully, W. WELD.