

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 cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners or 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.—It is not necessary for essayists to agree with our policy, so long as they give sound reasons for differing from us.

3.—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.

4.—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, the sum being decided by ourselves in each case, and the essay will appear in the same or in a succeeding issue.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *What Out-door Work should Farmers' Wives and Daughters Perform?* has been awarded to Miss J. D. Thomson, Brooklin, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *The Best Education for Farmers' Sons and Daughters who Remain on the Farm*. Essays to be handed in not later than June 15th.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Agricultural Exhibitions as Educational Institutions for the Farmer and his Family*. Essays to be handed in not later than July 15th.

In W. Atlee Burpee & Co.'s Farm Annual for 1886, Philadelphia, the credit is awarded to Mr. Charles Hewitt, of Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, of having grown the largest squash on record, 292 lbs., exhibited at the Dominion Exhibition in St. John in 1883, and in 1885, in competition with the United States, of having won first and second prizes, \$25.00 and \$10.00 for mammoth squash with 262 lbs., and 223 lbs., and first of \$25.00 with 206½ lbs., for mammoth pumpkin.

Editorial.

On the Wing.

HOMEWARD BOUND.

S. S. Parisian, April 26.—How many homes can a person claim? We leave our adopted home, Canada, for our native home, Great Britain. Duties call us—we have left dear friends, we expect to meet dear friends.

We are now in mid-ocean, on Canada's staunchest steamship, plowing through the mighty billows at the rate of 14 miles an hour, propelled by the united strength of 6,200 horses, centered in the shaft that keeps the screw in ceaseless revolution. This power is given by the use of 110 tons of coal per day. Everything is going on smoothly and in the best possible order.

The vessel is 450 feet in length, 48 in breadth, 36 in depth from the upper to the lower deck. She is drawing 25 feet of water. We have on board 90 cabin, and 110 intermediate and steerage passengers; officers, stewards, engineers and men number 140. All the passengers speak in the highest terms of satisfaction of the vessel. For our own part, we feel much safer and feel less liable to accident here than when travelling by rail, stage, or even on foot on land; we believe that statistics will bear out this idea. The conveniences, comforts and safety of this steamer are considered unsurpassed by any that cross the Atlantic. Every precaution has been taken in the construction of this vessel to make her as secure from danger as possible, being constructed of steel and iron, and divided into ten water-tight compartments.

The cabin passengers consist of statesmen, merchant princes, pleasure and health seekers, and business persons, all having their aims and hopes in view. There are two gentlemen from Ontario under the employ of the Ontario Government, and two from Quebec under the employ of the Dominion Government, to represent Canadian interests at the Colonial Exhibition, the object of these gentlemen being to set forth Canada in as good a light as possible, to induce emigration and facilitate the introduction of capital to our country. We have had conversation with the majority of the passengers, and believe that the best emigration agent we have yet met with on board is a Scotch lady—a relative of Mr. Carr, and a friend of the Heesors and Millars, of Markham—that is, if her words are reiterated and believed as we believed her voluntary expressions.

She came to Canada four years ago to visit her sister, a Mrs. Carr, at Campbellville, about 50 miles from Winnipeg. She remained there four years, and speaks in the highest terms of

the progress of her brother-in-law, and of that part of the Dominion. She says in regard to the weather, much dreaded by the ignorant, that the winters are perfectly delightful—that she would defy any one to find a finer winter climate, steady, dry, invigorating. She hopes to return to that locality again. She says she has visited a brother living in the Pembina Mountains, in Dakota, but the land is not nearly so fertile as that at Campbellville, Manitoba, and that Manitoba presents very great and decided advantages to settlers in many ways over the adjoining States.

The Commissioner of Agriculture's Advisory Board.

The all-absorbing question of this season relates to our creamery industry, and we are pleased to learn that the matter has been taken up by the Middlesex Agricultural Council. Imbued with the importance of the undertaking, we took a flight to the Model Farm for the purpose of inducing the Advisory Board, who were then in session, to make certain recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture.

We also desired to inquire what assistance they could render the Ontario Creameries Association, or rather the committee of that association who have been appointed to examine into the respective merits of the different instruments used for testing milk and cream, it being necessary to have chemical analyses made of the milk used in the tests.

The Board had been in session about two days, and we wished to consult with them before they adjourned, as no service could be rendered to the Creameries Association unless immediate action were taken, and we anticipated that their recommendations to the Commissioner of Agriculture would have great weight in bringing about the desired results before the season became so far advanced that all opportunity for doing good were passed.

Upon our arrival the Board was about commencing its afternoon session, and we asked permission to listen to their deliberations. Our admission was refused with an air of imperious contempt; we were told that they purposed holding their sittings in secret, that theirs was a meeting of a Cabinet Council, so to speak, as it were, and that they did not propose opening their doors to every Tom, Dick and Harry who knocked for admission.

"Gentlemen," said we, "you will lose the confidence and respect of every honorable farmer in the Province. You are paid by the people's money to advise on questions pertaining to our agricultural interests, and the

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