

## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN  
THE DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on the first and fifteenth of each month.
2. 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, and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.
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### The "Binder" and Other Premiums.

Whether to ascribe the selection of our premiums to good judgment, good fortune, or a combination of the two, we are not prepared to say, but we do know that the very many going out are meeting with the highest approval. Our "Binder" especially has made a decided hit. Not only do we realize that it will do us good wherever it goes, but we also have the satisfaction of knowing that every man who uses it as he should will receive very many more dollars' value from his paper than the man who does not file the numbers as they are issued. Here is what two subscribers have written us regarding the Binder:

John H. Mallough, Huron Co., Ont.:—"I received the 'Binder' in first-class condition, and wish to say that I am highly delighted with it. It is something I have long wished for. I spent hours among back issues the other day looking for two articles, viz., 'The Treatment of Wounds in Farm Animals' and a receipt given by some practical farmer for destruction of ticks on sheep. Had I used the 'Binder' each year I could have found the needed articles at once.

"The subscriber who tries to economize by doing without the 'Binder' is simply 'saving at the spigot and wasting at the bung.' What an immense budget of readable, up-to-date matter for the farmer, breeder, dairyman, fruit-grower, and poulterer the whole year's issues of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE will make! What an outfit for the canvasser! What an inducement to non-subscribers to subscribe at once!!! The experience of others gives us a push up the hill of life and puts money in our pockets."

T. B. Millar, O. A. C. Dairy School, Guelph, and Instructor for the Western Ontario Butter and Cheese Association:—"The new 'Binder' for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE which you are now sending out for the securing of two new yearly subscriptions is filling a long-felt want in enabling one to save his papers, which was without it not conveniently accomplished. I have saved all the copies since becoming a subscriber many years ago, but found it difficult to preserve them in a manner easy of access.

"I believe every subscriber should read, preserve and review all agricultural papers as a means of education, and especially such an excellent journal as the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. I desire to say in closing that you deserve credit and commendation for furnishing such a convenient and durable 'Binder' for such a small service."

Our collic pups continue to find ready takers. To-day is Wednesday (January 26th), and three have been ordered this week already. We have yet to hear the first shadow of complaint regarding the collics, while almost every recipient expresses extraordinary pleasure at having received such a beauty for such a small service. We provide either male or female, from the best Scotch blood.

The Bagster Teacher's Bible and other book premiums continue to give the utmost satisfaction. We could publish pages of the most flattering testimonials, but the demands on our space are too great. The jewelry premiums too are pleasing wherever they go. The most general remark regarding them is, "Better than we expected." While it affords us extreme satisfaction to realize that the remuneration our club canvassers are receiving for their efforts is so satisfactory, we wish to thank them for the excellent work they are doing for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and for agriculture, as wherever this paper goes it makes friends and improves the agricultural situation.

### Agriculture at the Recent Session of the Ontario Legislature.

The chief work of the recent session of the Legislature was the consideration of the estimates and the discussion of the timber policy of the Government. Other questions, of course, came in for a fair share of discussion, but these were the two questions of most importance to the country at large. There were, however, a few items of more particular interest to the agricultural classes. To these we shall briefly refer.

Extended reference has been made to the finding of the dreaded San José scale in Ontario in 1897. The danger was great and the Minister took hold of the question at once and with vigor. Some may think the legislation passed too advanced, but the fruit-growers who understand and appreciate the gravity of the situation appear to be pleased with the proposed radical treatment. The Bill gives the Minister authority to appoint inspectors to search for trees, bushes, shrubs and fruit infested with the scale. All infested stock must be destroyed at once. Compensation is provided for to the extent of one quarter of the value of all plants destroyed. All importation of infested stock is prohibited, and local fruit inspectors are required to co-operate with the Department officials. We understand that the Bill has been printed for extensive circulation, and we would advise all interested to send to the Department at Toronto for a copy.

The presence of the fakir and confidence man at our fall fairs has been notorious in many sections. It seems that in many cases the local officers have encouraged such persons by licensing them to carry on their pernicious work right within the grounds. The old Act provided for cutting off the grant in such cases; but little or no objection would be made by members and visitors. The Department got no protests. Now, however, there has been passed an Act which puts the matter in a new form. Here are the three sections of the Act:

1. No person shall carry on, or assist, or aid in carrying on any kind of gambling, or any game of chance, at an agricultural, horticultural, live stock, or industrial exhibition or fair, or within half a mile thereof.
2. Any person violating the provisions of section 1 of this Act shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than \$20 besides costs and not more than \$100 besides costs.
3. This Act shall be read with and as a part of The Agriculture and Arts Act, and shall apply to all exhibitions held by societies coming within the above mentioned classes, whether incorporated under the said Act or not.

It will be seen from the above that hereafter it will be a very risky thing to carry on gambling games at our fairs, and directors are as much interested in this matter as the confidence men themselves. The Provincial police and detectives will probably be heard from. Directors and officials from agricultural societies who have the true interest of agriculture at heart will welcome this new move toward purifying the exhibitions.

The Government has at last taken a decided step towards placing the conservation of our forests on a rational basis. The Commission on Forestry made a preliminary report, and the Government introduced a Bill providing for the establishment of forest reserves. Forestry is becoming a matter of great importance to our farmers, and it is to be hoped that the Commission will later on have something to offer in regard to the re-foresting of waste farm lands.

The following is a condensed statement of grants made by the Legislature, taken from the estimates as published:

Agricultural societies	\$76,650
Various associations	20,700
Farmers' Institute work	9,900
Reports, bulletins, etc.	15,000
Experimental fruit stations	2,800
Fruit spraying	2,500
Agricultural experiments	300
Eastern Dairy School	4,700
Western Dairy School	3,100
Pioneer Dairy Farm	1,000
Bureau of Industries	6,500
Ontario Agricultural College and Farm in all departments, including Dairy School	52,260
Repairs and maintenance	6,725
Public buildings (capital account)	1,950
Good Roads Branch	2,500
San Jose scale	7,500
Total	\$214,691

We notice that a change appears to have come over the Legislature, or at least some members of it. It is not many years since many of the agricultural grants were opposed and questioned. This year no agricultural grant was challenged. All parties appear to be more favorably inclined towards assisting the industry in a fairly liberal manner.

Renew your subscription for the "Farmer's Advocate" at once, and enable us to give a better paper than ever in 1898.

### Binder Twine and the Tariff.

By telegraphic dispatches from Ottawa we learn that an influential deputation of capitalists who have heavy interests in the binder twine industry nourished under the protective tariff have been interviewing the Government urging a restoration of duties which passed entirely out of existence on Jan. 1st, and stating that unless their demand was granted they would be unable to compete with the American twine and their factories would have to close their doors. In addition to the advantage of free raw material the duty during the past year was 10 per cent., and prior to the last session of Parliament, when the present tariff was introduced, 12½ per cent., to which the twine duty had been cut down by Sir John Thompson, who probably did not underestimate the importance of the industry, being a less rate of protection than that enjoyed by other manufacturers, but still sufficient to enable one factory to pay its shareholders a dividend of 10 per cent. on their stock besides comfortable salaries and a "nest egg" laid by. What the big cordage company's dividends on watered stock were we know not, but judging by the prodigality with which its affairs were conducted and the way in which half a dozen rival concerns were swallowed or handsomely bought up to lie idle, as they still are, they must have been such as to make the farmer "sweat." What was demanded by the deputation was a return to the palmy 25 per cent. days! We do not believe that any healthy Canadian industry needs such bolstering up to live and thrive. Upon theories of protection or free trade we have nothing to say, but in the farmers' interests we deal with conditions as they arise. The present Government took office pledged against protection, the leader declaring at the convention when the platform was adopted: "The moment the Government takes one cent from your pockets, and that cent does not go into the treasury of the country, that is robbery, to your prejudice." Without unduly disturbing important industries, the aim was said to be to obtain a revenue to properly carry on the business of the country. A revenue tariff is supposed to apply on articles in general use, not on such a commodity as binder twine, used only by the farmer. A tax on twine adds just so much to the cost of production of wheat or other grain, which reduces by that amount the farmer's return, as wheat has to be sold in the open market. The Manitoba and Northwest farmer uses proportionately far more twine than the Eastern farmer, and the employment of 300 or 400 hands in the factories (many of them girls) in Ontario and Quebec does not affect the price of his wheat one cent. Compared with other industries, twine-making employs few hands, about 65 prisoners, we are informed, being able in the season to turn out the 1,000 ton output of the Central Prison at Toronto, and 6,000 or 7,000 tons, all told, is about the extent of Canada's twine consumption. The bogey of the American twine trust, "protected by a 45 per cent. duty," is held up, but as a matter of fact the old trust does not control, large numbers of concerns being entirely outside of it, one of them alone making, perhaps, ¼ of the whole U. S. output. Considerable quantities of Canadian twine were last season actually shipped to the States, and if we are correctly advised all binder twine that does not run over 600 feet to the pound is admitted free under the new U. S. tariff, and that includes practically all but pure manilla twine, of which only a small quantity is used either in Canada or the U. S. Even if the American factories attempted to combine and send up the price, the Government prison factories at Toronto and Kingston, and the independent Farmers' Factory at Brantford, should be able to checkmate any such move. The farmer of the West feels that he got scant justice in the last tariff revision. He is a patient individual, and even though last season happened to be a good one, it will not divert his attention from the significance of this move. The reasons that led the Government a year ago to adopt the present tariff are still unchanged. If they were good then they are good still, and one cannot think that the Government can back down, thus opening the breach for a general break on behalf of barbed wire, etc., etc., even though confronted by capitalists whose pockets give them more concern than the condition of Canada's greatest interest—agriculture.

JOHN MCCLINTOCK, Norfolk Co., Ont.:—"I have just received your handsome premium Bible, and must say it exceeds expectations. Did old subscribers but know the sterling value of this premium alone the ADVOCATE should double its subscription speedily. Shall consider myself further indebted to you for this grand book."

In the FARMER'S ADVOCATE we published an extract of a United States journal on the subject of binder twine. It is out to us to promote the interests of a worthless twine-maker, which is a thorough test of the worth of the twine under which it is sold in every respect. The twine, however, is a pretentious week's exposure in the ADVOCATE, hundreds of dollars' worth of territory, the sale of which, as well as churning, as a response from a gentleman in New Brunswick, claims put forward in that Province in the calculation to decide the daylight between these sharks in Ontario where under some Ontario Farmers' Association.

DEAR SIR,—I will explain the matter before it will be floated in public should believe it to be who said he had was satisfactory, practical man, but his judgment; but about it, that is some \$3,000 in it, ada is being held mention my name upon the same.

It is described "Narcross Butt greatest seller of five minutes"—"from either sw 'make more but city of cream than the market"—"a scientific inexperienced a grade of butter, turned dairyma turn the wheel, rest"—"all of wh cheeky lies are of articles said in Chicago and prices are given according to the principle of this to be the same these columns pellar screw, speed. If the ent's letter de for all time to make an inv Separator" er ers of Canada such humbug firms. If any such schemes be sent us so Beware of nothing for nothing they are trying

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