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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 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 \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Full Work on the Farm*. Essays to be handed in not later than Sept. 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on the following subject: *Can a Provincial Exhibition, purely Agricultural, be made Successful and Self-supporting?* Essays to be handed in not later than Oct. 15.

Agents! Agents!

Active, responsible agents wanted to canvas for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. An excellent opportunity of seeing the country. Steady employment and good terms.

Editorial.

On the Wing.

FALL WHEAT.

Not having been entirely satisfied with the information gained in the eastern, northern and southern trips in Canada, of which you have had some report in the last ADVOCATE, we turn our attention to the west. The county of Kent stands pre-eminent as the wheat producing county of Ontario. No such extensive and apparently inexhaustible soil is to be found in any other part of Ontario. We met some of the best farmers and find that the Scott and Democrat wheat are still the favorites. The Mediterranean, Clawson, Michigan Amber, Fultz, etc., etc., have their admirers, and the recent introductions have more condemners than laudators. In the central part of Michigan the Fultz, Amber and Clawson wheat are more extensively

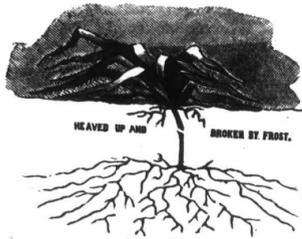


FIG. 1.

grown. The Scott and Democrat, we hear, are as yet more generally grown in districts bordering on Canada, but are there well spoken of, and are gradually being extended in their growth.

The drouth spoken of in our last issue still continues. The cereal crop has been very materially shortened; the root crops must now be unusually short; the apple crop will also be reduced; the corn crop is very materially injured, and potatoes will be small. Some farmers are now feeding their stock from the winter supply. Cattle in some instances have to be driven six miles for a drink. Pastures are dried up. What a contrast—this is now the 1st of August—from the account of our trip on the 1st of July.

SOWING WHEAT.

It is very evident that the early matured wheat is the most profitable to procure, and it depends on the cultivation. It is on the well drained lands—whether naturally or artificially—the best crops are found, in fact, the only profitable wheat crops. There are so many obstacles to contend against that our best farmers cannot ensure success. Possibly there has been more winter wheat killed the past year than ever

has been or will be again from one cause; that is, from the introduction of these beautiful labor-saving harvesters. For instance, we formerly ridged our lands high, left a very deep furrow and deepened our main outlets. These have been found extremely inconvenient and dangerous, both to men and the implement when crossing these deep furrows. To enable these harvesters to work, we may have kept our lands too level; this prevented the usual rapid discharge of the surplus water. This we must try to guard against in the future; should we be under the necessity of taking a little more time to harvest—even to use the old cradle in rough spots that cannot be properly prepared to use the harvester on. If we even cut over the main or dead furrows with the cradle, we must have the ground right to raise the crop; the saving it after it is raised will be more easily guaranteed. Winter killing has destroyed so much of the wheat the past season as to be attributable to three causes: 1st. Improper surface and under-drainage; both must be properly attended to. 2nd. The smothering of the wheat by water and freezing, thereby excluding the air. This we have materially lessened by breaking holes through the crusted snow; but this is impracticable when the snow is turned to water, as it was the past year. 3rd. The depth of seeding. This we believe has not received as much attention as it deserves. When our land was new we would sow among the roots and stumps of the newly cleared ground. The wheat could not be much more than half covered, and what was covered would only be out of sight; it would be hard to find an inch of soil on the wheat in any part of a field. We were not half as subject to have the wheat winter killed as now. The frost would heave some of it up; it would even turn brown, but after a rain the plants would show life, and generally an excellent crop was the result from a field that had apparently been destroyed by the spring thawing, freezing and heaving out. We never saw any of our new land crops killed in the manner we now have our carefully cultivated fields. The reason appears to be greatly attributable to the depth we sow our wheat, and any adjustable implement that can be made to do this work satisfactorily would meet with favor. The wheat will send out its main roots direct from the kernel. If the kernel is deeply covered, a long, spiral stem will be formed between it and the blade, as shown in Figure 1; the frost will heave the ground and break these spiral roots and the wheat is gone. By shallow sowing the root spreads near the surface; they will be heaved with the blade, many of them will be broken, and the wheat will often turn brown,