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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

FOUNDED 1866.

VOL. XXI.

LONDON, ONT., FEBRUARY, 1886.

Whole No. 242.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE —AND— 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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360 Richmond Street,
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Our Monthly Prize Essays.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *The Agricultural and Social Elevation of the Farmers*, has been awarded to C. H. Eastlake, Ridgeway, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *Clovers and Grasses*. Essays to be handed in not later than Feb. 15th.

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.

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Editorial.

Libel.

Farmers, under the existing libel law we are prevented from protecting you from the numerous frauds and traps that are set to catch your hard-earned money, or even your farms. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, of you are swindled every year; many a farmer has lost his farm on account of the existing law. We have known of hundreds of smooth-tongued, plausible talkers, that have been carrying on swindling operations and offering alluring inducements to obtain farmers' signatures under the most deceptive temptations. Even monetary establishments have existed, and we believe now exist, in which farmers place their hard earnings with the expectancy of realizing a competency for themselves in old age, or for their families after their decease. Should we mention a name, or a business, or a location, or even the mode of operation, as a guide to you, we would be liable to have an action brought against us by the perhaps penniless or unscrupulous person, and be liable to pay costs, although our statements may be true and we may be able to prove them. We have had experience in this matter. We exposed a discrepancy of an official; an action was entered against us; we were obliged to engage a lawyer, put in our defence and pay the costs, because the plaintiff never appeared. He cleared out; had he continued the case we should have gained it if we could have depended on having fair play. Had we gained we should have been obliged to pay all our costs, perhaps more. We are pleased to receive a circular from the Canadian Press Association in regard to this subject, as they are about applying to the Legislature for an alteration in this act. In this they may do a work that may tend to the protection of many honorable men in our country, and the exposure and condemnation of the fraudulent. We would suggest the change that no editor be prosecuted for publishing truth, either by criminal or civil proceedings, and some security for costs be obtainable, so as to protect publishers from actions by parties who having no property judgments of the court for costs are of no avail and exercise no restraint on them.

Several valuable cows died in North Atchison, Kan., on account of eating the refuse—tomato and pumpkin seeds, sweet potato parings, etc.—thrown out from the vegetable canning establishment.

On the Wing.

I was present at the annual meeting of the East Middlesex Agricultural Society, held in London. There were present many of the old substantial farmers, who had conducted the Western Fair since its inception, and had given their aid to it until it had earned the reputation of being the best really agricultural exhibition on this continent. The election was conducted in such a manner that it should cause farmers in all parts to be on their guard, and, in fact, should invoke the attention of legislators. The voting was conducted by the show of tickets held up; these tickets were placed in the hands of many individuals who never had taken an interest in the exhibition, one person alone purchasing 100 tickets in this manner. Farmers consider that their interest has been sacrificed for years past. The first vote showed the result. One lawyer nominated a lawyer and another citizen as auditors; a farmer nominated one citizen and one farmer; another farmer nominated two farmers. One person gave the word, "All up!"—the citizens were elected and the farmers rejected. record this as a duty, and to show you the necessity of farmers being more united. The old farmers opposed the disposal of the grounds; they still have the power of retaining the remaining half, and are desirous of so doing until the promised new grounds are handed over to their control. It is believed that the object of purchasing the vote is to elect a sufficient number of persons to enable them to carry a vote to sweep both the money and the land entirely out of the control of the farmers, who have strongly opposed turning the Exhibition into a mountebank arrangement, and the introduction of demoralising influences, to the injury of agriculturists.

I was honored with an invitation to deliver an address at the annual farmers' dinner in Brantford. This we look on as one of the most successful and most important agricultural meetings I have been present at for many years, if ever. It was composed of the leading farmers within 12 miles of the city, and the leading citizens and members of Parliament. The dining hall was so much overcrowded that they contemplate holding their next annual dinner in the drill shed. The inhabitants of this city and county are intending to exert themselves to increase the interest in their annual exhibition.

I wish them every success, and feel satis-