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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month. It is impartial and independent of all classes 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 FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
360 Richmond Street,
LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

Our Prize Essays.

We again have a large number of essays. This time on "Farm Fences—the desirability of doing away with them, or lessening their number." We found it extremely difficult to decide between them. All had some good point on which the writer enlarged, each one doubtless viewing the matter from his own position, which was the object lesson we sought to inculcate, in order to get our readers thinking on this important subject.

All are decided upon one point, namely, the heavy burden entailed by keeping up perishable fences, which are not only a bill of expense, but also a constant source of annoyance, one of the unsuccessful essayists in his case valuing the cost as high as \$1.25 per acre, which, including the use of land, computed from a ten-acre-field-crooked-fence standpoint, comes much nearer the truth than many suspect. Several useful ideas have been advanced as to the practical part of fence building, which we trust will be of assistance to our readers. Most of those writing (and we received over twenty on this subject) declaimed loudly against our present herd law, but none appeared to be able to make the provision for marketing cattle, this trade requiring fenced thoroughfares. On this point, as well as lessening the inside fences on the farm, we regret that the subject was not more thoroughly threshed out, and better plans for further relief advanced.

Editorial.

Farmers' Associations.

In this issue will be found articles concerning Dominion Grange, the Patrons of Industry, and the history of the Farmers' Alliance. We advise all our readers to carefully study all these articles. Co-operation and unity of action is a necessity for the farmers of the Dominion. The great trade and labor unions are controlling or harrassing the world to-day. If it were not for these unions, capitalists and mighty combines would soon reduce the common people to a state of serfdom. Throughout the United States the condition of the farmers is deplorable. There are a few who are doing fairly, but none who are receiving in return for their labor and capital invested a just return.

This state of things ought not to exist. No country can advance as it ought while things continue as they are. What is the immediate cause of the depression, and how can we as a nation rise above our present difficulties? As set forth in the article on the Farmers' Alliance, cheap money is a present necessity. The agricultural class throughout the Dominion are carrying a load of mortgages and other indebtednesses. Few indeed are relieving themselves of their burdens, but thousands are yearly increasing them. Unless help is given these struggling masses in some way or other, times will grow worse and worse each year. The party politicians assert that Canadian farmers are yearly growing richer, and that they are a prosperous class. The farmers themselves know that this is not the case. The time has come when Canadian farmers must forsake all party politics, and join in one mighty national organization and discuss fully the situation and determine the course to take. In this they must work together, as do the Knights of Labor. Only by thus uniting can they ever hope to obtain their rights. Divided as farmers are now as a class, honest politicians who wish to serve them either do not know what they really require, or receive so little support from the farmers themselves that they are rendered helpless. We were recently told by a leading politician that cheap money for the farmers is out of the question. Yet Canadian farmers should remember that upwards of \$20,000,000 was obtained for the C. P. R. by the Dominion Government, and that this same government now has upwards of \$50,000,000 in the post-office savings banks, for which they pay 3½ per cent. If the farmers of the Dominion could obtain money at 4½ or even 5 per cent. for the next twenty years the Dominion would prosper as it has never prospered. Though wise and well-meaning politicians

may render valuable assistance by opening up foreign markets, yet the salvation of our people is to be obtained by thorough organization. We wish correspondence on all the subjects referred to in this article, and also concerning the questions discussed by the articles previously referred to. We will be pleased to receive reports from the Grange meetings, from the Farmers' Alliance, the Patrons of Industry, or any other farmers' associations. Tell us how you prosper and what you think, and we will tell 20,000 farmers each month.

Cheering Prospects for Cheese.

Cheesemen have been unusually hopeful over this season's business. The market was practically bare of cheese to begin with. Mr. John Geary, Vice-President of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association, states that in nine years experience he has never known the prospects to be so bright. He looked for a keen demand and high prices, all of which, on behalf of the patrons, it is hoped will be verified.

The Canadian Cattle Trade.

Copies of a Blue Book containing the evidence taken during the enquiry ordered by the Canadian Government into the export cattle trade have been forwarded to the Imperial Board of Trade. It is to be hoped that in the next session of the Dominion Parliament legislation will be introduced authorizing the government to frame rules and regulations for governing the cattle export industry, and ordering the appointment of an inspector to examine vessels with regard to their seaworthiness, to see that they are properly equipped and ventilated and provided with fittings of a permanent character, to ensure a sufficient number of men being carried to properly attend the animals, and to take care that the animals are plentifully supplied with food and water and have ample space. It is thought that these proposals will meet the views of the most ardent humanitarian.

Summer Foods for Cows.

The profits of a season's dairying may be very largely reduced or entirely lost in consequence of a long drought in summer. Once the milk flow falls off in consequence of the lack of succulent foods it is most difficult to revive. We counsel our readers not to trust wholly to pastures. Plan a succession of green crops. Something in that direction may yet be done. Oats, peas, corn, hungarian grass, and millet may be used in this way with great profit, to tide the cows over a dry time. If possible sow where convenient for feeding, otherwise it may be neglected in press of summer work.