

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

FOUNDED 1886.

VOL. XXIII.

LONDON, ONT., JANUARY, 1888.

Whole No. 265.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

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 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.

Terms of Subscription—\$1.00 per year in advance; \$1.25 if in arrears; single copies, 10c, each. New subscriptions can commence with any month.

The Advocate is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance, and all payment of arrears are made as required by law.

Remittances should be made direct to this office, either by Registered Letter or Money Order, which will be at our risk. When made otherwise we cannot be responsible.

Always give the NAME of the Post Office to which your paper is sent. Your name cannot be found on our books unless this is done.

Discontinuances—Remember that the publisher must be notified by letter when a subscriber wishes his paper stopped. All arrears must be paid. Returning your paper will not enable us to discontinue it, as we cannot find your name on our books unless your Post Office address is given.

The Law is, that all subscribers to newspapers are held responsible until all arrears are paid, and their paper ordered to be discontinued.

The Date on your Label shows to what time your subscription is paid.

Advertising Rates—Single insertion, 25 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.

Address—THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, 300 Richmond Street, LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

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.

For the essay on *The Condition of the Canadian Farmer*, first prizes have been awarded to Thos. Beall, Lindsay, Ont., and Thos. Elmes, Princeton, Ont. The essays appear in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Soiling and Soiling Crops*. Essays to be handed in not later than Jan. 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Farm Accounts*. Essays to be handed in not later than Feb. 15.

Now is the time to subscribe for the *Farmer's Advocate*, the best agricultural paper in Canada.

Editorial.

Investigating the Condition of the Farmer.

A large number of our subscribers will find with this issue a blank sheet, the blanks to be filled out with figures. Our object is two-fold: we desire (1) to investigate truthfully the exact condition of our farmers, and (2) to instruct our readers in the proper methods of keeping farm accounts. Both of these objects are of pressing importance at the present time, for there is a class of people in our community who have political motives in misrepresenting the condition of our farmers, and who falsify all rational systems of book-keeping for the purpose of attaining the same end.

The reader will see by the blank form that, by our method of investigation, we do not depend upon opinions, for those farmers who do not calculate closely have not a proper conception of their own condition. Our object is to get at the cost of production of the various farm products, and in order to do so, it is necessary for us to know the time expended on the various farm operations and the amount of capital invested in the different systems of farming. We shall then have a true basis for calculation.

We do not ask each subscriber to fill in all the blanks; all we ask is that each should fill in such figures as he knows by personal experience or observation to be correct. We will be obliged even for one figure, providing the farmer who places it into the blank space is sure that he is tolerably correct; but at the same time, we would like to see as many blanks filled out as possible, for the greater the number the nearer we can get at the truth. It will greatly facilitate our work if two or more farmers club together, or embrace an organized farmers' club, and send us one blank based upon the figures of the whole club. It is not desirable that the farmer should give exactly what he has on his farm, but rather what he should have—that is, what is necessary to conduct the various operations of a 100-acre farm. Also with reference to the farm buildings—we want nothing said about dwelling houses—give the buildings which you actually require, not necessarily those which you actually have. Give the selling price of the land, including the fences, separate from the cost of the buildings. We want the cost of new buildings and new implements. The cost of the buildings must include your own labor, as well as all expenditures for other labor, and the cost of raw material. The size of the farm in every case must be 100 acres.

While we will thank you all for the receipt

of such information, yet you will be surprised when you find out how much you have helped yourselves by aiding us in this good work.

What is Agricultural Prosperity?—The Condition of the Farmer.

We are pleased at the receipt of a large number of ably written essays on "The Condition of the Canadian Farmer," two of which we publish as first-prize essays, each essayist taking views conflicting with those of the other.

We regret that Commercial Union should bias the opinions expressed by so many of our essayists. We are aware that many writers and orators, who are in favor of this scheme, have attempted to force our farmers into the ranks of the Commercial Unionists by disseminating the policy of discontent, and endeavoring to show that unrestricted trade with the United States is the only remedy for agricultural depression in Canada. Our policy has been to grapple fearlessly with the facts, and not attempt to soothe our adversity by false representations or glowing descriptions.

Before we can get a clear conception of agricultural depression, we must know how to define agricultural prosperity, and the truth lies in the comparison. First of all, every farmer should get a fair percentage on the capital invested, which, if we include risks, etc., should not be less than 10 percent per annum. Again, as he is not a mere laborer, but a farm superintendent as well, his wages, exclusive of board, should not be less than \$500 a year. If a common laborer, boarding himself, can make \$1 a day—say \$300 a year—it is a reasonable estimate that a first-class laborer, who has also to share the worry and responsibilities of farm superintendent, not omitting the extra education and intelligence required for a successful manager, should be rewarded with \$500 yearly. If, therefore, he has \$10,000 invested in his 100 acre farm, including stock, implements, etc., he should receive \$1,000 for interest, making a total income of \$1,500 a year. Admitting that he should be satisfied with less during periods of depression, yet we place the above sum as a reasonable average for a number of years, and business farming should not be placed on a lower basis. A skilful and prosperous farmer should be able to stock his 100 acres up to the value of at least \$10,000, but a much greater capital could be profitably employed.

We fancy we see the average farmer smiling when the sum of \$1,500 is mentioned as a net income. Having now to pay market prices for all the farm products which he and his family consume, he is now exactly in the position of the town laborer earning a dollar a day, and we all

Z 1115-406