

FOUNDED 1866.

**The FARMER'S ADVOCATE and HOME MAGAZINE**

Is published on or about the 1st of each month, is handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for dairymen, for farmers, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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**Our Monthly Prize Essays.**

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on "*How can Greater Confidence be best Secured amongst Dairymen, Patrons, and Dealers?*" has been awarded to Mr. D. Leitch, Mt. Brydges, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *How Should the Farmer Proceed to Improve his Dairy Herd (1) for Butter; (2) for Cheese?* Essays to be in not later than 15th May.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best original essay on *Small Fruit Culture as an Occupation for Women.* Essays to be in not later than 15th June.

A letter received on April 14th containing money, with no writing whatever, either in the letter or on the envelope. Peterboro P. O. stamp April 13th. The sender will please state the amount enclosed, also the kind of envelope used, otherwise it will be impossible to give credit.

There is no "general purpose" grass.

Breed for legitimate profits, not for records, pedigrees, and booms.

The best mixture for the production of good crops is brain and elbow grease.

In your seeding operations remember the saying: "Well sown, half grown."

A celebrated Arabian horseman says:—"The two greatest enemies of the horse are rest and fat."

Not only does the quantity of your dairy products depend upon your soil, but frequently the quality also.

That sour food is not natural for cows should be a strong argument against its use. At any rate it is common sense logic.

You need no science to teach you how to exhaust your soil; where the science is required, is in the restoration of fertility.

**Editorial.****On the Wing.**

THE WEATHER—CROPS—LAND IMPLEMENTS—  
EMIGRATION—POULTRY HOUSE, ETC.

April 20th.—The snow has now melted, but ice still remains in many places; at one place at the forks of the river in this city, it is still 12 feet thick on the banks where it has been jammed as it left the river. This we state to show how unusually late the ice has remained with us. The weather is warm and dust begins to fly.

We took the Grand Trunk on a tour of inspection, and go as far as Detroit. We stopped at Glencoe and saw a new harvesting machine at work in the workshop. To us it seems a wonderful improvement on all the binding machines we have yet seen; the great improvement consists in its taking the grain from the table, straightening the butts of the sheaf, binding and dropping the sheaf on its butt. It works automatically and dispenses with all belting and canvases. Any of the existing reapers can be built so that this binder could do work that is now done by the other binders, with the above advantages. There is only one of these machines yet made. Several leading manufacturers have been trying to get the right, but Mr. Aldred, the inventor, will not dispose of any right to make until he has made another machine, in which he thinks he will have some great improvement on the one now in use. It is our opinion that excellent as many of the present harvesters are, they may in another year be in the background.

There is an excellent foundry in Glencoe, which has recently been purchased by Mr. Swaisland, who is working with a full staff of hands, building reapers, plows, &c. He makes a novel harrow. The driver, by raising a lever, can lift either part of the harrow when in motion and remove any obstruction; also, he can turn the two side harrows up; by doing this he has two runners, and can draw the harrow about from field to field as if it was loaded on a stone boat.

We stopped at Chatham, in Kent county. This county has claimed the name of being the Garden of Canada, and for wheat production it has exceeded all other parts of Ontario. In this locality \$50,000 has been refused for a 300 acre farm; this farm, we presume, might have been purchased at \$5 per acre when we came into this country. The drainage and improvements have added to its value. There are thousands of farms yet capable of being improved and being made as valuable as this one, in this western peninsula. The Chatham Wagon Co. are erecting a new saw mill, and have a large stock of saw logs ready to cut into wagon material. They have every facility to turn out any number of wagons, and to select the material. Manson Campbell has an immense demand for his fanning mills, and turns out more than any shop we know of. An implement manufactory is also established here; they make 500 binders this year.

Here we took a livery rig and drove into the country. We called at Mr. F. W. Wilson's; he has a fine farm of 200 acres, and has commenced the nursery business; he has doubled his stock, his sales and the extent of his nursery every year since he commenced, and

bids fair to command a large business, as he conducts his business on strictly honorable and honest principles. In a field a long way from his house we noticed a small building; on inquiry we found it to be a hen house constructed by himself on a novel principle, which we think the best yet. We took a sketch of it (see page 140) so that you can adopt the plan; there is no patent on it. The building is constructed of 8 foot board, being 8x8x8; it is built on the runners, 2x4 cedar; it is double boarded, and the nests are made on each side, as shown. The hens get into it by means of a board ladder; it is locked, has a light near the door, and perches near the end where the hens enter. Neither man nor animal can get in to rob the nests or kill the birds. This can be drawn to any field on the farm, and in the winter it can be hauled up to the barn and partially covered with straw; by this means poultry men can keep numbers of these houses and keep their stock separate.

At Detroit we called at D. M. Ferry & Co.'s, to ascertain if there is anything new in grains or seeds of importance to you, but this year there is no particular novelty of merit.

After leaving Detroit we took the C. S. R. and proceeded to Essex Centre. This is quite a new village or town, which we think will soon be a city, as it is situated in the centre of the county of Essex and is the most rapidly improving place we have ever seen in Ontario. It was all woods when the Canada Southern ran its road through this part of the country. Saw mills were soon erected, and now stores and factories have sprung up; last year one foundry was erected 240 feet in length; now engines, boilers and farm machinery are made there, employing 60 hands and rapidly adding to their works. There the sound of the hammer proceeds; around there is work for all, and more are wanted; higher wages are paid here than at any other machine shop we know of. Good laborers are wanted. Land is cheap and good. Wild land sells in Essex from \$16 per acre; cleared farms from \$35 upwards. This is the most southern county in Canada. Peaches and grapes thrive to perfection; excellent grazing lands prevail, and this place is only sixteen miles from Detroit, one of the most prosperous cities on this continent. They have already a driving park, spring and fall agricultural exhibitions, and as for timber the finest white ash and hickory are burned in this locality. We saw some flowers in pots here; we enquired where they were raised, and were told in Detroit and 20 per cent. duty paid on them. The only sorghum sugar mill in Canada is erected at this place.

We remained one night. A shower—the first this spring—fell during the night. It was perfectly astonishing to see the change that had taken place; the grass was all green, and the soft maples had strewn the sidewalks with their discarded bud encasements, and the leaves on some of the trees began to open. It appeared as if the vegetable kingdom had been touched with a magic wand.

We returned to London via the Canada Southern and the L. & P. S. R's. On our way we walked through the cars and found nearly two car loads of returning, dissatisfied emigrants and speculators. The tales of many of