

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

PUBLISHED BY THE WILLIAM WELD COMPANY (LIMITED), LONDON, ONT., and WINNIPEG, MAN.

JOHN WELD, Manager. F. W. HODSON, Editor.

- The Farmer's Advocate is published on the first and fifteenth of each month.
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CONTENTS.

EDITORIAL:—
 317—Illustration. 318—Agricultural Depression and its Remedies; A Celebrated Guernsey Cow; Gloomy Reports from Western States. Corn Fields. 319—To Our Agents; Fruit Buyers and the Apple Crop Prospects; Grants to Agriculture; The Industrial Fair; Sherbrooke Fair. 320—Our Common Schools and Farmers. 321—The Winnipeg Industrial; National Live Stock Sanitary Association; List of Principal Fairs to be Held in Canada.

STOCK:—
 321—Chatty Stock Letter from the States; A Sheep and Swine Breeders' Association for Manitoba and the N. W. T.; Our Scottish Letter. 322—Cattle Breeders' Association.

FARM:—
 322—Filling the Silo; Fall Wheat Reports. 323—Farm Water Supply; Gypsum—A New Insecticide; Silage as a Food.

DAIRY:—
 Some Interesting Facts Regarding Practical Dairying in Ontario. 324—Summer Feed for Cows.

VETERINARY:—
 324—Dentition and Dental Diseases of Farm Animals.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:—
 324—Veterinary. 325—Miscellaneous.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD:—
 325—Apple Growing in Ontario. 326—Irrigation; The Flower Garden—Preparing for the Fall.

POULTRY:—
 326—Poultry on the Farm; Random Notes.

FAMILY CIRCLE:—327, 328.
 MINNIE MAY:—328.
 QUIET HOUR:—329.
 UNCLE TOM:—329.
 NOTICES:—331.
 STOCK GOSSIP:—331, 332 and 335.
 ADVERTISEMENTS:—329 to 336.

To Our Agents.

The large annual exhibitions, fall fairs and agricultural shows generally will soon be taking place, and promise to be as well, if not more largely attended than ever. In the past, many of our agents have been most successful at these gatherings, and we would again remind them to be prepared for the opportunity. Let us know what fairs you wish to attend, so that we can assign them to you, and have you supplied with the necessary outfit. We will supply the FARMER'S ADVOCATE from now till December 31st, 1894, for 35 cents. We prefer our present subscribers, their sons, or those heretofore acting, to undertake the work of securing subscribers. We are prepared to offer liberal inducements. Please write us at once for terms and sample copies.

Fruit Buyers and the Apple Crop Prospects.

We notice that a number of gentlemen from various parts of Ontario, a few weeks ago, in Toronto, completed the organization of what is styled The Canadian Fruit Buyers' and Exporters' Association. Resolutions were adopted and plans laid in reference to the approaching season's business, of sufficient importance to warrant us in directing the special attention of our readers thereto. We deem it advisable that fruit producers should be well advised as to the nature of the programme that has been arranged, because some of their proposals are rather too cool to be refreshing even in the hottest of August weather. No doubt there is room for considerable improvement in the apple trade, and had fruit growers lived up to advice frequently given in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE there would have been fewer complaints heard from buyers and consumers. This association should be productive of great good in obtaining advantages in shipping, uniformity of brands, etc., and it is to be hoped their efforts will be successful in that direction. They have resolved not to accept any "shipper's count" or "more or less" bills of lading, when shipping apples, but to insist on clean bills of lading. They pledge themselves also not to buy on what is known as the "so much and the rise" plan, or to give what is called a "bonus." A great deal of time was spent perfecting a "form of contract," which doubtless some of our readers will encounter ere long, and which we would caution them to scrutinize very closely before signing, always remembering that it takes two to make a bargain, and anything unjust in this ironclad agreement should be crossed out. The association decided to discontinue the system of engaging men on commission to assist them in buying and packing, and to pay them a regular salary by the day, week, month, or season, as could be best arranged. With competent, reliable men employed, the need of any "form of contract" is not very apparent. Sellers will be asked to carefully hand-pick apples, and to protect same from weather and soil till delivered, which we think is only reasonable. Good, honest picking and packing will pay the producers in the long run. The association proposes to bind sellers, in this contract, to board and lodge men free of charge while packing, a little arrangement that sellers, will have something to say about when the time comes. It was also "decided," so the report of the meeting reads, "to make all sellers of apples supply the barrels." Farmers will also have something to say about being "compelled" to throw in the barrels. No doubt, it would be a convenience to the buyers to get rid of the "barrel question" this way, even if they made nothing out of it. It is hardly reasonable to expect that small lots of barrels could be bought as cheaply from coopers as they would contract with shippers for.

Simultaneously with the report of this meeting newspaper paragraphs began to make their appearance telling about the enormous apple crop of this season in Ontario, and, in fact, of all the apple growing districts of the continent. Markets were going to be glutted and prices exceedingly low—about \$1 per barrel. After boarding and lodging the packers free, buying the barrels, etc., the farmer would have something handsome left out of \$1 per barrel! These glowing reports about the apple crop are entirely misleading, and are not warranted by the facts. Our observation and reports indicate that the Ontario crop will not average much over 50 per cent., in consequence of early frosts, dry weather, scab, etc. We have just received a trustworthy British report to the effect that the crop of the chief apple districts of England will not be more than one quarter what it was last year: France, a good average crop; Holland and Belgium, considerable less than the average; Germany, a poor crop, not equalling more than one-quarter of last year; Spain and Portugal, average crop, but the bulk of shipments will be over in September. The report concludes as follows:

"It is, then, abundantly clear that the great bulk of the crops on this side will be consumed before supplies from your side arrive, and that shippers need not allow any consideration of our crops to limit the extent of their operations. Given a good crop on your side, and gathered in good condition, there is every prospect of a large trade being done with this country during the ensuing season. Shipments to London may commence end of October, and earlier to our northern seaports."

As to the big crops in New York and other States, we know as a matter of fact that early apples have been going to New York during the past month, and an order came in for at least one carload that could not be filled. Our readers will do well, therefore, not to be misled by these inspired reports about big crops and \$1 per barrel, because the present prospects are that really good marketable apples this fall and winter will command higher prices in Britain than for some years past.

It is not desirable, nor is it necessary, that there should be friction between apple growers and buyers, but the former are not disposed to see prices systematically fixed in advance at a much lower point than supply and demand appear to warrant, and then to be coerced into granting concessions which simply mean cutting so much off prices. We desire to see fair and reasonable dealing on both sides.

Grants to Agriculture.

The following is a list of the grants for agricultural purposes voted by the Parliament of the Dominion, in the session of 1894, for the fiscal year extending from 1st July, 1894, to 1st July, 1895:—

Experimental Farms, maintenance.....	\$ 75,000
do. do. Dairy branch.....	25,000
To enable the Dairy Commissioner to promote dairying interests by advances for making cheese and butter within the Provinces, the proceeds of sales or products from such advances to be placed to the credit of the Consolidated Revenue Fund.....	36,000
Aid to Agricultural Societies, N. W. T.....	7,000
The Haras National, for the use of six stations for the Experimental Farms.....	6,000
Experimental Farms.—Additional amount required for maintenance, arising from adverse balances—\$3,000 in 1890-91, \$1,580 in 1891-92, and \$2,220 in 1892-93.....	6,800
To purchase a strip of land to make the south boundary of the Brandon Experimental Farm coterminous with the Assiniboine River.....	1,000
Printing and distributing of reports and bulletins of Experimental Farms and distribution of seed grain for testing by farmers; also trees and tree seeds.....	2,000
Additional, for promoting dairy industry in Nova Scotia, Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, viz.:—	
Additional travelling instructors in Nova Scotia for the whole year.....	300
Two travelling dairies in Manitoba and the Northwest—four men, at \$500 each.....	2,000
Travelling expenses, \$350 each.....	1,400
Three dairy stations in Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, at \$500 each.....	1,500
Contribution towards an Exhibition in the Northwest Territories.....	25,000
Total of grants to Agriculture.....	\$189,000

It will be observed that no appropriation was made for the Dominion Cattle Breeders' Association, a large deputation from which visited Ottawa early in May, although the Agricultural Committee, before whom their case was presented, unanimously approved a grant of \$1,000 to aid them in carrying on their work.

The Industrial Fair.

We have as yet failed to hear of a person who visited the Toronto Industrial Fair who came away dissatisfied with the programme and exhibits. Everything that is advertised is carried out in completeness. This year's preparation far exceeds that ever given before in the Dominion. The surroundings of the new buildings have all been drained, graded up and put in first-class condition for visitors to view every department with ease and satisfaction. In live stock, manufactures, dairy products—in fact, all the staple departments—the entries are much more numerous than ever before. Some entirely novel and brilliant spectacular features have been secured, which will doubtless prove irresistible attractions and fully sustain the reputation of the Exhibition. Just after harvest a little holiday is needed, and farmers will find a visit to such a fair as the Industrial a grand opportunity to add to their stock of knowledge regarding agricultural improvements.

Farmers who wish to keep abreast of the times and familiarize themselves with the latest results of mechanical science and invention in their practical application, will find themselves repaid many times over for the cost of a visit to the Industrial. The instruction obtained by even one day's inspection of the display may be the means of effecting large savings in outlay and inculcating practical lessons in the best methods of husbandry and the mechanical operations incident to modern farming that will prove of incalculable value. The customary arrangements for reduced railway fares and cheap excursions have been made. A host of visitors are coming from the United States.

Sherbrooke Fair.

The Sherbrooke Exhibition, which will be held from Sept. 1 to 8, is receiving special attention by way of preparation. A new covered grand stand capable of accommodating 2,500 spectators is taking the place of the old stands. Applications for space and entries are being received by the Secretary, Mr. R. H. Fraser, in far greater numbers than in any former year. All cattle and horse sheds have been renovated and made far more comfortable than formerly. The most expensive and attractive programme of amusements ever presented in Sherbrooke has been arranged for. Prize lists, posters and programmes will be sent applicants as soon as asked for.