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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WM. WELD, PROPRIETOR.

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The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month. 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 and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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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.

Our second prize has been awarded to John Robertson, Gladstone, Ont., for essay on *What Steps Should be Taken to Improve the Quality of Milk delivered at Cheese Factories.*

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *The Cost of Rearing a Sheep to the Age of Twelve Months, Eighteen Months, and Two Years Old Respectively, and the Profit Realized at the Various Ages.* Essay to be in this office by the 10th of February.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *Giving Practical Experience and Observation as to the Best Methods of Cultivating the Land in Manitoba and the Northwest*, with special reference to withstanding drought and maintaining the quantity and quality of the grain yield. Essay to be in this office by the 15th of February.

Editorial.

Manitoba Dairymen's Association.

Dairymen's associations can be made a power for good in the improvement of the dairy products of any country where they are properly conducted. The interchange of ideas at these meetings must prove highly beneficial. Any man that keeps half a dozen cows, and any farmer with a quarter-section of land should keep more than that number, can not afford to absent himself from their meetings. The first and most important mission of such an association should be to teach and learn the most economical methods of milk production, which can be most effectively done by an interchange of ideas by the members. After producing the milk the next matter is the manufacture, and lastly the marketing. Of these the first is most important, as stated by Prof. Barré, "success depends mainly on the economical production of milk." Now if we analyse the proceedings of this convention how much information on this subject can be gleaned from the proceedings: Not a trace, not a single reference to the best type of cow; no reference to the best systems of feeding; not a word in regard to the manurial value of different foods; not a word on the care of cows or rearing calves for best results in the dairy in after years; nothing concerning pure air, pure water, kind treatment or cleanliness and comfort in the stables; nothing as to the different methods of separation; no reference to the care of milk in any shape, form or manner; and in the manufacture of dairy goods, with the exception of the reference by Prof. Barré to the fact that a great amount of milk had been made into butter, that now lies moulding in cellars that would have found a more ready and profitable market had it been sent to the cheese factory. Was anyone the wiser as to churning, working or salting butter, or the best dairy utensils, whether brine or dry salting is preferable, or on any single point in manufacturing a first class article of butter or cheese? Will one farmer who attended go home with one atom of information on this subject to impart to his wife or even a point for consideration and discussion? Mr. Grant certainly made a good point in referring to eastern creamery butter being sent through the province to western markets, while our own butter lies in the cellars because it is of inferior quality. But how many of the butter-makers of the Province have any idea that their butter is inferior. But teach them how the work should be done and they will see more readily where they have been at fault, and make an effort to do better by adopting the more ad-

vanced methods. In other words, saying the product is not good, without giving instructions how to do better is of little avail, and will not aid in improving the product or securing a greater membership or larger attendance. It would be much better to have a two days session. At the "Portage" meeting, about four or possibly five hours was all the time available for papers and discussions thereon. There was no reason why there should not have been at least three sessions in the day, and if there were three the first day and two the second it would be better still. It is unfortunate that the membership is not larger, certainly it might be if greater efforts were made in that direction. A little more energy in augmenting the membership, and a little more spice in the meetings would work wonders in increasing the prestige of the Association.

The chief topic, or at least the one on which all seemed to dwell, was the necessity of a Government Inspector for factories. The directors were instructed to wait on the Government and urge the claims of the Association for assistance on that line. That any Government would take such steps, however until the Association has proved itself of greater use than this has done, is very improbable. If the same energy was expended in increasing the membership and extending the usefulness of the Association, the object would have been more nearly attained than by a continuation of this "urging claims" business. When the membership shall have reached a reasonable point, and the usefulness of the Association been fully demonstrated, there is no reason to fear that any Government will withhold reasonable assistance. Along this line the ADVOCATE is prepared to lend any and every assistance, believing that an energetic and pushing Association could and would accomplish much for the dairy interests of the country. To this end this paper will at all times gladly give the fullest publicity to any meetings of the Association of which the Secretary may give us notice.

The Arrow Milling Company built a thoroughly equipped roller process flour mill at Birtle this fall and early winter, which is now running full blast, much to the convenience of the farmers in that locality, who have heretofore been obliged to go a long distance to mill.

At Binscarth recently we saw King George, who when we last saw him was the winner of the Queen's Plate in London, Ont. King George was bred by Col. Peters, of that place, and was sired by the noted King Tom, dam by Sir Tattan Sax. King George is now the property of Mr. James Fletcher, of Binscarth, and although somewhat "gone" on the legs is still lithe and active as a kitten, and will doubtless be a useful stock horse for some time to come. Many people are of the opinion that the thoroughbred horse used on a moderately heavy mare produces the best general purpose horse for this country. Of this, however, we are not quite sure.