

# The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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## 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.

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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 prize of \$5 has been awarded to David Garvey, Ingersoll, for the best essay on *Potato Culture*.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *The Cheapest and Most Profitable Manner of Keeping Cattle during the Summer Months on High-priced Land*. Essay to be in this office by the 10th of June.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *Summer and Fall Care of Pastures, giving the results of useful experiments with pasture lands*. Essay to be in this office by the 10th of July.

We have had to hold over a great deal of valuable matter until next issue, one article from an English writer, in which he gives the English system of making Stilton, Cheddar and Gorgonzola cheese.

### Notice Your Label.

We are again obliged to call our readers' attention to the printed label which appears on each paper.

We find on referring to our books that a few are still in arrears. The price of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is \$1.00 in advance or \$1.25 if in arrears. If those who are in arrears will send their indebtedness at once, together with their subscription for 1889, we will not charge the extra 25c. per annum.

A label marked "Jan. '89" means the subscription is paid up to 31st Dec. 1888. All delinquents will please give this matter their prompt attention.

### Editorial Notes.

From very extensive experiments made in various parts of the U. S. A., we find that by carefully selecting seed from the earliest-ripening fruit, we can supply our tables with ripe tomatoes fully ten days earlier than we otherwise could. In some cases the Early Advance has proved the most prolific, while in other parts, Buists' Beauty, Livingston's Beauty, Cardinal and Mikado have excelled it as yielders. The Acme is a moderate yielder, and the earliest ripening sort.

Do not forget to sow plenty of peas and oats and other crops for soiling purposes. Cattle should always be well fed and kept in good flesh. Every farm of one hundred acres should have at least five acres of Lucerne to cut for soiling purposes. Soiling, if properly done, will be found much more profitable than grazing, where the land is fertile and high-priced. Do not depend alone on your corn for this purpose; it should not be fed until nearly mature, or at least well grown. Sow some early-maturing kinds for early feed—feed rye, peas and oats, clover and lucerne—before the corn is ready. A small field of rape will be found of great value, especially to sheep owners.

It may be well to remind farmers again, that if smut appears in their wheat or oats next harvest, it is because they have sown the spores of the smut adhering to the seed grain, or that the field contained smutty grain last year, and the spores were lying in the ground ready to attack the crop. Smut, unlike rust in this respect, is supposed to enter the host only during the early stage or the growth of wheat or oats, hence the value of washing the seed grain in a solution of blue vitriol (1 lb. of vitriol or bluestone to every five quarts of water at boiling heat to dissolve), or in strong brine, drying it with lime dust. It is advisable not to sow wheat or oats in a field that produced a smutty crop last year.

### Editorial.

#### Some Hints on Potato Growing.

Do not allow the potatoes you intend for seed to sprout before planting. After they are cut sprinkle plentifully with land plaster, and do not put them together in heaps, or they will heat, which injures or totally ruins the seed according to the amount of heat developed. Stable manure should not be put in the drills; it is safer and produces a better quality of potatoes to apply it broadcast. Clover stubble plowed in the fall and properly worked in the spring, produces fine potatoes. If planted on old sod, wire worms sometimes injure the crop. After the potatoes have been planted, and the small weeds have commenced to grow, harrow well with a light harrow, and continue to do this at intervals until the crops are an inch or two high, this will save much hard labor. Professor Samuel Johnston, of the Michigan Agricultural College, has been making experiments with the different amounts of seeds, and reports as follows:—The experiments with the different amounts of seed have been repeated by us for three successive years with about the same results. Last year being so very dry was a critical test for the one eye set, many of the pieces dried up and failed to grow, others sent up a very feeble growth, which was not vigorous enough to withstand the drouth. There was a gradual improvement in vigor and yield from the one eye set up to the whole potato, the former produced the largest percentage of small potatoes, the two eye sets were a little better in this respect, and the number of small potatoes reached the minimum in the three eye and half potato plants. The whole potato gave the largest yield. The following table will help our readers to better understand the Professor's experiment:—

Amount of seed in each hill.	No. of hills planted.	No. that grew.	Per cent. that failed.	Yield.	Quality—10 percent.
From 1 eye	85	77	9	50	4
" 2 "	"	81	5	71	5
" 3 "	"	82	4	86	7
" 1/2 potato	"	83	2	90 1/2	8
" whole potato	"	85	0	117 1/4	9

Mr. John Adams, Port Perry, writes us: "My experience in potato culture has been quite extensive, having tried various sorts of this the best of vegetables, and so far, for general use, quality and quantity taken into consideration, the White Star is my favorite."

Never too old to learn is very applicable to the farmer; in no other calling is there such opportunities to learn from nature, the best educator of all.