

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE. THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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Agents for "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Journal,"
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1. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE is published every Thursday. It is impartial and independent of all cliques or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most practical, reliable and profitable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.—In Canada, England, Ireland, Scotland, Newfoundland and New Zealand, \$1.50 per year, in advance; \$2.00 per year when not paid in advance. United States, \$2.50 per year; all other countries 12s.; in advance.
3. ADVERTISING RATES.—Single insertion, 25 cents per line, in advance. Contract rates furnished on application.
4. THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE is sent to subscribers until an explicit order is received for its discontinuance. All payments of arrears must be made as required by law.
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12. WE INVITE FARMERS to write us on any agricultural topic. We are always pleased to receive practical articles. For such as we consider valuable we will pay ten cents per inch printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, Suggestions How to Improve "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine," Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation, are each and all welcome. Contributions sent us must not be furnished other papers until after they have appeared in our columns. Rejected matter will be returned on receipt of postage.
13. ALL COMMUNICATIONS in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below, and not to any individual connected with the paper.

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LONDON, CANADA.

Young Men on the Farm.

In some quarters the idea still obtains that the purpose of attending an agricultural or other college is to secure a degree and a thousand-dollar-a-year job. It is true that the present demands of institutions for agricultural research and education in America are such as to attract a good many graduates in that direction; but, for the great majority that is not, and should not be, the supreme object. It is that the student may return home a better man, a worthier citizen, and a more capable farmer, because more intelligent and better informed. It will be a good day when we have more college-trained men on Canadian farms. As has been well said, we are rather prone, as a people, to roam about in quest of novelty and short-cuts to wealth. More liberal education helps us to escape sordidness and to take satisfaction out of living, by steady-ing down with more sensible ideals. Is it any wonder, when we see the sons of the farm drifting out of rural schools to work at twelve and fourteen years old, that there is a dearth of really qualified candidates later on for municipal, parliamentary and other positions in many sections? Nothing will much more certainly doom an uneducated youth for life than settling into a rut of eating, sleeping and choring, with perusal of the local paper and chat about the neighbors as a mental diet. A daily programme like that will effectually nip in the bud any chance he has of rising to real enjoyment and usefulness. It dwarfs him, and destroys the pride he ought to have in farm stock and operations, and the real progress of the neighborhood.

Now that the long evenings of winter and greater leisure are at hand, let us at once get out of the growing groove. If there is a local book-reading circle, a rural Canadian Club, a musical society, or other organizations of young people for improvement in the locality, by all means join one of its membership, and push it along. If none exists, we will broaden and benefit our lives.

W. Robertson, as a lad, worked on a Middlesex farm, and later in the North Branch (Ont.) cheese factory. He sensibly seized every such opportunity to improve and serve others, never reckoning himself as a heaven-born genius. When the Government needed a dairy instructor and speaker, a professor at Guelph, or an Agricultural Commissioner at Ottawa; or a Montreal millionaire required an administrator to initiate the Macdonald Institute, Consolidated and Manual-training Schools, and the magnificent college at Ste. Anne de Bellevue; or the Dominion looked about for a chairman for a national commission to investigate the educational systems of Canada, Jas. W. Robertson, who never ran in ruts, was ready for the call to each successive step in service. An engineer who wishes to start his heavily-laden locomotive, applies sand to make the wheels grip the rails; and there is nothing much better than a little moral and intellectual SAND of the brand used by Dr. Jas. W. Robertson for the rising manhood of Canada. It will promote the capacity to enjoy the best things in life, and make a young farmer more successful by lifting him above the routine of daily work.

Something Solid.

"What I like about 'The Farmer's Advocate,' " said a highly-appreciative reader not long ago, "is its sound common sense. It doesn't advocate fads. After reading the other papers, I come to the 'Farmer's Advocate,' and always find something solid. It stands in a class by itself."

That is precisely what we aim to give—something sound, solid and valuable to the man seeking reliable information. It is easy to edit a paper in the ordinary slap-dash, scissors-and-gum-pot style, with some articles that are good, some others that may be, and others, again, that are misleading, inaccurate and mischievous. But, as between this class of stuff, and the carefully compiled, finely-sifted practical matter which fills our weekly pages, discerning readers find a difference in value, compared to which fifty cents or a dollar a year is a mere bagatelle.

Special Renewal Offer.

Every farmer in the Dominion should be a subscriber to Canada's leading agricultural journal. Nearly all the best ones are, but many thousands of others do not yet appreciate the immense benefit it would be to them to have such a paper coming weekly to their homes, brimful of practical information and thought-stimulus. Many would readily subscribe if the paper were once brought effectively to their attention. It devolves upon our present subscribers to do this. We want every present subscriber to send us this year with his renewal at least one new subscription, and to this end have decided to make an extraordinary special offer, good until DECEMBER 31st, 1910.

For one new yearly subscription and your own renewal for 12 months, we will accept \$2.00. For each new name in addition to the first one we will accept from you \$1.00, the balance of 50 cents being retained by you as a commission. Or, if preferred, you may send in the new names, accompanied by the full subscription price of \$1.50 each (United States subscriptions \$2.50 per year), and take your choice of one of our splendid premiums. These, like the paper, are astonishingly good value.

NOTE.—This is a special offer, good only till the end of the year. Speak to your neighbor to-day. Get his name before he has signed for other papers. Roll in the new names now.

Agricultural Education in the Schools.

An instalment of very practical rural-education reform has been introduced into several public schools within his inspectorate by J. H. Smith, M. A., Public-school Inspector in West Kent and Chatham, Ont. School corn fairs have been conducted by Mr. Smith in four townships under the auspices of the Ontario Corn-growers' Association. Our readers have been informed concerning these fairs by a communication published on page 1806 of our issue of November 17th. The fair held in S. S. No. 3, Romney Township, was the best. In this township there are eight schools and ten teachers, all of which were represented, except one, in which scarletina had broken out. Nearly all the pupils of the other schools were present, as well as many of the parents and friends.

Each school had a judging team of two boys in the judging contest, and each school also contributed two numbers on the programme. There were about 115 entries, but only 90 exhibits were on exhibition, on account of the one school being debarred. In the judging contest, each team was given three ears of corn to place first, second and third, and also to score correctly, using the score-card. The work done in this was excellent. This work has a high educational value.

Each exhibit consisted of five ears of corn, selected by the pupil from corn grown this year on the parent's (or guardian's) farm. Wherever these shows have been held, the trustees have generously donated towards prizes, and have taken an active interest in making them a success. The teachers are also alive to the usefulness of these fairs. The judging in all cases has been done by expert corn judges, viz., A. McKenney, B. S. A., and J. O. Duke.

At the fairs in Chatham, Raleigh, Dover and Romney Townships there were addresses by the judges on corn culture, and Mr. Smith took advantage of the opportunity to emphasize the importance of school-gardening and nature study. He thinks, in these fairs, they have found a very valuable aid in stimulating interest in rural life—a conclusion in which "The Farmer's Advocate" most heartily concurs.

We have on previous occasions commended the excellent work of Inspector Smith, who is creating in his inspectorate no small interest in agricultural education and rural life. Next year they expect to have four school-gardens in operation, under the charge of teachers who have been trained at the Ontario Agricultural College.

Would that there were such an inspector in every county of rural Canada.

Prosperity of British Agriculture.

(Our English correspondence.)

British agriculture as a whole is in a healthy condition, and the outlook is satisfactory. This has not been an exceptional year; it is part of a sustained movement which has been proceeding for several years. This season's yield of the chief crops is well above the average, and prices are such as to leave a reasonable profit. Politicians are apt to be woebegone when speaking of British farming when it suits their purpose to be so, but from many widely-separated sections of the country comes the assurance from farmers themselves, "There is nothing wrong with farming, if only it were let alone."

Earl de la Warr writes to The Times that "The demand for farms has increased, owing to improved agricultural prospects in this country causing a natural rise in the price of land, and there is now an opportunity, perhaps, of selling which has not existed hitherto, at any rate, for many years."

In the same connection may be noted the recent sales of dairy farms in Cheshire for as much as £56 per acre. One farm of 149½ acres sold for £8,500; another, of about 90 acres, for £4,800, and a third of 53 acres for £3,000. It is the general consensus of opinion that there is a better demand for agricultural land than has prevailed for many years. In some districts, land is selling for from £5 to £10 per acre more than it did ten years ago. Well-informed people predict the prices will continue to advance.

The demand for land for small holdings is rapidly increasing, and is tending to the break-up of large estates, because the owners are finding a profitable market. This break-up of so many estates is causing some unrest among tenant-farmers, because in some cases they are compelled to leave their holdings, or to pay high prices to purchase. Now that public bodies are also purchasing land for small holdings, there seems to be less security of tenure for farmers and more liability to disturbance. Recent acts of Parliament have created new conditions, and these are leading to an agitation for an amendment to the compensation clauses of the various agricultural acts. Though tenant-farmers have grievances in connection with the small holdings scheme, it must not be concluded that all farmers are against small holdings. The Cheshire