

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE
DOMINION.

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JOHN WELD, MANAGER.

AGENTS FOR THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME JOURNAL,
WINNIPEG, MAN.

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, dairy-men, gardeners, stockmen and home-makers, of any publication in Canada.
2. **TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.**—In Canada, England, Ireland and Scotland, \$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, agate. 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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began reading the Success Magazine, and it cheered and encouraged, and filled me with hope, and enabled me to persevere, until Time, the great healer, had lightened my load." He further says: "If I were a farmer, I should read all of the leading agricultural journals, and all of the books on any subject in which I was specially interested." And says: "Let a man's profession be what it may, he ought to gather all possible information from every available source." Besides all the bee journals and some dozen or more farm papers that come to him as exchanges, he gives a list of some fifteen periodicals that he is a regular subscriber to, as helps to his work. Surely every farmer can afford at least one paper published specially for him. Most of us know he cannot afford to be without it any more than the "other fellow" can. A farmer actually said, the other day, "I have not time to read." It pays to take time. So many look upon reading as "just filling in time" or a source of pleasure. We know, as a rule, the last is true, but it is not all. It is a necessity, and a duty we owe to ourselves. If we do not, we are not only missing much that would be of value to us, but are unfitting ourselves for the day when we all hope to have more leisure, possibly the day when we can do nothing else. Does not this explain the reason why so many who, having accumulated ample for their declining years, are not happy unless "slaving away."

But this is not all. Your paper, Mr. Editor, is well named "The Farmer's Advocate." And what is an advocate? Is it not one who pleads or intercedes? So, "The Farmer's Advocate" is something that intercedes for the farmer. For example, when the farmer is laboring under difficulties, who is it that comes to his assistance? When legislation is wanted for his benefit, who is it that helps to obtain it? Can you look for help from the editor of a city daily? Can you expect him to advocate your cause? No, no. One instinctively looks to the editor of his trade journal. A case to the point just now is the automobile nuisance. Now, if ever legislation is effected that will mitigate or do away in part with the danger so many of the farmers and their families are experiencing, it must come from help given by such papers as "The Farmer's Advocate." You deserve credit for the stand you have taken in this matter, and every farmer should stand by you and be a subscriber, even if he was not getting big value for his money. This is only one example. Just think, not 3 cents

per copy, including your magnificent Christmas Number, and yet some say they "cannot afford it." G. A. DEADMAN.

Huron Co., Ont.

A Weekly Interview.

If a man adds to what he knows about his own business the best ideas of others who have made a success at the same business, he should be in a position to get more out of life each day he lives than if he simply follows in the rut of habit. The value of a weekly interview with men who have done things, and who are willing to tell how, cannot be estimated in dollars and cents, but for three cents every seven days, one can enjoy this benefit. A subscription to-day will bring 52 copies of a paper containing more helpful experiences of farming operations than any other available for Canadian farmers. Look up the terms for clubs.

Institute Improving in Lincoln Co.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I noticed an article in your issue of 24th December, entitled, "Are Farmers' Institutes Waning," by Mr. Hamilton. He says, among other things, "Can we as we attend these meetings, after noticing the sentiment and interest prevailing on the part of those present, refrain from asking ourselves the question, Has not the Farmers' Institute at least outlived its days of greatest usefulness to the farmers of Ontario?" I would answer the question no, judging from what I have been able to see and learn. I am willing to admit it is too true, as he says, there is not enough co-operation between the officers and the members to realize the greatest good. The fault in such instances rests with the officers, and largely with the members, and then, no doubt, occurs only in isolated instances. It is undoubtedly like all other organizations, capable of great improvement. It is an easy matter for anyone to criticize and point out defects, but quite another thing to put into successful working something that will prove to all more satisfactory. Many changes have from time to time been made in the management and working of the Institutes for their betterment, but there will, no doubt, ever remain room for improvement. It is our duty and privilege to assist in every possible way to make these meetings interesting and profitable. Are we doing our part?

There are, and we must expect there ever will be, those who see no good in the best institutions; what one is looking for he generally succeeds in finding. Honest criticism does no harm, but much good. They are farmers' meetings, and if we do our part, with the assistance given from the Government, there is no reason why they should not continue to be of even greater value in the future.

I cannot speak of the results of the meetings in Dundas County, but if Mr. Hamilton attended some of our meetings in Lincoln County, or anywhere in Western Ontario, he would, I am certain, entertain different ideas. The writer has taken considerable interest, attending these meetings almost continuously from their inception, and well remembers the little interest taken in them and the few who attended at first. It was an ordinary thing to hear some of the old-school farmers remark that "they knew just as well how to farm as these gentlemen sent out by the Government, having a good fat time." Such and similar expressions are now rarely heard, and only from those who know too much to attend these meetings. None but the self-conceited are so far advanced in the science of agriculture and have had such extensive experience that they cannot learn something from others. Some who never attend these meetings, thinking it time unprofitably spent, have admitted to me that by watching closely the operations of their neighbors who attend these meetings they can get all the benefits they derive, and introduce these into their farming operations successfully. The good work, therefore, extends to others besides those attending the meetings. There must always be those who in every locality take the initiative in introducing reforms which from time to time will be required as new developments are brought to light for the agriculturist. I look upon the Farmers' Institutes, the bulletins issued by the Department of Agriculture, and agricultural papers, especially "The Farmer's Advocate," as playing an important part, along with our Agricultural College, than which there is none better, as doing a noble work in raising the intellectual, as well, may I say, the professional, standard of the farmers of Ontario—yea, the Dominion, and the results of its

influence spreads to the four corners of the earth.

The Institutes in this county are better patronized than formerly; more local talent is available to take part, and the discussions are interesting and profitable. It is a regrettable fact, as he says, "the very ones that should attend stay away." Here is a field for the directors to do a little missionary work, or anyone else who has the good of his fellow man at heart.

It is the young men that possibly are receiving the greatest benefit. They are more pliable; can adapt themselves more readily to new and advanced ideas in agriculture.

We have the Farmers' Institute to thank for the idea of organizing a Women's Institute that is making such progress in educating the women along lines needed to-day, and in time will be a keen competitor with us—we had better be on our guard. The latter, besides holding usually monthly meetings in every locality, also holds at the time of our regular farmers' meeting an afternoon meeting, in a separate room, addressed by a lady delegate and local talent; while in the evening a united meeting is held, the hall being filled to overflowing—that is the way we do it up here.

For fear that the impression might spread abroad that our Institutes are no longer appreciated, I have penned these lines, to show that while in some localities, in the opinion of some, they may have outlived their greatest usefulness, such is not generally the case.

Lincoln Co., Ont.

W. B. RITTENHOUSE.

Granges Must Avoid Politics.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Why is it that the Grange or organization of Patrons of Husbandry has been allowed to go down as it has? True, it still flourishes to some extent in Ontario, but in the Maritime Provinces, where at one time hundreds of Granges existed, to-day there are none, and at a time when they are most needed. In the United States, especially in the New England States, the Grange is doing a good work, some States having as high as sixty thousand members.

It is no doubt true that politics helped to kill the Grange in Canada, and particularly in the Maritime Provinces, and while some may think a third party necessary, it does not look as though the time was ripe for such.

If the Grange is ever reorganized in the Maritime Provinces—and the Western Provinces should do the same—it should steer clear of politics. The Grange members can, as a whole, make known their attitude on such questions as the tariff, bounties, railway subsidies, etc., by resolutions or petitions, and we notice by the press accounts of the Dominion Grange, lately held, such a stand has been taken.

No organization has ever benefited the farmers as has the Grange, and the pity is it ever was allowed to sag as low as it has. If there were a Grange in every village, farmers would be better able to hold their own in matters of public debate with city men, or anyone; it would give encouragement to the young men to attend the meetings and debate on subjects relating to their vocation, and develop good speakers from some who would otherwise never know the latent power they possess.

One of the pleasing features of the Grange is that the ladies are members, thus giving it a tone other farmers' organizations lack. Manufacturers, labor, professions, and nearly all other interests are organized, and why should the farmers not be? And in what better way can they do so than through the Grange? They were a power once, and can be so again.

Let me illustrate what was accomplished by the Grange in Colchester County back in the eighties. At a meeting of the Division Grange a man who was going to the Toronto Exhibition was instructed to buy a carload of flour. When the car arrived at Truro station, consternation reigned among the flour merchants. Before sundown flour dropped in price fifty cents per barrel, the next day the merchants again dropped it fifty cents, then another fifty was clipped off, and still the Grangers were getting their flour cheaper than they could from the merchants. Let me state right here that never to this day has the margin on flour been what it was before this incident occurred. Now from forty to sixty cents per barrel is about the profit on flour. I might quote two other items. Sulphur retailed here at 8c. per pound; we bought it from the Grange Wholesale Supply Company, of Toronto—with a branch at Halifax—for 2c. per pound. Tapioca retailed for 10c. to 12c.; we got it from the Grange Supply Co. for 4c. per pound.

The above is written to show the benefits of the Grange as a medium for controlling prices. There are many other benefits to be gained by its establishment that do not appear on the surface.

The Grange to be a success must be true to itself. There must be confidence among all concerned. This should be the cardinal feature. Granges carried on on such lines can depend upon getting careful consideration of any matter laid before Parliament.

We hope the Dominion Grange, when they have