

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—
Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor

The Only Illustrated Agricultural Journal
Published in the Dominion.

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Adieu to 1880.

This number completes the 15th volume of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. It is but right that we should take a retrospective view of the past, as many thousands of new subscribers have been added since the commencement of this publication, and our old friends, we know, will not object to a few explanations to our new supporters.

Fifteen years ago this journal was commenced in a very small and unpretentious form. It was not one-eighth the size of the present issue, and the first year's receipts were not one-twentieth of the present receipts. The journal was merely brought out to show the wrongs and abuses which farmers were suffering under, and to advocate and advance their interests.

One of the results of the writings and addresses given by the Editor has been the establishment of the Model Farm and Ontario School of Agriculture. The great opposition that this journal has always given to attempts that have been made by both political parties to make this institution and the funds granted to it subservient to party purposes, has been the sole reason that this paper has not received the patronage of Government expenditures in any form.

One of the great boons that the FARMER'S ADVOCATE has conferred was the prevention of the spread of dangerous diseases among our farm stock. In this grand achievement alone we have tended to enhance the annual receipts of every farmer in Canada, and greatly increased the real value of every acre in our Dominion. Some intelligent farmers say that

the benefits accruing to the country from our expenditures and writings can be computed at millions of dollars, that is, estimating the advantages of the seed grain introduced and the checking of the spread of contagious diseases among our farm stock. See back numbers, and read reports of political papers at that time condemning our course. Which has proved victorious?

Read the best, most practical and the cheapest way to instruct agriculture and horticulture, as first introduced on page 225 of the 15th volume of the ADVOCATE. This plan we shall labor to introduce.

(Time and space will not allow the annunciation of the funds of valuable information supplied. See index in this issue and in previous volumes.)

Large sums have been expended by us to introduce and maintain, and give information about the best stock, seeds and implements, and that information, gained at great expense, has tended to increase the wealth of our country. The farmers have from experience found the value of the ADVOCATE returned to them every year in information, or they would not have supported the journal; and despite the numerous obstacles placed in our way by opponents, the paper has yearly increased in favor, and the support it has received from the leading practical farmers has been such as to enable us to increase its size, improve its illustrations and secure the aid of better writers each year.

We have been compelled to pay heavy postage for our paper when political papers could be nearly exempted from the tax. We have had four opposing agricultural papers, fostered by Government aid, to contend against, and yet we have been able to outlive them and flourish without the country ever having to be taxed for our support.

The prospects are such that we feel justified in assuring you that you will have a better volume for 1881 than any previous volume has been. Our supporters, we think, may look back with pride and honor to what they have aided us to accomplish, namely, the establishment of an independent agricultural journal in our Dominion, which even our American cousins admit to be quite equal to or superior to any agricultural monthly journal that is published on this continent.

As the year closes, if we have faithfully done our duty to you, we hope for a renewal of your approval. We thank you for past favors, and solicit a continuation of your support. The past season has been a more lucrative one to you than many of its predecessors. The season of thanksgiving is at hand. You have been blessed in basket and in store; many have had to increase the storage capacities for their wealth. There are those that you know who are in need or sickness; endeavor, at this season of the year particularly, to dispose of some small portion of the great blessings you enjoy to those who need and deserve your sympathy. You have to account for the talent placed in your care; a little given in cases of need will return to you greater blessings.

Notice.

1.—With this number each subscriber receives an envelope in which to enclose his subscription. Those who have already paid may enclose the name of a new subscriber or two.

2.—These envelopes are all plainly addressed. By registering the letter, and retaining the certificate of registration, you have a receipt of payment, and require no other from this office, as registered letters containing subscriptions are at our risk.

3.—To save yourself from loss and annoyance, give the matter your personal attention—that is, enclose the money, and write your name and post-office; wet the edge of the envelope and mail it yourself—do not leave this to others. When anything goes wrong the trouble almost always is, "I told so-and-so to do it." Mail this envelope personally, and do your business direct with this office.

4.—If you are in possession of any useful or valuable information, or have any suggestions to offer that may be of benefit to the agriculturists of this Dominion, you may do good to others by forwarding them in a concise form to the only agricultural paper in Canada. Such information is readily inserted, and open and fair discussions are allowed. It is light the farmers require.

5.—Articles and correspondence for the paper, may be sent to us for one cent per four ounces, but it must not contain private correspondence.

6.—Questions of general interest are responded to through the ADVOCATE. Subscribers who require an answer from this office about their own business should never neglect to send a stamp for return postage.

The great satisfaction that resulted from the plants and cuttings sent as prizes last year enabled us to guarantee satisfaction to all who took care of them. We will send you plants or seed again this year, for every new subscriber you send us, accompanied with the cash. These prizes are only offered to old subscribers for their trouble in obtaining new ones. We give full value to any person in the ADVOCATE for their \$1, but many that should take it are not yet subscribers. The price is only \$1, in advance; we take no single subscriptions for a less sum, and give no premium chronos with the paper. By speaking a word at the proper time you may enable us to increase our circulation and improve our paper, as well as benefiting yourself, your neighbor and the whole Dominion. These valuable plants, seeds, roots and cuttings cannot be procured as cheaply in any other manner. See prize list in usual columns.

Heavy draft breeding horses seem to be in greater demand in the United States than ever before the days of railroads. During 1876 some 300 were imported from Europe, and the prospect now is, that even that number will be exceeded this year.