

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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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 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 first prize of \$5 for the best original essay on *Farm Drainage*, has been awarded to W. A. Hale, Sherbrooke, P.Q., and a second to James Laidlaw, jr., Guelph, Ont.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *The Best Method for the Registration of Stock*. Essays to be handed in not later than May 15th.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *How can Farmers Best Protect Themselves Against Combines*. Essays to be handed in not later than June 15.

Now is the time to subscribe for the Farmer's Advocate, the best agricultural paper in Canada.

## Editorial.

### On the Wing.

In quest of information regarding seeds and plants we visited the city of Rochester. This city to us appears to have the largest amount of beneficial attraction and the least amount of disreputable notoriety than perhaps any other city in the United States. Still it has enough. Jas. Vick called it the "Flower City;" we would call it the "Fruit City," as from it a larger amount of fruit trees are sent to all parts of the world than from any other place we have seen or heard of. Many millions of dollars annually is the value of the fruit product. The climate and soil in this locality appears pre-eminently adapted to the growth of fruit trees and fruits. Its fruit interest has naturally attracted the seed interest.

They conduct business on a large scale here. We visited the seed establishment of Mr. Hiram Sibley, one of the most extensive farmers and seedsmen in the United States. He is now an aged and wealthy gentleman. In his youthful days he conducted business successfully in Canada. He is now the owner of between fifty and sixty thousand acres. Three years ago he raised on one of his farms in Illinois 820,000 bushels of corn, and since that he has been gradually reducing the cultivation of so much land, and has rented a large portion of it. The past year he grew 180,000 bushels of oats, 70,000 of which were grown and sold for seed. He has now a rent roll from land of over \$60,000 per annum. The present season he intends planting out 100,000 walnut trees on his farms. He has been a reader of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, which publication he says is as good as any agricultural paper he sees. He has for the past eight years imported from Canada about 10,000 bushels of seed peas annually. He has sown this year 250 acres of early peas for his canning factory, and as soon as the peas are off he will plant the same land with sweet corn. By this means he intends to show the principle of intense cultivation, by taking two crops off the same ground in one year. From his establishment we procured the Munroe potato, which is claimed to be the largest cropper known; also the Sibley squash, an entirely new kind, and distinct from all others. The flesh is solid, thick, orange in color, and the finest for table use, having a very desirable flavor. It is a very prolific grower, excelling either the Hubbard or Marblehead, and has the advantage of ripening its fruit all about the same time. It is an excellent keeper, remaining in a dry cellar per-

fectly sound until April, and constantly improves in flavor until the very last.

We called at the seed establishment of Crossman Brothers. In conversation with them we find that they are the sons of the late editor of the Genesee Farmer, an agricultural publication which we appreciated more than any we read when on the farm. They are doing a large and increasing business, and have a high reputation in the United States. They are this year introducing the Crossman potato, only to wholesale dealers for propagation for next year. We with difficulty procured a few. This potato appears destined to take a high position. It is claimed to possess superior qualities for table use, early, even, productive, and a very good cropper and keeper; is smooth, oblong, slightly rose colored, having white flesh.

Messrs. Elwanger & Barry speak highly of Mr. J. F. LeClare, who is introducing the Diamond grape, which you will hear more about next year. From reports it appears destined to rival all grapes of recent production.

Jas. Vick this year introduces the Moon Flower, a beautiful sweet-scented, thrifty creeper, which will attain a height of twenty-five feet. It blooms in the evenings, on gloomy days and in the night.

The Autocrat is a new tomato now being introduced. The great advantage claimed for it is that it will keep longer than any other, and will be most advantageous to our country as a shipper to foreign markets.

The Triumph is a new water melon very highly recommended, and is said to succeed well in any latitude. It is long, rind dark green, with mottled stripes; the flesh is brilliant red, crisp and very sweet.

We glean the above from what we believe to be the most reliable source, and have pleasure in furnishing you with such information. We intend to test these new varieties this year. See prize list.

#### OUR SECOND TRIP TO ASSINIBOIA.

Five years ago, in company with the Press Association of Ontario, we passed through Assiniboia to Pense Station. We then had some doubts in regard to the capabilities of this Territory. Now, our doubts have been dispelled. Last autumn we took a trip through it. Moosomin was the first station at which we stopped, a thriving village which, from appearances, will soon become a town, perhaps a city. A fine, fertile country, which is fast filling up with farmers, surrounds this place. Good homesteads are being established, and general thrift is apparent. The exhibition of stock, grain, fruits, roots, and the various handicraft works and cultivated products