

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE



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## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN THE DOMINION.

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The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month. 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.
- 3.—Should any of the other essays contain valuable matter, not fully covered by the one awarded the first prize, or should any present different views of the same topic, and we consider such views meritorious, we will publish such essays in full, or extracts from them as we may deem best, and allow the writer ten cents per inch (one dollar per column) printed matter for as much of such articles as we publish. By this rule each writer who sends us valuable matter will receive remuneration for his labor, whether he be the winner of the first prize or not.
- 4.—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 (one dollar per column) printed matter. Criticisms of Articles, suggestions How to Improve the ADVOCATE, Descriptions of New Grains, Roots or Vegetables not generally known, Particulars of Experiments Tried, or Improved Methods of Cultivation are each and all welcome.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay which will name and describe the varieties of spring wheat, oats, barley and peas which have yielded best during the past season in the district in which the writer resides, and the mode of cultivation which has given the best results. Essay to be in this office not later than the 15th January, 1892.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay which will name and describe the six most promising varieties of potatoes grown in the district in which the writer resides, and the mode of culture which has given the best results. Essay to be in this office not later than 15th Feb., 1892.

We will give a prize of \$5 for the best essay on corn and corn culture, the writer to name and describe the three most promising sorts grown in the district in which he resides, also the best and most economical mode of cultivation before and after planting. Essay to be in this office not later than 15th February, 1892.

In writing on any of the above subjects describe any new varieties; compare them with standard sorts.

## Editorial.

### Prospects for Better Times in Dairying.

LETTER FROM PROF. ROBERTSON, DAIRY COMMISSIONER.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Sir,—In response to your request that I should send you an article forecasting the probable work of the Dairy Commissioner for the next year, I submit the following brief outline:—

Beginning with the eastern provinces of the Dominion, I find that a wonderfully increased interest has been awakened among the farmers in our work in the province of

#### NOVA SCOTIA

during the current year. Some eleven new cheese factories were started. All the cheese factories in the province were visited by an expert whom I left in that province during the summer months. Already there is a noticeable improvement in the quality of the cheese from the influence of his summer's work. Besides visiting the cheese factories, he held meetings in a great many districts, where the farmers were seeking information on the best methods of establishing cheese factories and of opening up creameries. At one of the factories of Mr. L. C. Archibald, Antigonish, N. S., 100 cheese were made for export to Great Britain. This plan was taken to demonstrate to Nova Scotians that the cheese from their province would find a ready demand in the British markets at a price not far, if any, below the finest cheese from Ontario. In that province I took occasion under the authority granted to me by the Minister of Agriculture to distribute a large number of three pound sample bags of Indian corn among the farmers, in order to encourage them to test the value of that wonderfully productive forage plant in the feeding of their cows. So far I have had nothing but the most favorable reports from every man who grew a small plot of it. I expect that the acreage of fodder corn in Nova Scotia will be at least a thousand-fold larger in 1892 than it has been in any year previous. We intend to continue the work of itinerant instruction at the cheese factories, and also to establish an Experimental Dairy Station as soon as the conditions of the province are ready for it. Our object in this latter action will be to lead in the commencement and extension of winter dairying. Nova Scotia farmers ought to make large quantities of creamery butter during the winter. That practice would enable them to raise larger numbers of excellent stock and to fatten more and better swine. Then, the milk from the same cows could be diverted to cheese-making during the summer months.

In the province of

#### NEW BRUNSWICK

work has been done of a somewhat similar nature to that which was undertaken in Nova Scotia; and, of course, action in the future will likely be somewhat similar to that which has been outlined for its sister province. In

#### PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

only one cheese factory has been in operation during the season. A number of meetings in different parts of the island have been held under my direction, and a large number of sample bags of Indian corn have been distributed among the farmers. From every recipient I hear nothing but words of satisfaction with the corn venture; and I am sure that next year the farmers of Prince Edward Island will provide abundance of this excellent crop, to enable them to feed their cattle economically during their rather long winters. We expect to have a dairy station in operation on the island for the manufacture of cheese during the summer, and for the manufacture of butter during the winter. I am informed that already 400 cows have been guaranteed in one locality. All that the farmers of that beautiful island province require to enable them to develop a very large and profitable dairy business, is confidence in their own resources, capabilities, and opportunities. The presence of an Experimental Dairy Station, which will be a centre of authoritative and reliable information, will supply the missing link and enable them to turn their natural advantages to the best account.

In the

#### PROVINCE OF QUEBEC

my assistant for the French-speaking sections, Mr. J. C. Chapais, St. Denis, P. Q., and a cheese-making expert, visited every county, and gave lessons to cheese-makers and butter-makers at central factories. The Babcock milk tester was also carried with them to illustrate its use and suitability for preventing fraud, and for establishing a sound basis for the payment of milk according to its quality. At one of the factories in Quebec some experiments in cheese-making were also conducted, to assist in determining the quantity and quality of cheese that may be obtained from milk containing different percentages of butter fat. About 250 boxes of other cheese were also made at one of the factories to be shipped to England for the purpose of illustrating to the dairymen in Quebec that cheese from their factories, when properly made, will fetch the very highest price obtainable in the British market for any imported cheese.

The holding of the Dominion Dairy Show at Sherbrooke, Que., also gave a very great impetus to the dairy trade of that province. That cheese