

FOUNDED 1866.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE and HOME MAGAZINE

Published on or about the 1st of each month, is handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for dairymen, for farmers, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

TERMS:—\$1.00 per year, in advance, postpaid; \$1.25 in arrears. Single copies, 10 cents each, postage prepaid; sample copies free. Subscriptions may commence with any month. Remittances at the risk of the subscriber unless made by registered letter or money order. Subscribers who desire to change their P. O. address must send both old and new address. Remember that the law requires the subscriber to notify the publisher whenever the former wants the paper stopped, and all arrearages must be paid. The date on the address label shows when the subscription expires.

Address—
THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE,
LONDON, ONT., CANADA.

Please examine your address label, and if
YOUR SUBSCRIPTION HAS EXPIRED,
or is about to expire, please

RENEW AT ONCE

All subscribers whose labels are marked
"Jan. 85" should understand that their subscrip-
tion expired with the Dec. number.

Renew at once and see that your label is
marked "Jan. 86."

When sending your subscription try and
avoid sending postage stamps. Five per cent.
additional should be sent when stamps are
remitted.

Our Monthly Prize Essay.

The prize essay on *How can the FARMER'S
ADVOCATE Best Expend \$100 Annually in the
Farmers' Interest*, will appear in our next issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best
original essay on *The Best Methods of En-
couraging Our Beef Industry*. Essays to be
in not later than Feb'y 15.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best
original essay on *How Best to Raise the Stand-
ard of Our Butter*. Essays to be in not later
than March 15th.

Choice Premiums.

Read our list of choice, new premiums offered
in another column of this issue for sending in
new subscribers. Send for sample and begin
your canvas now.

We want good, live, energetic agents in
every county to canvas for subscriptions for our
paper. We pay a liberal commission to agents
who devote their time to our work. Send for
specimen copies. Address—

FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, Ont.

Bound volumes of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE
for 1884 are now for sale. Price, \$1.60, post-
paid.

As many of our readers are constantly in-
quiring where they may get their ADVOCATES
bound, we desire to state that we have made
arrangements with Mr. Charles Chapman, of
this city, who does our work, to bind our sub-
scribers' ADVOCATES at 50c. per volume, return
postage free. By getting them bound yearly
you will soon have a valuable agricultural
library.

Editorial.**Farmers' Institutes.**

The Farmers' Institutes for this season being
now over, it would be well to review what they
have accomplished. It would not be fair to
measure their practical value by the amount of
enthusiasm which the professors received, or
the loud toned praises which resounded over
the Province through the partizan press and
other worshippers of the College and Farm; for
the meetings of the professors with the farmers
face to face on the public platform have pro-
duced a different impression from those involv-
ing walks and talks on the Model Farm. No-
body submits that there has been anything
seriously wrong in the administration of the
affairs of the College; it is the mismanagement
of the Farm against which many of our farmers
have complained so bitterly, and should they
find that the professors of the College are at-
tempting to shield the mismanagers of the
Farm, the day of reckoning will be near at
hand.

It has become customary to call the Model
Farm an experiment station. This is a gross
error. All experiment stations are controlled
by professional experimenters, who have unani-
mously adopted the scientific method of investi-
gation—that is, *know before you do*, the practi-
cal motto being, *do that you may know*. Our
Government have never explained the reason
why they have adopted the practical method,
but only two explanations can be given; (1)
they did not understand the difference between
the two methods, and (2) they regarded them-
selves wiser than all other authorities. In
order to make the muddle complete, they com-
menced, a year or two ago, to change their sys-
tem of experimenting with fertilizers from the
practical to the scientific method, and placed
the control under practical management. The
fattening and the dairy experiments are still
under practical control. In considering this
question it must be distinctly borne in mind
that the science always includes the
practice, or rather the art, whereas
the practice can never include the science,
for if the doing follows the knowing, the
practice then becomes an art; it is the art
of farming that we should struggle after. It is
therefore absurd to say that an agricultural ex-
periment has scientific, without practical,
value. A practical experiment may be of
some service to the experimenter himself; but
not having taken all the varied conditions—
that is the *principles or science*—into considera-
tion, it may be of no use to anybody else. We
make these observations that the reader may
comprehend more clearly whether he should be
guided by the practices of the Model farmers as
ascertained by visiting the Farm, or by the
precepts which have been preached during the
expired few weeks at the Farmers' Institutes.

One of the practical professors has made the
marvellous discovery that we are feeding our
beef cattle for the manure, the beef being a
mere secondary consideration, that there is no
profit in feeding for beef alone. He has fur-
ther discovered, no doubt through his experi-
ence at the Model Farm, that the soil in this
Province possesses almost unlimited fertility.
Moreover, some papers were read on the value

of the manure heap, and the importance of sav-
ing it from waste. This led us to inquire into
the Model Farm method of making and saving
the manure. We found that the practical pro-
fessors fed higher rations than the practical
farmers for the purpose of enriching the manure
heap, and they sprinkled it frequently over
with plaster in order to still further enhance
its fertilizing value. In order to produce this
valuable heap, much richer rations are fed than
have been found necessary to produce the
quickest and most profitable results in the pro-
duction of beef. The manure from the differ-
ent cattle stables is scattered over a large yard,
and allowed to ferment, freeze, or fire-fang at
will, and on a rainy day the life blood of the
heap may be seen flowing down a descent to
sink into the soil or find its way into the water
courses. During the winter part of the manure
is drawn into the fields, and thrown in large
heaps to undergo a further process of leaching
by the spring rains. The manure is valued at
\$2.55 a ton, but it is not certain whether it is
the leached or the unleached manure that is
meant. After a series of practical experiments
it has been found that it is necessary to add
the following artificial fertilizers to 15 tons per
acre of the above mentioned farmyard manure:
Mineral superphosphate, 150 lbs.; plaster, 150
lbs.; salt, 300 lbs.; bone-dust, 200 lbs., these
artificial fertilizers costing nine or ten dollars
per acre, or about one-third of the value of the
substance leached out of every 15 tons of farm-
yard manure. This is the Model Farm prac-
tice; the preaching has been listened to by
thousands of intelligent farmers throughout the
Province during the past few weeks. Shall our
farmers be governed by what the Modelites do
or what they say?

With regard to the feeding "experiments,"
still greater objections may be urged against
the practical method of investigation. We
shall not enter into the details of this question
at present, for it was fully exposed in the De-
cember issue of the ADVOCATE. The professors
of the College are perfectly well aware that
these experiments are misleading and worth-
less, and we fear they have lost the confidence
of the farming community in not having boldly
expressed their convictions at the Farmers' In-
stitutes. They even selected a few isolated
cases in which the correct "nutritive ratio"
happened to be guessed at, and used these as
a means of leading the farmers into the delu-
sion that the experiments were correctly con-
ducted. Even if the experiments were con-
ducted on correct principles, we will undertake
to prove that the mode of carrying them out is
sufficient to destroy their usefulness.

If the Model Farm can make no practical use
of agricultural experiments, it should not
attempt to thrust them on the farmers with the
view of inducing them to believe that it is
working in their interests.

In case you become disabled for working with
your hands, be sure and keep a reserve force in
your head.

A half a century ago the agricultural motto
was "root, hog, or die;" up to the present the
motto has been "toil or die," and now it is
"think or die." It is the part of the lower an-
imals to root and toil; it is man's part to prove
the ascendancy of mind over snout and muscle.