

To Our Subscribers.

This issue closes the twenty-eighth volume of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The year now closing is notable as one of the most disastrous, financially, experienced by the present generation. Our neighbors, particularly those to the South and West of us, have suffered severely. The failure and closing of many banking institutions depressed trade in every line. Canada has suffered, but not so severely as some of the neighboring States. The price of farm produce is very low; no immediate improvement in this line is anticipated. The remedy is only to be found in improved methods of production. We must reduce the cost of production in every possible way. The Experimental Farms, the Institutes, the Live Stock Associations, and the Agricultural Press are destined to fill a larger place than ever before. We, as farmers, must study our business closely and benefit by the experience of others. In a recent report, the judges of prize farms in Ontario in dealing with this subject wrote:—

"As we went from place to place, we observed that the men who read and think much are the most progressive and prosperous. We met many farmers who work early and late, but were not successful, because their efforts were not well directed; they were behind the times in every department. Yet these very men told us that they had no time to read or go to the Institute meetings; or they affirmed that they knew more than the agricultural writers or speakers did, and consequently were not going to fool their time or money away on any such nonsense. Poor fellows, they were neglecting opportunities and slaving to little purpose."

What would we think of a doctor or lawyer who neglected to take his medical or law journal, as the case might be? Would not we think twice before entrusting an invalid or an important legal action to such hands? Science is moving with such mighty strides that new methods are introduced every day. What the world was ready to accept as facts a few years ago is now questioned or perhaps set aside altogether. To keep ourselves abreast of the times we must read live papers and associate with live men.

During the past year the ADVOCATE has been very successful. Our circulation has steadily increased. We are now mailing over 45,000 copies per month. Our circulation in Manitoba and the N. W. Territories has largely increased. In Manitoba we have the largest circulation of any paper, political or otherwise. In Ontario and the Maritime Provinces our circulation is three times greater than that of any other agricultural paper. Our subscribers in the United States are constantly increasing. We send papers to no less than thirty-seven American States.

We thank our old subscribers for past favors, and crave a continuation of their support. Our staff, our experience and usefulness are constantly increasing. We hope to issue a better paper in 1894 than ever before. We are anxious to double our subscription list. Lend us a hand in the good work; renew at once, and send us the name of a neighbor as a new subscriber. The larger our circulation the better paper we can give our readers.

We wish all our friends a merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Our Clubbing Rates for 1894.

We offer our subscribers papers at the following rates:—

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE		
—AND—		
Winnipeg Weekly Tribune	.....	\$1 75
Toronto Weekly Mail	.....	1 75
" Daily "	.....	6 00
" Weekly Globe	.....	1 75
" Daily "	.....	6 00
" Weekly Empire	.....	1 75
" Daily "	.....	6 00
London Weekly Free Press	.....	1 75
" Daily "	.....	4 25
" Weekly Advertiser	.....	1 75
Montreal Weekly Witness	.....	1 60
" Family Herald and Weekly Star	.....	1 75
" Weekly Gazette	.....	1 50
Cosmopolitan Magazine (Monthly)	.....	2 25
Remit by Post Office order or registered letter. Post Office order is cheapest and best.		

The reports regarding tuberculosis at the Guelph Experimental Station are so conflicting that we have determined to learn the facts before communicating with our readers. It is quite evident the party papers on both sides are endeavoring to make capital out of this question.

CANADA VICTORIOUS.

Summary of Awards for Live Stock and Poultry.

Class.	Breed.	COMPETITION.		NO. OF AWARDS.		AMOUNTS.		MEDALS.		Remarks.	
		Can.	U. S.	Can.	U. S.	Can.	U. S.	Canada.	United States.		
1	Shorthorns	47	151	18	32	\$3270	\$5221	3 Medals	2 Medals	1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th prized aged bulls won by U. S., but bred in Canada. Nearly all 1st prized animals won with imported stock.	
2	Herefords	19	70	3	36	135	5080		2 Medals		
3	Aberdeen-Angus	11	40	2	46	95	3030		2 Medals		
4	Galloways	13	32	11	36	820	3250	1 Medal	1 Medal		
5	Devons	12	38	18	26	455	1580	1 Medal	1 Medal		
6	Ferries	1	35	...	54	...	2085		2 Medals		
7	Holsteins	8	20	6	24	180	1250		2 Medals		
8	Ayrshires	67	40	48	5	1885	150	2 Medals		Prizes not duplicated by American Association. A few special prizes. Canada not allowed to compete.	
9	Gurnseys	2	46	1	48	20	2015		2 Medals		
148	Fat Cattle—Shorthorns	4	12	3	10	140	670			Judging most partial.	
HORSES.											
23	French Coach	6	57	3	30	125	3730	2 Diplomas	3 Medals		
22	Thoroughbred	13	...	13	...	2250	...	2 Medals			
21	Standard Trotting	2	71	1	35	125	3750		2 Diplomas		
25	Cleveland Bay	3	43	1	36	50	2925		3 Medals		
26	Percheron	9	118	1	53	25	4275		2 Medals		
27	Clydesdales	48	99	6	51	615	8250		2 Diplomas		
31	Suffolk Punch	1	24	1	23	35	2790	2 Diplomas	3 Medals		
32	Hackneys	9	21	13	19	720	1360	2 Medals			
35	American Arabs	5	8	5	...	...	...	2 Gold Medals		
SHEEP.											
40	Cotswolds	38	45	19	28	475	695			These prizes were not duplicated.	
41	Leicesters	42	5	35	2	940	35	1 Silver Cup		" " " " " "	
42	Lincolns	53	5	42	2	1085	45	1 Silver Cup		" " " " " "	
43	Southdowns	57	37	31	14	1605	550	1 Silver Cup		" " " " " "	
44	Shropshire-Downs	39	37	15	34	1115	2195	1 Silver Cup			
45	Oxford-Downs	40	65	11	33	480	1790				
46	Hampshire-Downs	5	63	4	40	180	1405			These include the duplicated prizes.	
50	Dorset-Horn	39	38	38	18	945	750	1 Silver Cup			
171	Fat Sheep	42	35	53	21	716	276	9 Diplomas	4 Diplomas	Value \$100, by the Cooper Sheep Dip Co., England. One judge (an American), and most unsatisfactory.	
SWINE.											
60	Essex	18	60	11	40	480	2400				
	Improved Yorkshire	42	11	45	1	743	11				
	Tamworth	7	12	7	10	66	134				
	Suffolk	1	13	1	11	12	147				
POULTRY AND PET STOCK.						1147	2453	501	671	2633	3286

Timely Notes for December.

RURAL ENTERTAINMENTS.

In some districts, "socials," concerts, tea fights, "open meetings" of temperance lodges, etc., etc., are so numerous that they pall and fail to draw, while in others they draw immensely on account of their rarity. Farm life is dull enough in our long-winters, but very often, through lack of stabling, however poor, at our rural schools, many a friendly "social" comes to naught, as fathers naturally refuse to allow their horses to stand outside for four or five hours on the open at "30° below." Many a boy misses going to school the greater part of the winter because there is no stable to put his horse in at the school, and he is yet too young to struggle two or three miles through the deep snow. Would it not be well for the school authorities to insist on a plain shed being erected adjacent to each country school—it would benefit not only the youngsters, but those "children of a larger growth," who would then turn out to more winter gatherings—the cost to come out of the general school fund? Let us have a little harmless amusement this winter, and forget the tariff, etc., for an evening now and then.

CARE AND USE OF MANURE.

Dare we say that perhaps the failure, partial in many places, almost complete in some sections, was due as much to impoverished soil as to the season? All the land, even in Manitoba, is not inexhaustible—even the Red River Valley is "playing out." Friends, the "skin" game is about run out in Manitoba, and the sooner we go in for systematic manuring, rotation of crops and mixed farming generally, the better it will be for us and our country. I know of no better way at present than to use plenty of absorbents, such as wheat straw and earth, and haul the manure on to the land direct from the stable. The next best method is to make a good manure heap, and plow the manure in on the summer-fallow. As very few of us can afford manure sheds at the present price of lumber, it would be well to round off the manure pile, and be careful not to place it where the water could run off buildings into it. I believe in spreading manure as hauled, if possible. Sometimes it is too cold to do so.

EXTORTION OR INTEREST.

In several letters recently to the Provincial Press various correspondents have stated that farmers' homes have been sold up, etc. I have only known of a few, a very few, cases in which the extreme limit of the law has been taken, and in those the farmers were to blame for dishonest actions, and richly deserved their fate. When a man once gives any particular creditor a chattel mortgage or other preferential claim on his crop or stock, he has only himself to blame if he disposes of that stock and applies the money in some other way than in paying off that preferential claim. But, again, on the other hand, I do not consider that a creditor, whether he be machine dealer or grocer, has any right to extort twelve per cent. on over-due paper, or a fine or bonus for renewing a debt which is not paid at maturity.

There is generally quite enough extorted at time of sale to make up all losses on over-due paper. I am very doubtful if such extra rate of interest could be enforced, if the creditor chose to fight it in the courts. A suggestion from a correspondent in a recent issue of the Tribune that judges in flagrant cases should give judgment for twenty-five cents a month or year would choke off a great deal of this work, and would undeniably be a benefit to the greater part of the farming community. It was said at one of Mr. Foster's meetings in the west that a certain implement firm would soon own the country if some reduction were not made in duties on implements. Now, though the said company are neither better nor worse than other operators—in fact, they are rather better than worse than some—still I have found that they will give every man all the time possible, so long as they think he will eventually pay. They are not so foolish as to kill the goose that lays the golden egg if they can help it.

We have heard a great deal, and a great deal of useless legislation has been enacted on the rights and claims of laborers, but does not the farmer want some protection, too, from these same over-protected laborers and money-lending and credit-giving dealers? Is not it rather a farce to send immigration pamphlets broadcast over the world, inviting people to come here and settle, when those that are here can hardly make a living?

A SILVER LINING.

The return of Mr. J. Martin as member for Winnipeg by such a sweeping majority has shown that in spite of dead voters and manufacturers' money, the Manitoba people can no longer be "spoon-fed" from Ottawa on N. P. soup, flavored with the red pepper of high freight rates, and the sauce of a ruinous customs tariff. Let us hope the other constituencies will be heard from to the same tune. It would have more effect in bringing in immigrants than a whole shippload of special agents and flattering pamphlets.

VARIOUS.

A merry Xmas to you all, friends, your wives and your mothers-in-law, not to mention the sisters, cousins and aunts. A frolic will do none of us any harm, for as the rhyme has it:

'A Christmas oft could cheer
The poor man's heart thro' half the year.'

"INVICTA."

Co-operative dairying is increasing largely in New Zealand. New creameries and factories are reported at frequent intervals in various parts of the islands.

An Australian farmer has adopted a very peculiar method of making silage. Having eight acres of corn, which yielded a heavy crop, he laid the entire stalks, uncut, in three stacks, taking care to lay them all one way, without crossing. Then he weighed the stacks down with logs and stones. When it had settled he covered the whole with earth two feet deep, raised to a crown on top, which he thatched with cornstalks. The silage came out in good condition, and was greedily eaten by the cattle.