

MANITOBA AND WESTERN  
OF THE  
**FARMER'S ADVOCATE**  
AND HOME  
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**THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE**

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED  
IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first 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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**Advertising Rates**—Single insertion, 15 cents per line. Contract rates furnished on application.

All communications in reference to any matter connected with this paper should be addressed as below.

THOMAS WELLS,

Manager "Farmer's Advocate,"  
WINNIPEG, MAN., CANADA.

**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.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on "The best varieties of Potatoes for Manitoba, and the best methods of cultivation." Essays to be in this office not later than the 15th of March next.

**A NEW FEATURE.**

**Notice to Our Advertisers.**

In order to encourage the spread of useful knowledge among the farmers, and also to increase our circulation, we offer, as a prize, a two-inch space for six months to be awarded to the live stock breeder who will send us the largest list of new subscribers during 1891. The advertising space may be used any time the winners appear after the award is made. To all who are winners in this competition we will allow the same commission advertised. (See page 69, January number.)

**The Stallion Show at Portage La Prairie.**

The second annual Stallion Show will be held at Portage La Prairie, on Saturday, the 11th of April. Send to A. A. MacLennan, Secretary, Portage La Prairie, Man., for the prize list. See advertisement in other columns.

**Poultry Notes for March.**

While not advising the use of any kind of breeding stock of mixed or uncertain parentage, it is assuredly better, where such must of necessity be used, that a careful selection be made, and the best only used. Half a dozen hens will produce enough eggs to hatch on almost any farm, and it is certainly better to select the best six hens in the flock and place in a breeding pen with the best male available. A pure-bred Plymouth Rock, Wyandotte or Brahma, if possible; but if not, use the heaviest, blockiest male in the flock, providing he is healthy and vigorous. There is no sense in keeping three or four males, and allowing the entire flock the freedom of the premises, when six or eight females and one male will provide all the eggs necessary, besides securing the eggs for hatching from the best stock. Many people do not think about this matter at all, and others think the hens produce more eggs when a male bird is kept. Such, however, is not the case, as hens lay better without the worrying and annoyance of the male, and the eggs keep much better. Having selected the stock for breeding, care must be taken not to overfeed, as eggs from overfed hens do not hatch well. On the other hand, they must be in fair condition and have plenty of exercise, or the number of eggs produced will be very small. To avoid both these difficulties, a dry floor should be placed in the poultry house and covered to a depth of not less than twelve inches with chaff or cut straw, and be fed chiefly by throwing oats on it, and compelling them to work and scratch for every grain they get. This keeps the birds healthy, prevents an undue accumulation of fat, and gives excellent results in hatching. It is not advisable under ordinary circumstances to set hens earlier than the 10th of April, but where circumstances are favorable it pays to hatch them even a month earlier. The advantages of early hatching are many, the pullets will lay not only sooner but younger if hatched on the first of April, than if hatched on the first of June, and the young males are worth much more if they can be made to weigh three pounds in July, than the same weight in September; but the early hatched chick requires so much more attention through the cold of early spring, that, as before stated, exceptionally favorable circumstances are necessary to obtain as favorable returns.

**Birtle Farmers' Institute.**

At the meeting for organization of this institute on Saturday, February 7th, the following officers were elected: President, J. C. Cooke; Vice-President, Jno. Dunlop; Secretary-Treasurer, Alfred Morton; Directors, J. B. Cartnell, Alonzo J. Shepherd, Wm. Higgins, Jos. Wilkinson, J. A. Edmonson and James Leggett. The President, Mr. Cooke, gave a short address on questions pertaining to institute work. He thought there was no class of men other than farmers that required to be "bribed" to come together to look after their own interests. He claimed that the aid which was given as an inducement was, in all respects, a bribe, and that it was a shame such was a necessity, and in this instance it must be acknowledged to be a necessity. He thought farmers were, as a rule, willing to do all the unprofitable work, and let others step in and do that which is more remunerative, such as shipping grain and other farm products. He commended the institute movement, but to receive benefit from it we must be willing to learn and not to flatter ourselves that we know about all there is to learn about farming. He had farmed twenty years, and found he had much yet to learn. He claimed we should not confine ourselves to economy of production, but should consider how we can place the grain on the market most economically. The speaker thought the farmer entitled to a voice in the formation of the grain standards. He thought it discreditable to the farmers that a man who was not a farmer had been the means of organizing the institute of which he had just been elected president. He thought the butter problem also worthy of attention. There were other matters to which he would like to call the attention of the institute, but time would not permit. After arranging the dates for meetings, viz., the first Saturday in every month, J. W. Bartlett, of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, Winnipeg, made a few remarks on institute work, and the best methods of conducting institutes. After considerable discussion on this subject, the meeting adjourned to meet on the first Saturday in March, when the president will read a paper on marketing wheat, a subject with which he seems to be particularly loaded, and will, no doubt, handle it efficiently. Arrangements will also be made by the Executive Committee for papers on other subjects. This institute has now a membership of forty, and bids fair to become a successful and useful organization. New officers are of course placed at a disadvantage, and business is not done with as great dispatch as might be desired, but time fits the harness to its place, when much less time will be taken up discussing the proper course to pursue. The ADVOCATE wishes the institute success.