

FOUNDED 1866

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE and HOME MAGAZINE

Is 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, or farmers, gardeners and stockmen, of any publication in Canada.

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Our Monthly Prize Essays.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *How Best to Raise the Standard of Our Butter*, has been awarded to M. Moyer, Walkerton, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5.00 will be given for the best essay on *"How can Greater Confidence be best Secured amongst Dairymen, Patrons, and Dealers?"* Essays to be in not later than April 15th.

A prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *How Should the Farmer Proceed to Improve his Dairy Herd (1) for Butter; (2) for Cheese?* Essays to be in not later than 15th May.

Choice Premiums.

Our subscribers should secure some of the choice plants and seeds offered as premiums in another column. These premiums will be sent out as soon as the weather will permit. When sending in your new names, select your premium at the time.

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

Grease—The corn-fed hog.

No spores, no rust; no seeds, no weeds.

Use your harrow freely; it has a refining influence on the soil.

If you can't control yourself, don't attempt to control your dumb brutes.

It is said that "corporations have no souls," but they have rapacious maws and prodigious stomachs.

SIR.—In 1883 I took the ADVOCATE. In 1884 the editor of our local paper induced me to take an American paper, much more pretentious than yours, but after getting it I was sorry for the change, and I made him send for the ADVOCATE this year again.
JAMES O'REILLY,
HASTINGS, ONT.

Editorial.**Agricultural Progress.**

A few years ago the inhabitants in the vicinity of Sherbrooke, in the Eastern Townships, got up a small plowing match, and after the plowing match a dinner was served up; speeches on agricultural subjects were made, thus giving a great interest to the undertaking. At the last meeting 36 competing plowmen were at work; at the dinner 200 farmers and others were present. Another enterprise was advanced, namely, the establishment of an independent agricultural exhibition, and a company was suggested to carry out the plan. The company intends to purchase land and erect buildings near Sherbrooke. The stock of the company is placed at \$25,000, of which \$10,000 has already been subscribed. The shares are placed at \$10 each, thus enabling all desirous of favoring the undertaking to aid it and have a voice in its management.

In another part of the Province of Quebec, the farmers united and held a separate agricultural exhibition last year. These evidences of independent enterprises should meet with the approbation of all who are really interested in improving the standard of farming, as they must tend to increase the value of the land and the exports of the country.

On the Wing.

On the 12th ult. we left our office, intending to go to Montreal and New York to transact business connected with your journal. We stopped over in Toronto to make arrangements with our artist with regard to illustrations. While there we heard that an important debate was about to take place in the Assembly on a subject directly effecting your interests.

The debate was occasioned by a motion previously made by the Opposition asking for a commission of investigation into the affairs of the Model Farm. In defence of the motion the Opposition made statements relating to the accounts and other forms of mismanagement which must astonish you, and proved the necessity for an inquiry or reforms of some nature. This is what we have been advocating for years, and a year ago we asked the Commissioner of Agriculture to inquire into the state of affairs, which he refused to do.

The course which the Government speakers pursued was to laud up the institution, making it appear that the Opposition was an enemy of the farmers and of agricultural progress, and creating the impression that additional expenditures for agricultural purposes were justifiable.

The motion was defeated by a majority of ten votes, and we personally know that seven of those who voted with the Government were personally dissatisfied with the management of the Farm; but as it was a party question, they voted to save the Government. The motion would therefore have been carried had it not been a party question, proving that public opinion is in favor of the course we have been pursuing with reference to the Model Farm. The Government have attempted to draw your attention away from the true state of affairs by sending out their professors to lec-

ture amongst you; but it is still a political institution and will remain so as long as it is under the control of the politicians.

We have been accused of party motives from time to time when we exposed the abuses of the institution; but we condemned it just as emphatically under Sandfield Macdonald's Conservative Government, believing that it would, in many features, prove injurious to the progress of private enterprise. We still retain this conviction, and are also convinced that under its existing management it will never be conducive to true agricultural progress. We have never been able to get information sufficiently reliable to venture the best suggestions for reforms in your interests. We don't know to whose charge the chief blame should be laid, and this will never be known without a searching inquiry.

Agricultural and Arts Association.

We have from time to time received a great deal of abuse on account of our criticisms on this institution. In connection therewith it would be well for you to consider that a member of Parliament, one of the strongest supporters of the Government, introduced a motion for abolishing the grant. He also suggested the expending of the agricultural grant in the publication and distribution of more Government literature at your expense.

The expenditure for maintaining the Government herd book for the registration of Shorthorns we now consider useless, for the breeders have established a more reliable one for themselves. Herd books for other breeds should also be maintained by farmers interested. The numerous changes in the management of the Government herd book have caused immense loss to many breeders.

How to Save the Manure.

VIII.

In our previous articles on this subject we explained the mysteries of the manure heap, and of those concentrated fertilizers which are a source of plant food. All sorts of high-sounding names are given to fertilizers for the purpose of making them appear more attractive; but as all are valued according to the quantity of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, or potash they contain, you will now want to see an analysis of them before you risk the making of any purchases. You will no doubt wonder why we have excluded plaster, lime, and salt, which you have been using on your land so liberally. It does not always follow that a compound is useless because it is not needed in the soil for plant food. The elements of plaster, lime, and salt are found in every plant; but these applications should not be regarded as fertilizers, because they are usually abundant in every soil, and the quantities found in plants are very small. A few soils, however, are constitutionally deficient in one or more of them, in which case they are as much of a fertilizer as nitrogen, phosphoric acid, or potash. Let us now suppose that an application of plaster, lime, or salt has increased the yield of a crop; it is then evident that it could not have produced this effect by acting directly as a plant food, the composition of the crop being almost identically the same under every system of manuring. All such applications must, therefore, prove bene-