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EDITION

OF THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE.

WM. WELD, PROPRIETOR.

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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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 will be given for the best essay on *What Shall we Substitute for our Natural Grasses for Hay*. Essay to be in this office not later than the 15th of August.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *The Treatment and Care of Manure During the Feeding Season to Render it Available for Use the Coming Spring or Summer*. Essay to be in this office not later than the 15th day of September.

Clubbing Rates.

Any of our subscribers who will send us the names of four new subscribers, accompanied by \$1.00, will receive the ADVOCATE free for one year, and will also receive one of our handsome subscription pictures "Canada's Pride."

A New Fraud.

Generally speaking the man who produces two pounds of butter from the previous source of one should rub shoulders with the one who causes "two blades of grass to grow where one grew before." When, however, an oily-tongued individual offers a preparation protected by patents that will, when placed in the cream previous to churning, increase the yield of butter twenty-five per cent., he should be given to understand that his sublime gull was beyond toleration in a civilized community. Reference was recently made in Hoard's Dairyman to such an article being offered for sale in some parts of the Western States, and now it is being offered in Manitoba, or at least it has been offered, but whether sufficient patronage has been extended to the agent to enable him to continue the business or not we are not in a position to state. There is little prospect of his doing business, however, with those who have read the dairy columns of the ADVOCATE for the past year. If butter is properly made it will contain eighty to eighty-five per cent. of butter fat, and if it does not contain at least eighty per cent. it is of an inferior quality. Now, there are but two ways in which the increased quantity could be obtained, viz., by coagulation of a part of the caseine in the milk or a more exhaustive creaming. The former would be very undesirable, and if butter made on that principle were offered at Virden market, under the present system of inspection, it would be classed No. 3, which means to all intents and purposes rejected. If any material increase in quantity is really obtained it must be by this coagulation of caseous matter and consequent sacrifice of quality, as the present system of centrifugal creaming seldom leaves more than one-third of one per cent. of butter fat in the milk, and deepsetting in ice-water is equally exhaustive, or if properly handled, possibly even more so. But whether the compound is even intended to increase the product, even at the sacrifice of quality, is an open question. One farmer of our acquaintance tried, following the instructions carefully, and the butter produced was precisely the same in quantity and quality as well, so far as could be ascertained without a chemical analysis. It would seem, therefore, that the object was to get hold of the farmers' money, and that too without the slightest intention or expectation of accomplishing anything in return. When such an article as this is found the agricultural press will announce it far in advance of it being peddled through the country by strangers, and it is wisdom in every instance to avoid the man who promises to give a great deal for a very little.

Manitoba Experimental Farm.

As this is the season of the year in which most information is to be gleaned from this farm we continue the article in reference thereto from last month, and purpose reporting the progress made by the most promising varieties until harvested. Visitors are numerous at the farm at present, fully three-fourths of whom are actual farmers. The Council of Cornwallis recently visited the farm in a body, and the superintendent says it was a pleasure to listen to the intelligent discussions and comments on the various branches of work being done. The breaking that was done early in the season is now being backset, and most of it is in fine condition, although considerable work will be necessary to keep the weeds in check. The wheat harrowed after sowing is much more free from weeds than that not harrowed, so much so that the most casual observer cannot fail to notice it. Lucerne or Alfalfa cannot be called a success, and Timothy only to a limited extent. The native grasses are much more promising than any of the artificial ones and will prove very valuable for pasture, as they mature from very early to very late. *Agropyrum Camum*, the native grass referred to in our July issue as being an early and abundant grower, is now long past its best, while some of the "drop seed" varieties that promised but little at that time are very promising now. These varieties drop their seed and the parent stock dies, the seed growing up the next year.

The most promising oats are the Welcome (White), and Black Tartarian.

In two-rowed barley English Malting and Prize Prolific are much the most promising, while Baxter's Prolific Six Rowed leads the procession by long odds, being now (July 18th), over four feet high.

The peas promise well, Early Field being the most promising at present, Multiplier and Crown coming next. Marrowfats, both the white and black-eyed varieties, are good, but sown a little thin.

Three varieties of buckwheat were sown, Common, Silver Hull and Japanese, and promise in the order named.

The season has been propitious for tree planting, as may be seen from the fact that of one hundred and sixty avenue trees planted, many as late as the middle of June, not one has died. These avenues of ashleaved maples are a great improvement to the appearance of the place, especially as there is a nicely graded roadway between them. Great progress has been made on this farm this season.