

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

\* AGRICULTURE, STOCK, DAIRY, POULTRY, HORTICULTURE, VETERINARY, HOME CIRCLE. \*

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VOL. XXXIV.

LONDON, ONT., AND WINNIPEG, MAN., AUGUST 1, 1899.

No. 483

## EDITORIAL.

### The "Farmer's Advocate" in New Quarters.

The present number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is issued from new, handsome, and commodious premises on the north side of Carling street, London, Canada, a few doors west of Richmond street, and quite convenient to the city post office. For over twenty years past the home of this publication has been at 300 Richmond street, but the development and requirements of the paper have entirely outgrown the old quarters, and while we naturally regret to sever the old associations, still, in justice to the paper and our readers and patrons, we find the need for enlarged and improved facilities imperative. Our new business offices are on the ground floor, making them of much more convenient access to the public; and our set of editorial rooms are comfortably located, with a southern outlook, on the floor above. The mailing and binding departments, where a large staff of hands are employed, are to the rear of the editorial apartments. The press and typesetting rooms of the London Printing & Lithographing Company (one of the largest and best appointed in the Dominion), in which the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is printed, are located immediately in rear of our business offices, the artists of the lithographing department being upon the third flat. The fine business offices of the Printing & Lithographing Co. adjoin (one door to the west) those of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. The whole premises cover a ground-floor area of 33 x 200 feet, five stories in height, and are well lighted and ventilated, supplied with steam and electric power, and are equipped as becomes the representative journal of the very foremost agriculturists of this continent to-day. To farmers, stockmen, and our friends generally, we extend a cordial invitation to call upon us in our new home.

### The "Farmer's Advocate" at the Toronto Industrial.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE will, as in previous years, have an office in the Press Bureau building, situated across the street north-east of the main building, during the two weeks of the Industrial Exhibition, where we will be pleased to meet our friends and patrons.

### Mr. John Dearness.

We take pleasure in adorning this page with a lifelike engraving of Mr. John Dearness, for some years past Inspector of Public Schools for East Middlesex, in the Province of Ontario. The portrait will be appreciated by our readers everywhere, as all are familiar with the admirable contributions from his pen upon agricultural education and other subjects which have from time to time appeared in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. He has just been appointed Vice-Principal of the new Provincial Normal School for the training of teachers, at London, Ont., which will be opened at the beginning of the coming year.

Mr. Dearness was born in Hamilton, Ont., May, 1852, of Scotch parentage, his parents being John and Jane (Linklater) Dearness. His earlier years were spent upon farms in Perth and Middlesex Counties, but having begun the acquisition of an education with marked success, he entered upon the teaching profession in 1870, first in a rural public school and subsequently as principal of the

Lucan and Strathroy public schools, and still later on the staff of the Strathroy High School. In the fall of 1874 he was appointed Public School Inspector for East Middlesex, a position in which he has rendered lasting service to the cause of public school education, his general administration being also uniformly marked by discernment and good judgment, enthusiasm and industry. His addresses before teachers' institutes and associations, and the ability with which he conducted the editorship of the *Ontario Teacher*, at the time the only educational journal in the Province, further enhanced his reputation. He was one of the editors of the *Royal Canadian Reader*, and for several years on the Central Committee, under the Provincial Department of Education, for the examination of teachers. He is an honorary member of the Montreal Historical Society, has been Lecturer on Botany and Zoology in the medical department of the Western University, and twice President of the Ontario Entomological Society. In fact, for several years he devoted considerable time to the practical study of natural science, particularly botany, entomology, and mycology. He has made probably the largest collection of fungi in Canada.



MR. JOHN DEARNESS.

It contains several hundred species new to science. It was in recognition of his attainments in this department of knowledge that he was recently selected by the Ontario Government as a member of the Royal Commission to investigate the subject of the troublesome San José scale and the procedure taken to overcome its ravages upon the fruit trees of the Province. One of the most unassuming of men, the extent and variety of his attainments are a constant surprise to those who enjoy his personal acquaintance. Apart from his pre-eminent general qualifications as an educator, he is one of the few educationists of the day who have grasped the true bearing and the importance of agricultural education. As our readers are aware, this subject is just being placed upon the curriculum of the Ontario public school course, and the Minister of Education was fortunate, in manning the new Normal School, to be able to secure the services of Mr. Dearness to be associated with those upon whom rests the responsibility of training in the art and science of teaching those who will in future be entrusted with the country's public school work, which, to our mind, outranks in importance that of high schools, collegiate institutes or universities, because in the former is laid the educational foundation of the country's youth.

### One Judge or More.

The question whether a single judge or a bench of two or three is most likely to give satisfaction to exhibitors in the awarding of prizes in the live stock department of exhibitions, is one that has often been discussed and upon which there is yet considerable difference of opinion. With the single exception of the Toronto Industrial, the leading exhibition associations in Canada have adopted the single-judge system, and, so far as we can learn, with more general satisfaction than was formerly given by committees of two or more. As a rule, the leading fair associations in the United States have, apparently after varied experiences, settled down to the conviction that one good judge can do as good work as three, and do it in very much less time. The most vigorous "kicking" on the part of exhibitors that has been witnessed of late years or at any period in the past has been made under two or more judges. Two judges and a referee has been the favorite tribunal for several years at the principal shows in Great Britain, but Canadian breeders who have witnessed their work have not been enamored with the results of the system, and it is only necessary to refer to the reports of the Royal Counties Show, at Windsor, and of the Royal Agricultural Society's Show, at Maidstone, published in our last two issues, to demonstrate that the system is far from being entirely satisfactory. At both of these events the two-judges differed in several cases, requiring the breaking of the deadlock by a referee, who, as usual, was only asked to decide between the two animals selected by the acting judges, but who might, if he had been given a free hand, have chosen another and a better from the competing list for either first or second place, as our correspondent, a Canadian breeder and a first-class judge, who reported he judging of the Shorthorn class at the Royal Show, clearly indicates that he would have done in one or two cases at least had the matter been referred to him, and it is difficult to see why the third man should not be allowed to choose from the whole list in competition as well as the other two. Of course, if this were allowed another tie-up might occur, and a second referee might or might not put things right if limited to the three animals chosen by as many different men. It will be noted that in all such cases the question is finally settled by the referee—a single judge. There is the further difficulty to be considered that if the expenses of judges are to be paid, as we certainly think they should be, the larger committee is more costly. The expenses of the referee should also be provided for if he is invited to be on hand, though he may not be called to act, and he ought to be appointed by the same authority as the judges. The fact that the Smithfield Club, one of the oldest and most successful societies that hold stock shows in Great Britain, has adopted the single-judge system for its next show is pretty good evidence that the prevailing custom there is not giving satisfaction. Whether it is owing to the growing practice (a proper one, in our estimation) of publishing the names of the judges prior to the date of the show, or to some other cause, it is worthy of note that there have been fewer cases of protest against the single judge chosen than against one of the two or both under the dual system, and the decisions of the single judge have commanded quite as much and as general respect as those of two or more. An English exchange, while recognizing and tacitly admitting the convenience and efficiency of the one-judge system, raises the point that where the entries are numerous and the classes large the work can be more expeditiously done by two or three. To this we decidedly demur, unless it be proposed to divide the work into as many sections, where there is too much work for one man, and that each shall take a separate part, which would, of course, be the single-judge system again, for we are fully persuaded, from experience and observation—and this is one of the advantages of