

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—

## HOME MAGAZINE.

WILLIAM WELD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

The Leading Agricultural Journal Published in the Dominion.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the 1st of each month. It is impartial and independent of all classes or parties, handsomely illustrated with original engravings, and furnishes the most profitable, practical and reliable information for farmers, dairymen, gardeners or 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.—It is not necessary for essayists to agree with our policy, so long as they give sound reasons for differing from us.
- 3.—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.
- 4.—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, the sum being decided by ourselves in each case, and the essay will appear in the same or in a succeeding issue.

Our prize of \$5.00 for the best original essay on *Clovers and Grasses* has been awarded to Mr. Thomas Elmes, Princeton, Ont. The essay appears in this issue.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original *Criticisms on the General Purpose Barn*—see page 76. Essays to be handed in not later than March 25th.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best original essay on *How should the Farmer Treat his Hired Men, and how can he Employ them most Profitably*. Essays to be handed in not later than April 15th.

### Editorial.

#### On the Wing.

MARKHAM FARMER'S CLUB.

At 5 p.m., Feb. 4, we entered the Wellington Hotel, at Markham. The annual meeting was being held. The subject under discussion was whether it would be advisable to abandon the Club and join the Farmers' Institute. The President stated that they were the oldest Farmer's Club in Canada, and had at one time abandoned the Club for the Grange; the Grange had not proved a success or a benefit to the Club and was abandoned. He considered the Club had done much good, and believed it would be injudicious to break it up again. In these remarks all the members agreed. The election of officers took place, and the appointment of the time for holding the 'spring show of grain was arranged.

At 6 o'clock the bell rang for dinner,—a sumptuous repast of oysters, chickens, geese, beef, ham, tongue, cake, pies, jellies, puddings and other delicacies too numerous to mention; tea, coffee, fruits and spirits were all abundantly supplied, and all this for a cost of 50c. It was fortunate that the great curling match and Burns' Anniversary had kept many away, as the hotel was completely packed. Despite this, everything passed off most harmoniously. Mr. Frankland asked the blessing; after dinner addresses were given by the President, members and others—Mr. Frankland on the export trade; Mr. Beattie on the imports. The usual loyal toasts were proposed, Captain Ralph responding to "The Army and Navy."

Between 10 and 11 o'clock the meeting adjourned to an adjoining room, leaving the dining-hall to be cleared for dancing, in which nearly all joined, some taking part in the discussions in the adjoining room.

Mr. G. F. Frankland, now one of the aldermen of Toronto, gave a very interesting and important address in regard to our export meat trade. He stated that he was the first person that ever shipped a cargo of cattle from America to Europe, and gave an account of the difficulties he had to contend with. He was sneered at by bankers and capitalists; he had great difficulty to get the vessels properly fitted up, and when his stock was on board, the insurance company would not insure the cattle for less than ten per cent. To avoid this high rate, he insured his own life instead of that of the cattle. When in Liverpool he had great difficulty to procure accommodation for his stock. He personally expended large sums of money to induce the authorities to secure accommodation for

cattle when landed there. Mr. Frankland's enterprising energy has been of immense advantage to Canada and America, as he was undoubtedly the pioneer of this great and important trade; all other exporters are mere copyists of his energy, and no one has expended so much from their private funds to induce even the British people to supply accommodation and facilities for conducting this great and important trade. It is very doubtful if either the Canadian or American Governments have in all their expenditures done so much good to the stockmen of America as Mr. Frankland has done. Not only has his enterprise been checked and discouraged by parties in Canada, but even the greatest obstructions and inconveniences in England were overcome by him. He deserves a recognition and even more than thanks from all. What was considered an impossibility has been a grand success. This man has been termed a crank, a fool, &c., &c. The live stock export trade of this continent to Europe may be laid at the foot of Mr. Frankland's pedestal. Mr. Frankland is from the borders of England and Scotland; full of humor and fun. He is considered one of the best judges of cattle in Canada, and knows the requirements of the British market. He strongly deprecates the pampering and over-feeding of animals.

Mr. Simon Beattie addressed the meeting in regard to the import trade. He has been one of Canada's largest importers. He imported largely for Mr. G. Miller Mr. Cochran and numerous other breeders, and very largely for himself. Shorthorns, Ayrshires, Jerseys, Cotswolds, Leicesters, Shropshires, Oxforda, Southdowns and Clydesdale horses have been his specialties, although he has imported many others. He mentioned the highly remunerative part of agriculture that the farmers in that vicinity were now paying their attention to, namely, the breeding of Clydesdale horses, which were now in great demand at from \$150 to \$300 per head for draft purposes. This he considered quite as remunerative as any branch of agriculture. At the present time his attention was being turned somewhat to the Dorset sheep as being more profitable than any other for the shambles. The advantage that this class of sheep has over all others is that they are the most prolific. For instance, they seldom have less than twins and often three lambs at a dropping, and they breed twice each year. Their progeny is in great demand to supply the tables of the epicures and of the leading hotels and saloons with lamb, for which they pay almost fabulous prices.

Mr. Thos. Guy spoke of the merits of the