

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

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

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## EDITORIAL.

We are pleased to learn from leading breeders in different parts of the country that enquiries for good breeding stock are decidedly in advance of last year.

The good roads movement is well under way in the Province of Quebec, where county and district associations are being organized. A largely-attended convention was recently held at Sweetsburg, where an address was delivered by Mr. A. W. Campbell, C. E., Provincial Instructor of Road-making in Ontario Province.

Our readers will find in this issue an account of the best and most practical information brought out at recent conventions of farmers, fruit-growers, bee-keepers, experimenters, and others, each of which has been specially prepared for the ADVOCATE. Much valuable experience is brought to light in the papers and discussions at most of these gatherings.

Hereafter the FARMER'S ADVOCATE goes to its readers in a substantial, colored cover—the Ontario and Eastern Edition “gold” tint, the Manitoba and Western “corn,” representing two useful commodities of which we trust farmers will have their due share in 1897. This is but a minor improvement. More important ones are in store for the service of our readers, which we feel certain will be appreciated.

Of Christmas newspapers we have seen nothing yet to equal that of the Toronto Globe, with its 52 pages (eight of which were on special paper) and some 200 attractive illustrations. In many respects the Globe recalls the vigorous style that characterized it in the days of George Brown, and it is unquestionably a better modern newspaper to-day than it ever was before. Its fairness and frankness are most commendable. Canada—in fact, every country—needs a press that is not a mere party mouthpiece, and no better service can be rendered the people than giving them complete and luminous information regarding all public matters. The people are to be trusted, and we like to see in Canada a growing sensitiveness on the part of the people as to their rights and the way in which they desire public business to be carried on, just such, for example, as we find in Great Britain. The Globe has done excellent service in that direction.

### Comments on Our Christmas Number.

Mr. J. C. Snell, of Snelgrove, under date of Dec. 25th, writes us as follows: “Accept my heartiest congratulations on the handsome and tasteful appearance of your Christmas number, as well as its valuable and interesting contents. The illustrations are in rare good taste and exceedingly appropriate. It was a happy thought to invite a discussion of the tendencies, needs, and prospects of agriculture in the various Provinces of the Dominion, by men so thoroughly competent and reliable, and the responses are such as to inspire farmers in all the Provinces to a forward movement in the adoption of the best methods in farming, stock raising, dairying, and other specialties, and to take a hopeful view of the future, which gives promise of better days. The ADVOCATE is doing good work, and well deserves encouragement.”

Toronto Globe editorial, December 23rd: “The Christmas issue of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is an exceedingly interesting one, containing as it does a number of excellent illustrations of Canadian rural scenes. Christmas issues too often give the impression to those abroad to whom they are sent that Canada is a land of perpetual winter. The ADVOCATE'S Christmas number will do something to counteract that impression. Here we have a smiling landscape scene from the Experimental Farm at Indian Head in the Territories, a ranching scene from Calgary, a marvellously laden branch of a plum tree at Agassiz (B. C.), a section of an orchard in Nova Scotia, and many other illustrations of a like nature. The Christmas ADVOCATE has finely lithographed covers and is altogether a handsome journal, reflecting much credit on its publishers.”

Spectator, Hamilton, Ont.: “The FARMER'S ADVOCATE, London, has issued a handsome Christmas number, which does it much credit.”

The Advertiser, London, Ont.: “The FARMER'S ADVOCATE of Dec. 15th is a magnificent Christmas number, with illuminated cover and handsome full-page colored illustrations. It is a work of art throughout.”

Wm. Rennie, seedsman, Toronto, Canada: “We have just received the Christmas ADVOCATE, and must congratulate you upon the fine appearance of this paper. We think it is the best number you have yet sent out and it is certainly very creditable.”

Robt. Murray, Simcoe Co., Ont.: “I have just received the Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and think so much of it that I would like very much to have other two copies to send to friends in Scotland. I enclose amount for same; if that is not right I will send more.”

Prof. C. F. Curtiss, Agricultural College and Experiment Station, Ames, Iowa: “Your Christmas issue is at hand, and I beg to congratulate you upon its artistic finish and the excellence of its contents. Such a paper can not help being of great service and inestimable value to Canada's extensive agricultural interests.”

The London Free Press: “The farmers of Canada have received a great treat in the Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, of London, Ont. It is a unique and valuable production, the splendid articles and illustrations of which give probably the best representation ever published of Canadian agriculture. Able representative writers in every Province of Canada, from British Columbia to Nova Scotia, discuss its Tendencies, Needs, and Prospects. Robt. Elliott, a true Canadian son of the soil, strikes the keynote in his bright little poem, ‘Take Heart of Hope, O Farmer.’ Among the leading contributors are: Mr. Geo. Johnston, Dominion Statistician of the Agricultural Department, Ottawa, who shows the remarkable development of our agricultural exports since Confederation, in 1867; Hon. John Dryden, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, deals with ‘Canadian Live Stock Husbandry’; Hon. Thos. Greenway, Premier of Manitoba, ‘Agriculture in the Prairie Province’; Mr. Angus Mackay, Superintendent of the Indian Head Experimental Farm, ‘Farming in the Northwest Territories’; R. E. Gosnell, Provincial Librarian of British Columbia, a most graphic article on the ‘Golden West.’ Mr. Julius L. Inches, Secretary for Agriculture, New Brunswick; Mr. B. W. Chipman, Secretary for Agriculture, Nova Scotia; and Mr. Wm. Clark, Prince Edward Island, write on agriculture in the Maritime Provinces; Prof. E. E. Faville, on ‘The Fruit Year in Nova Scotia’; W. A. Hale, on ‘Farming in Quebec’; a valuable Farmers' Institute address by John McMillan, M. P., is given; ‘How American Farming strikes a Canadian,’ by J. Wilson Knight, B. S. A.; the ablest review we have seen of ‘British Agriculture,’ by Archibald McNeillage, Secretary of the British Clydesdale Society and Editor of the Scottish Farmer; besides complete reports of the Ontario Fat Stock Show and many practical articles, such as ‘Gold Medal Butter-making,’ ‘How She Won the Lord Mayor's Cup,’ etc. This number of the ADVOCATE is bound in a beautiful colored cover, and besides nearly a score of [choice photo-engravings, contains a full page colored plate on special paper of Mr. Crossley's ‘Sandy Bay Stock Farm’ in Muskoka, Ont. A fine view is also given of Mr. Simpson Rennie's Gold Medal Farm at Milliken, Ont. The Manitoba, British Columbia, Northwest, and Scottish scenes are among the very best. The ADVOCATE has done a distinct service to the country in issuing this fine Christmas number, which goes to every new subscriber for 1897. We notice that the paper continues to be published twice a month in large size, and on and after Jan. 1st will appear in a colored cover (‘gold’ tint), together with a largely increased contributing staff of the ablest and most practical writers in Canada.”

### A Good Paper and a Good Premium.

M. Street, Lambton Co., Ont., writes:—“I received my premium Bible and was highly delighted with it. I am sure that this beautiful Bible is worth twice as many new subscribers (three) as I sent you. My friends all think it very fine. I will do all I can for the paper. The subscribers are all highly pleased with the ADVOCATE.”

### Removing Quarantine.

Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, accompanied by Dr. McEachran, Dominion Live Stock Inspector, and Hon. John Dryden, Ontario Minister of Agriculture, have had a conference with the U. S. authorities regarding the international quarantine and live stock inspection. Before going to press we learn that the 90-day cattle quarantine is to be raised, inspection being substituted therefor, and other changes made. Upon being ratified by the respective Cabinets the new arrangement will go into effect. We will publish complete details later.

### The Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union.

The eighteenth annual meeting of the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union was held at the Agricultural College, Guelph, Ont., on December 10th and 11th. If we are to judge from the experience of the past we must agree with a remark of President Lick, of Oshawa, in his opening address, when he said that “before another decade passes the ‘Union’ will be one of the most influential associations in Canada.” To show how the experimental work over the Province has increased under the Union organization, we publish the following table. The first column shows the year, the second the number of experiments, and the third the number of experimenters:

YEAR.	Experiments.	Experimenters.
1886.....	1	12
1888.....	1	30
1889.....	12	208
1891.....	12	754
1892.....	13	1204
1893.....	14	1440
1894.....	15	1600
1895.....	16	2280

The objects of the Union are primarily a gathering together of as many as possible of the ex-students and other members of the Union to hear the reports of all their work as summarized and compiled by the directors of the various departments. To this is added the delivering of addresses, reading of papers and discussions upon the same by the best procurable men in the department of work upon which they are expected to deal. The Dominion and Ontario Ministers of Agriculture were present on this occasion and gave well-received addresses.

There were also upon the programme: Mr. O. E. Thorne, Director of the Agricultural Experimental Station, Wooster, Ohio; Mr. Thos. Greiner, author of “How to Make the Garden Pay” and other works, La Salle, N. Y.; and Mrs. J. Hoodless, of the Hamilton School of Domestic Science; besides a number of graduates of the College. The meeting occupied four well-filled sessions, including two afternoons, one forenoon, and one evening.

President Lick's address stated that the best results ever obtained were those of the past year. He recommended that the high ideal especially desirable in experimental work be formed by all ex-students of the College. The value of thoroughly understanding the general and local values of the various agricultural and horticultural products can not be easily overestimated. This can be understood when it is realized that a combined increase of one bushel per acre of four of the principal cereals would give a sum of \$1,150,000. It is a fact that the “Union” has introduced from other countries varieties of grain—oats, for example—that are now the most popular in the Province.

Injurious Plants and Insects.—Prof. Pantou, of the College, in an excellent paper upon “Injurious Insects and Weeds,” referred to the horn fly as slightly decreasing over the Province. The Buffalo carpet beetle has become a great household pest. It was suggested that carpets be not laid so close to the wall as to afford a hiding place for them. The Gypsy moth, which has already cost the State of Massachusetts half a million dollars in an endeavor to eradicate it, is not nearly stamped out. This shows the need of vigilance on the first appearance of a pest. While the past year has not been of a sort to show great benefits from spraying, yet gratifying reports were received from some districts. The ravages of the army worm and tussock moth were touched upon in a manner similar to the references made to them in past issues of the ADVOCATE. The Hessian fly has been destructive in some localities.

Among the worst weeds were mentioned Canadian thistles, wild mustard, ox-eyed daisy, wild oat, ragweed, burdock, sow thistle, bird weed, prickly lettuce, and ribbed grass.

In the discussion which followed, the necessity of sowing clean seed was emphasized. Surface