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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE & HOME MAGAZINE

WM. WELD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL PUBLISHED IN THE DOMINION.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is published on or about the first of each month. 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 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 *The Management of Agricultural Exhibitions*. Essay to be in this office by the 10th of November.

A prize of \$5 will be given for the best essay on *What Steps Should be Taken to Improve the Quality of Milk delivered at Cheese Factories*. Essay to be in this office by the 10th of December.

The writer of the First Prize Essay appearing in this issue, will please send us his name and address, that we may send the \$5 prize awarded.

We want Good, Live AGENTS to canvass for the "Farmer's Advocate" in every locality in the Dominion and United States. Sample copies and subscription blanks free to canvassers who mean business.

Editorial.

On the Wing.

Standing in the observatory of the main building of the International Exhibition, at Detroit, on the 26th day of September, we saw the various railroads centering in or passing through the city. The magnificent Detroit River is at our feet, on which a greater tonnage passes daily than on any part of the St. Lawrence or any other river on this continent. Five months ago a large swamp existed between the river and where the building now stands, but which has been converted into a pond or miniature lake, on which pleasure boats are seen; also a fine driving track, on which are exhibited some of the finest stock on the continent, a good number of which are Canadian, and have gained honors for our country. The large, handsome, commodious building on the grounds, constructed on the latest and most approved plans for the convenience of exhibitors and visitors, commands our admiration, and should be seen by all interested in agricultural exhibitions. It causes us to wonder at, and admire the progressiveness of our American cousins, when we remember that all these buildings, excavations, and substantial wharves have been constructed in so short a space of time—five months. While the display of stock was being made, our senses were charmed with the sound of "Home, Sweet Home," and other tunes, played on a novel set of chimes, consisting of long iron tubes, and which may be heard at a great distance. They seemed destined to surpass the old church bell for many purposes. In the main building, the best New York band (Campa's) was playing, and wonders of art, science, and nature were delighting and interesting the visitors quite as much, and perhaps more, than the productions of the farm and workshop. In Percheron horses, Shetland ponies, Holstein, Guernsey, and Jersey cattle, Merino sheep, and Duroc Jersey swine, we must yield our cousins the palm, but in nearly all other classes of horses, cattle, and sheep, Canada holds the chief place. The exhibition was well managed, and has given pretty general satisfaction, although there are improvements to be made, and always will be. Such exhibitions make the two nations better acquainted with each other, and tend to neutralize any rankling feelings that may exist in the political arena, and we trust this friendly sentiment may extend from the boundary to the interior of both countries. Space forbids a fuller description. We append the list of prizes won by Canadians.

HORSES.—Clydes—Mr. McMillan, Constance, Ont., on yearling stallion, first and second prize;

on two-year-old stallion, fourth and fifth; on aged stallion, third; on stallion and four of his get, second. Mr. McEwen, Byren, Ont., on aged stallion, second. J. Matthews, Acton, Ont., on pair of roadsters, second. Chas. Dalgleish, Chesterfield, Ont., on aged stallion, fourth. Geo. Wilkinson, Drumbo, Ont., on yearling stallion, fifth. Shire—Green Bros, Innerkip, Ont., on five-year-old mare, first. Thoroughbreds—R. McEwen, Byron, Ont., fourth. Jos. Hickson, Montreal, Que., took several prizes on Shetland and Exmoor ponies. W. Gerard, Windsor, Ont., on saddle horses (English gait) second.

CATTLE.—Bow Park won ten firsts and one second in the Shorthorn classes, easily beating everything. They also came out first in every class in the different sweepstakes for beef breeds. They also showed ponies. D. Alexander, of Bridgen, Ont., showed three head, and took third on a two-year-old bull.

SHEEP.—J. Kelly, jr., Shakespeare, Ont., showed Leicesters, and took nine firsts and five seconds with a fine exhibit. J. Jackson, Abingdon, Ont., showed Southdowns, and completely swept the ring, taking every first and second. H. Mitton, Ridgetown, Ont., showed Leicesters, taking amongst other prizes, first for ram and his get. He also showed Chester White pigs, (taking nothing).

POULTRY.—H. H. Wallace, Woodstock, Ont., secured sixteen firsts and four seconds on poultry and ducks. Burns and Moffat, Tilsonburg, Ont., also carried off a large number of prizes in different classes of poultry.

GRASSES, GRAINS, &c.—Charles Grant, Thornbury, Ont., had an excellent exhibit, which excited much attention.

Bohemian Oats and Live Fences.

From a visit to the counties in Ontario between Toronto and Kingston, we know there are parties there pushing the old Bohemian Oat swindle, although under another name. Farmers will do well to avoid signing contracts with sleek-tongued strangers, and buy seeds from seedsmen of known reliability, of whom there are more or less in every city in Ontario. We would call attention to an article in another column, sent us as a result of investigation by us, from the gentleman referred to therein.

We have also received numerous enquiries as to hedges, as there are parties in Ontario contracting to plant, grow and care for them. We are not personally cognizant of any fraud in this matter, but would call attention to an article in this issue, taken from a paper published in a section where hedgemen have been at work for some time. We specially request our readers to send us information of any attempt to defraud them. We are determined to spare no pains to show up frauds and protect the farmer.