

farmers through the introduction and cheap distribution of the best cereals, roots, fruits, grasses, vegetables, trees, etc.

The first and best information in regard to these subjects has been given through the columns of this journal. The health, economy, comforts and pleasures of the home have been closely attended to; many will admit that there is not a better educator in Canada for the farmer and his family than the *ADVOCATE*, which has always been true to its name and its cause, having higher aims than sectional or party ties. Your interests have been duly guarded by our endeavors to prevent frauds and expose deceitful and injurious practices wherever they exist.

The *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* has always been conducted in the interest of Canadian farmers. Our artist who sketches live stock we specially instructed. Preference has always been given to Canadian talent, and unbiased writers have been its contributors. It has withstood the competition of imitators and the onslaughts of various forms of organized opposition. It has not allied itself with any organization. It has not existed by means of taxation, but by voluntary subscriptions from the best farmers in each Province of this Dominion.

Now, having the largest list of subscribers of any agricultural publication in Canada, composed of the best farmers in all parts of this Dominion, belonging to both political parties, to every religious sect, and to all honorable organizations, we ask every one having the true interest of the farmer and happiness of his home at heart, to use his or her influence to extend the usefulness of the *ADVOCATE* by every legitimate and honorable means.

#### The Colonial Exhibition

Has now closed. Many Canadian exhibitors have already been well repaid for their pains. Mr. Mason sold one of his pianos to go to Windsor Castle; Mr. Massie sold one of his harvesters to Lord Lansdowne; the Harris Manufacturing Co., John Elliott & Son, J. O. Wisner, Son & Co., Bell & Co., Cockshutt & Co., Watson & Sons have made good sales of agricultural implements. Bell & Co. and Karn & Co. have done a large business in organs; the Ontario Pump Co. have opened a large business for their pumps; and many others have been successful in effecting sales. Many English firms have taken patterns from Canadian implements to manufacture from. A great stimulus has been given for future commerce in all our products, and a large emigration will follow. The establishment of a permanent exhibition and market is in contemplation, and imperial federation is suggested. This, if it can be carried out on an equitable basis, should be highly beneficial to the nation and to the world. The bringing together of the scattered colonies into one central point, as the Colonial Exhibition has done, will no doubt be an important factor in facilitating the great scheme of the imperial federation.

In the dining room in London, on Holborn Street, where the Colonial representatives first dined together, the following was the only motto over the heads of the representatives, Lord Lorne and the Lord Mayor of London: *Domine dirige nos*, "O Lord, direct us." Let us try to apply it.

#### More Farmers Wanted in Parliament.

The small percentage of farmers in our parliament is a disgrace to any agricultural community. Our agricultural affairs are fast becoming more political; and the demand for honest, intelligent farmers to administer their own affairs is proportionately increasing. Experience must have taught you the folly of hiring professional politicians to do your thinking, especially when you are not organized to look after them. What is wanted is fewer talkers and more thinkers. Select the man of sound principles, whose only pledge is to sustain the right and rebut the wrong. Both Governments are squandering vast sums of money nominally for your benefit, but actually for the purpose of obtaining your vote and influence.

Although it is not in our sphere to chat politics, yet we have always fearlessly and independently discussed agricultural questions, their connection with political issues being a secondary consideration. At times our words have fallen hard on both parties, not for the purpose of swaying your political opinions, but for your good as farmers and as men. Our severest attacks must always be against the parties in power, and it is unfair for you to call upon us to assail the party who has no power to do wrong. If the party in power fails to administer your affairs justly and honorably, don't infer that the other party will do better. The root of the evil lies in our party system, and nothing short of a revolutionary change can bring about the desired state of affairs.

#### Agricultural Prophets.

So many storms are brewing now-a-days, not alone in the meteorological, but also in the industrial world, that the mere weather prophet now fails to command that degree of attention which used to be his reward.

There has never been a greater demand for prophets in the industrial world for the genius of man has not yet succeeded in inventing a true industrial barometer, and the want is specially felt in our agricultural sphere. The boom is not without its source, and it sweeps along with such force that the unprepared are unable to withstand its fury, the result being an alarming destruction of life and property. It is said that the farmer is hard to move. This is a wise provision of Providence under the existing condition of affairs, where the motion is not in the right direction.

The effect of every agricultural movement is of great concern to our farmers, modifying their happiness and prosperity. How many of our agricultural authorities in this fast age stop to discuss the causes or the effects of upstart schemes set in motion nominally for the benefit of agriculture? Almost none! Hence the demand for agricultural prophets. The true agricultural prophet is not a mere guesser; he can foresee the effect from the cause. The utility of such a man is incalculable, there being a strong tendency to motion from selfish motives, a dangerous crowd following the leaders, and the effect must always, sooner or later, end in disaster.

Let us enumerate a few instances. One of the most iniquitous was the "baby-beef" boom—high feeding for prizes and awards, the ruination of a few animals being the cheapest method of advertising the rest of the herd.

The system has now fallen by virtue of its own rottenness, and the authorities are now writing offensively and severely against it than they formerly did in its favor. We were the first to predict this reaction, and we were denounced for damaging our live-stock interests.

Then came the milk-fraud. Splendid cows were stuffed to death for the purpose of producing a big yield for a day or two, and creating a big blow. What the manipulators really wanted was a big name and a fancy price for their stock. We instantly demanded the cost of production, the yield per season, the quality of the milk, etc., but we were ruining our dairying interests again, of course. What have been the results? Cows are now being tested on principles approximating those we enunciated. When this boom reached the height of its glory, a proposition was made to lobby our Government to exterminate all stock that had no pedigrees or big "records." What journal exposed the rascally designs of these manipulators? Who now hears a whisper about this fraudulent scheme? Under the necessity of saying something when they speak, so-called authorities have told you to breed from the best, meaning thereby that an animal to be the best must have a long pedigree. What journal has placed in your hands the facilities by which you can make for yourself practical tests as to the individual merits of the animals composing your herd? Which is the only agricultural journal in Canada that has had sufficient courage to expose the registration frauds?

The *ADVOCATE* has never shrunk from its duty even when threatened with extinction by the manipulators and their organs. The death of the *ADVOCATE* would be a bright new era for them, but it still lives, and continues to be the leading agricultural journal in Canada. These are a few of the claims we make for a renewal of your patronage for the coming year.

#### Our Agricultural Library—Books for our Readers.

We have recently received a large number of letters from our readers asking our advice as to best books on different agricultural subjects. We have delayed our answers pending the revision of the list of agricultural works which we keep in stock for the accommodation of our subscribers.

We are pleased to see the increasing thirst for agricultural knowledge, and we have done all we can to make the best possible selection. The list will be revised from time to time as circumstances require, and meanwhile will be small, but the choicest authors have been selected. We regret to see so great a dearth of Canadian talent amongst agricultural writers; foreign works in some branches are not so suitable to the practical wants of our farmers as we would desire, but we perform our duty when we make what we consider to be the best selections, and dispose of them to our readers at the very lowest figures, either for cash or as premiums.

The names of the books and of the authors, with prices attached, will be found in our advertising columns.

#### Bound Volumes.

Bound volumes of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* for 1886 are now for sale. You cannot make a friend a more valuable present for the same amount of money. Every farmer should have it for reference. Price, \$1.60. Address this office.