

probable, that the farmers will ever regain their lost power and influence over this exhibition and grounds, which have been admitted to be the best in the Dominion. Farmer fairly competed with farmer, and all contended for the honors. Other influences now overrule the farmers in this their stronghold. This should tend to arouse farmers to take particular care to hold the title of their own exhibition grounds in their own hands. There may be some that consider this step advantageous to the farmer and to the citizens, but we have not been able to see it in that light, neither have the leading farmers of this county. We opposed it as long as we thought it of any use, and now only hope for the best, as what cannot be cured must be endured.

"An honest yeomanry is our country's pride—
When once destroyed can never be supplied."

Caution.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE has always strongly opposed unnecessary taxation. That has given offence to some office holders and office seekers, some of whom, we regret to say, have, by various unscrupulous means, unsuccessfully attempted to check the circulation and influence of the ADVOCATE. Look with great caution upon men who despise your ADVOCATE, or who fail to give credit for what good it may have done or attempted to do. If any plead ignorance with regard to your requirements or what good the ADVOCATE may have done, you may infer they are not friends of the farmer. Your ADVOCATE has endeavored to advance your interest in every legitimate manner, and has ever been on the alert to detect any impositions which might be perpetrated on the farmer.

Political Farming and Dairying by the Dominion Government.

It would require an accountant to keep track of all the systems of farming that are springing into existence. We have practical farming, scientific farming, book farming, business farming, and now political farming seems to be gaining such popularity that all the other systems are threatened with extinction.

During the recent session of the Dominion Parliament \$20,000 were granted for agricultural purposes. A model farm is to be selected in a central point of the Dominion, where there is an average climate, where the soil is neither too rich nor too poor, and on which something is to be erected "more or less akin to an agricultural college." Pupils are to be employed "profitably" on the farm, and their labor is to be "self-sustaining." The concern is to be conducted on "scientific principles," under competent professors; but it is not yet known whether or not diseased stock is to be kept for practical instruction and for the aggrandizement of veterinary science. The argument advanced in support of the carving out of this agricultural elephant is that heaps of public money are being squandered on objects ten times less valuable.

It is to be modelled and patterned after the bonanza agricultural elephant at Washington. Some members displayed their familiarity with our agricultural affairs by the suggestion that, in their candid opinion, the sum granted would hardly be sufficient, until it was ex-

plained that this was a mere preliminary grant, the greater portion of which would be expended in the purchasing of a site. Then the real expenditures were to follow. The Washington model costs about \$300,000 a year for varnish alone.

No opposition to the scheme having been raised in the House of Commons, it will be the first policy of the Government to avert the opposition of the farmers. Maps indicating an outline of the Dominion will be drawn and submitted to mathematicians to find out on whose farm this point falls, and it will be found that this does not tally with the climatic centre, which will necessitate the employment of a meteorological expert. Besides, the geological centre will be somewhat remote, and when greater accuracy is employed, it will be found that the wanting term in the ratios of these centres will fall on a line fence, on neither side of which will the soil be suitable for experimental purposes, and the owners will be obscure farmers who have never been known to put their shoulders to the political wheel. An attempt will then be made to keep the political centre out of the question; but some will clamor for the practical centre, some for the scientific centre, and the press will have no difficulty in proving that the political is more accurate than the mathematical centre. Scientists will reason thus: "As the farm is to be conducted on scientific principles, therefore, it is the scientific centre that must be found." If farmers become organized by this time, they will succeed in carrying the agricultural centre.

Some hundreds of thousands having thus been expended and placed in the pockets of prospective applicants for office on the coming model farm, the matter will be brought before Parliament, when it will be urged that, unless the institution is proceeded with, these expenditures will be utterly lost to the farmers. Objections will be raised against its establishment, but seventy-five per cent. of this sum will be cast into the bribery box to carry the coming election, and the model farm expenditures worth speaking of will then commence—from the political centre.

Even if it could be hoped that these expenditures were in the real interests of agriculture, and not for the benefit of the rapidly increasing horde of office-seekers, the farmers of this Province will object to the establishment of the concern on the ground that, if a model farm is indispensable, it will cost millions of dollars less in the end to reform the one already established in the Province, and make it suitable to their requirements. Quebec has become almost bankrupt in her misguided efforts to improve agriculture; New Brunswick has an agricultural elephant on her shoulders heavier than she is able to bear; and our Northwest is clamoring for a similar burden in the hope that expenditure diverted in this direction may prove less corrupt than if allowed to continue in the existing channels.

Ontario farmers will see at a glance that the promises made in obtaining the grant of \$20,000 cannot possibly be satisfactorily fulfilled. "Competent professors," no doubt, can be had, but they must come from other lands, and will be men who do not understand our agricultural circumstances and requirements. Our popula-

tion must be educated very gradually to scientific methods, and unless some scheme be adopted for the instilling of the principles into our rural youths through our public schools, little hope of success should be expected. The expression as to employing the students "profitably" we take to mean that the proposed institution is to be for farmers' sons. This has proved a failure at the Ontario Model Farm, and there is no ground for hope that the scheme will work at any other centre. The pupils are also to be "self-sustaining," and here the same objection applies.

Two thousand dollars have also been voted for another batch of Lynch's pamphlets on dairying. The same scandalous imposition has been thrust upon our Ontario Government, which we fully exposed in our last issue. Thirty thousand copies are to be broadcast over the Dominion, presumably in the interests of dairying, but virtually for entirely different purposes.

Fruits as Food and Medicine.

Now is the time to think about fruit culture. If the ground is not ready for planting this fall, it must now be prepared for next spring.

We recently asked one of our leading fruit growers why their association did not disseminate information with regard to the value of fruits as food for man and beast, as well as information as to how and what to plant. He answered that the subject was too dry, notwithstanding the inherent juiciness of fruits. He revolved chemistry, physiology, and other sciences in his mind, and then shook his head. We think our Fruit Growers' Association is greatly at fault; it should at least be able to state whether fruits are intended to be eaten as a food or as luxury. Farmers should first be taught what they can consume with the greatest profit. Some farm products are intended to be eaten; some to be sold.

The word luxury may have a double meaning; it may imply something nutritious and wholesome, but scarce and consequently expensive; or it may include those articles of consumption which are mere appetizers, and on account of their stimulating or enticing effects, must act injuriously, as they deprave the natural appetite, causing the victim to consume more than nature has made provision for,—such, for example, as spiced foods. In the first case, fruits cannot be regarded as a luxury, for they are universally plentiful and cheap. Some plants are valued for their nutritive qualities; some merely possess medicinal virtues, while others are partly nutritive and partly medicinal. The latter is the distinguishing characteristic of fruits.

Some people can flourish on vegetables and fruits, while others seem to require a mixed diet, and every person must be his own judge with regard to the quantity of fruit he can enjoy and upon which he can keep up his vitality. Fruits contain all the elements of nutrition, but not in so concentrated a form as many other articles of diet. An objection has been raised against fruits because they contain so much water; but this is one of their greatest advantages. No part of their juices exist as water, but is so chemically united with the acids and other constituents as to form a cooling, nutritive, and corrective mixture. The