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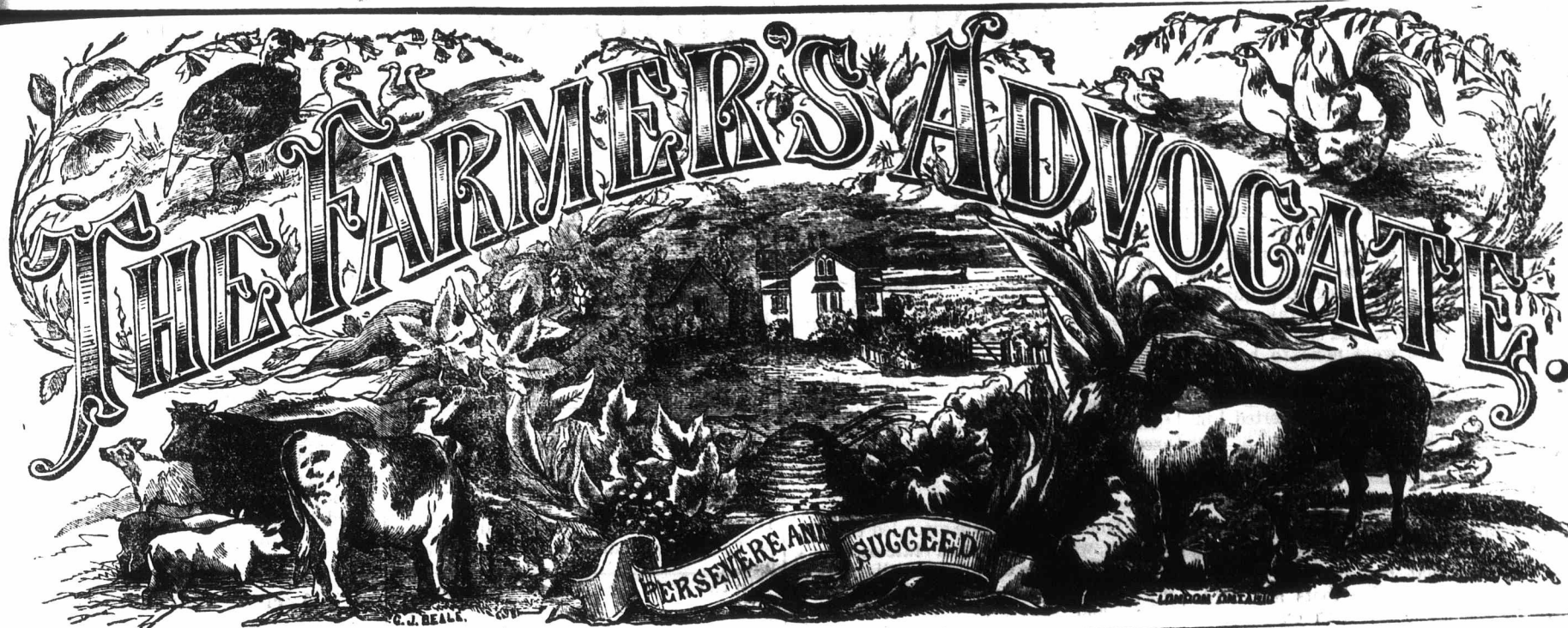
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Editor and Proprietor }

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The Provincial Exhibition of '72.

It has been a grand success, both financially and beneficially, considering the extreme turbulent political feelings that have been agitating the country, and which, we much regret, show more signs of a stronger interference than has yet been felt in regard to the Provincial Exhibition and political agricultural affairs of the country generally.

A most important subject was broached to us while on the ground by one or more gentlemen holding positions of importance in the country. It was the plan of centering the exhibition in some locality. At the annual meeting of the delegates to the Exhibition, held in the Court House, in Hamilton, it was attempted to pass a resolution to have the Exhibition permanently established near Toronto. We view this attempt to centre it as detrimental to the interests of agriculture, and could not refrain from making some remarks against such a course. The question has yet to be brought up for consideration. At the next annual meeting for the election of officers and delegates of the different agricultural societies, it would be well to have this question brought before the various meetings, and enable the farmers to send such delegates as would represent their views on the question—Is the Provincial Exhibition to be perambulating as heretofore, or shall its influence and utility be extended to other sections, such as Ottawa, Guelph, &c., or would it be best to have it at one place? We believe the delegates from this city, if elected as they have hitherto been, would most assuredly vote for its centralization in Toronto, because this city is the place where the plan of establishing the Mimico Farm originated; that farm was to have been the permanent establishment, and an inhabitant of this city was to have had control of the farm. The Bill for the establishment of the farm was hurriedly passed through the Legislature, without the due consideration it should have had.

The whole affair was got up for the benefit of one individual. We are not speaking imaginatively; we know the foundation and objects of this Mimico Farm from its commencement better than any one, and are prepared to convince any one of the correctness of our views when a proper time arrives.

If the farmers wish for an Experimental, Test or Educational Farm, they will establish such amongst themselves, if the Government will only give them the same privilege it does to any other business to join capital for such a purpose, which at present it does not allow.

It was a pleasing sight to see the Governor General and company walking

among the magnificent prize animals around the main arena of the Exhibition, headed by a plain, sturdy Canadian farmer, who had never passed through any collegiate course. We may mark this as a rarity, but such it ought to be. A plain, practical man should be at the head of our agricultural affairs. You may depend upon it that in nine cases out of ten the plain farmers know what is or what would be most to the interest of agriculture far better than those who have been educated in the colleges, and whose attention is more wrapped up in political influences, which is pretty sure to engulf nearly the whole of the aspirants to position, thus sacrificing all to political ends.

Let us all strive, if possible, to build up the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition and all other agricultural institutions, irrespective of party feelings. Much may be said in favor of a Government Educational, Test and Experimental Farm; much may also be said against a Government enacting laws for the purpose of suppressing private enterprise and adopting plans undertaken by private individuals, on which they have expended large sums, and by which they have been doing good service to the country.

We still hope that the Government will submit any great change to the voice of the farmers of Canada. They will have to pay all the costs, as the revenue of all others must depend on the products of our soil. The farmers of the country should be consulted on such matters as is of most importance to them. Toronto and other cities have great influence; the most influential speakers come from the cities, and a great effort is being made to centre more influence, wealth and power near Toronto.

We strongly oppose the annihilation or centralization of the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition.

The Board of Agriculture and Arts and the delegates acted wisely in voting for the Exhibition to be held in London next year, not because Ottawa or Guelph have not just and fair claims for it, but because it will tend to allay the feeling of discord and rivalry that has arisen through political influences between the Provincial Association and some of the controllers of the Western Fair.

There is and has been a greater power at work to make the Western Fair what it has been, than the mere directorship of it.

Whatever the results may be, we, on behalf of the largest number of unbiased and independent readers of the Canadian agricultural press, say that they do not desire to have the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition centered, neither do they desire to be taxed for the support of the Mimico Farm. If it is the desire of the cities to have the Exhibition centered, or to carry on the Farm, let them pay for it.

The farmers do not want it, as it must be supported by a continual tax, directly or indirectly, of some hundreds of thousands annually, and will, as it has already done, tend to check private enterprise.

THE STOCK DEPARTMENT.

We should weary our readers if we were to describe half what we observed in regard to the merits of each animal or class of animals. The horse department showed a marked indication of improvement. The heavy draught class appear to be drawing much more attention than the blooded horses, and, we think, deservedly so. There is more real wealth for the country in heavy draught horses than in the blooded class. The roadsters and carriage horses made a fine display and were a credit to our country. Blooded stock was not largely exhibited, nor is there as much said about them now as there was some years ago.

The display of Durham cattle has never been excelled or equalled in Canada, the competition for prizes being very keen, and giving a great deal of labor to the judges to decide which to award the prizes to, there being so many really superior animals to be judged. We do not condemn the decision of the judges, although there are some who feel aggrieved, and there always will be; all cannot obtain first prizes. There was one animal or two on the ground that had carried off first prizes in Great Britain, but such was the perfection of animals exhibited that they were awarded nothing at our Exhibition. This shows the high standard of our herds. We would like to see a greater list of premiums in this very valuable class; perhaps it might be well if the directors were to add a supplementary list of prizes at lower figures for breeders that have never gained a Prince of Wales prize, or even for those who have never gained prizes before in the Durham class, or taken prizes over \$200, more or less.—We suggest such a course to encourage the small beginners, who are now a numerous class, and who would like to exhibit, but know well they are unable to compete against the old established breeders or the long purses of our importers. This plan, we should think, could be beneficially carried into the Leicester and Cotswold classes of sheep, as there is a very strong competition in these classes and very few small breeders or beginners will bring out their stock to compete against the large breeders and importers. These beginners need encouragement; many we know have attempted to gain prizes, but feel disheartened because they find the prizes carried off by imported stock. We do not wish to discourage importation, but to encourage Canadian breeders as well as importers.