

**To the Honorable John Carling,
Minister of Agriculture.**

To the Board of Agriculture and Arts Association.
To every farmer in Canada.

The loss to Canadian farmers from the winter-killing of the fall wheat that should have been harvested this year, amounts to many millions of dollars; yes, to more than sufficient to pay for all the enormously expensive asylums and public improvements; more than sufficient to pay all the additional large salaries we must now be taxed for. And what has been done to prevent or obviate a continued repetition of the same calamity? Nothing by the Minister of Agriculture; nothing by the Board of Agriculture. The cause of our winter-killed wheat arises from the want of having our land properly underdrained and well cultivated. On well-drained land the wheat is not killed, and the farmer has a good paying crop. Thousands of acres of fall wheat have this year been ploughed up. Tens of thousands of acres are not a half a crop—from no other cause than the lack of proper drainage. We have watched carefully the development of that most valuable of all Canadian inventions: Carter's Ditching Machine, an implement that is destined to be used over the whole world as soon as it is known. With this implement under-draining can be done at a quarter of the expense than formerly, and this little implement is destined to do more good for Canada than our whole Bureau of Agriculture, Agricultural Societies, Poultry Association, or Fruit Growers' Association have done for the past ten years. Have any one of the Associations or bodies added one good seed, plant, or implement, or even one good idea? The whole public agricultural affairs have got into a deep mud hole, and bid fair to stick there. Carling's new bill is only a rehash of the old one, and he is sick of it himself, and nearly everybody else. Nothing has been done by the new Board or Carling to aid the testing or introduction of seeds, and the utmost taxes have been put on agricultural information. Surely it is time that our agriculturists would wake from lethargy!

Notice.

If any of our subscribers are intending to purchase one of Carter's Ditching Machines, we advise you by all means to send in your order before we publish another issue, as we are creditably informed that the price is to be raised \$20 on each machine. Remember, we guarantee this machine to cut from 150 to 250 rods of ditch in a day, and to do its work satisfactorily. Some are enquiring in what way it works. The large wheel revolves and carries the earth (which is loosened at the bottom of the ditch by the sheer), to the top, and discharges it through the slide. Thus it is deposited on both sides of the ditch. The ditcher cuts from one to four inches in depth each time, depending on the state of soil it is working in. It repeats the slice, cutting up and down the ditch at that rate until it is three feet deep. An operator will be sent to put the first machine into operation in any township where they are not introduced.

Price Prospect.

For well saved grain we may expect a great rise. Do not be in a hurry to sell for a few weeks. The elevator in many places are glutted with old wheat that has commenced to rot on account of the extreme dampness of the atmosphere at this season. We hear of one million bushels being thus destroyed.

**Dishonor and Disgrace to the
Farmers of Canada.**

We have not heard of so many trials of agricultural implements this year as usual—and the fewer there are, the better, if not conducted differently than they have been in this vicinity. A trial took place in the township of Westminster. There were 12 machines entered by 9 different firms. The judges awarded three prizes to one manufacturer—a resident of this city. The following week a trial took place in the township of London. The judges in this case were of totally different opinion, and did not award a single prize to the person who had taken them all at the previous exhibition. Strange to say, the crops were similar at either places, both being wet, and the same machines were used. Farmers, we ask you is there any difference in machines? If so, who should be able to judge? How, then, can you send such decisions through the country? Both sets of judges cannot be right. Who appointed the judges? You may say the Directors of our agricultural affairs. Who appoints them? you may say you do not, because you do not believe in them and do not attend the meetings, and let them have all their own way.

Poor, dumb slaves! wake up, and suffer no such disgrace to rest with you any more. We speak this to you all, for such decisions are a disgrace to every one of us, far and near. Fancy, two sets of farmers from two of the most prosperous townships in Middlesex, which boast of being second to none in the Dominion! We are not condemning the judges for acting partially or dishonorably; it may be, from ignorance. This, if so, is even worse, and we would wish strongly to impress in your minds that agriculture in all its bearings is the business that you should understand. It is of more importance to you than party politics. If you have not men among you capable of deciding correctly about a trial of mowing machines, can you send one of your class to parliament? Attend to your agricultural elections and exhibitions, and if you do not know yourselves, let your sons come forward and take the lead. Help them to be an honor to their calling; give them agricultural information.

Caution.

We hear of one of the Canadian Insurance Companies being in a rather precarious state at present, but as we may possibly involve ourselves in trouble were we to give the name, we for that reason refrain from doing so, just now. It is not the Agricultural Mutual Insurance Association of Canada; we consider that Company as safe as any, and farmers should have their buildings insured.

Agricultural Exhibitions, 1870.

- Ontario Provincial Exhibition will be held in Toronto, October 3rd to 7th.
- Province of Quebec at Montreal. The Secretary has neglected to send us the date.
- New Brunswick at Fredericton, October 4th to 7th.
- Western Fair at London, September 27th to 29th.
- West Middlesex at Stratford, September 24th.
- New York State at Utica, September 27th to 30th.

Cheap Postage.

From and after the thirtieth day of September, 1870, registered newspapers, book packets and post cards, pattern or sample packets, may be sent by post in the United Kingdom at the following rates of postage:

On a registered newspaper, not exceeding, with any supplement and with any cover, six ounces in weight, one half-penny. On a book packet, or pattern or sample packet, if not exceeding two ounces in weight, one half-penny. If exceeding two ounces in weight, for every additional two ounces, or fractional part of two ounces, one half-penny. On a post card, one half-penny.

From the above it will be seen that cheap postage can be obtained without incurring any loss to the country that adopts it; for although the returns are not given of the postal department in Great Britain, in this clipping, yet we know from the results of the penny postage there, that instead of the country sustaining loss it actually realized a large profit, besides conferring on the nation so valuable a boon as it has proved itself to be. We have frequently, in our columns, advocated a similar course in our postal arrangements here, and that more particularly in the transmission of seeds and agricultural papers by means of the post office, but as yet our voice has elicited no response from those in high quarters. Still we cannot nor will not let the matter rest, until we see something done to bring about so desirable a result, and trust soon to see government taking measures to follow in the wake of the enlightened legislation of Great Britain. The question of cheap postage is no mere theory or idea, but has been proved that it can be had without cost; it is now an established fact, and one which spreads on every side the seeds of education, knowledge and power, the grand elevators and improvers of our race.

Importance of Underdraining.

"It will be conceded that a dry season is the best for wheat in our climate, as experience teaches us that years of drought have usually been accompanied by good wheat harvests. Of course, very much depends on the condition of the soil, and we find that these conditions are more favorable with every improvement in the art of Farming. The rapid extension of draining has removed the principal source of danger to our crops, as under intelligent and liberal farming wheat is wonderfully independent of the weather. Having removed the most threatening danger to the wheat crop by a proper drainage system, the principal difficulty with which agriculturists in our climate have to contend has been obviated."

The above we extract from the Mark Lane Express, London, England, 25th of June, this year, and we quote it in order to show the importance attached to a system of extensive draining by the agricultural world in the old country, and the beneficial results flowing from it. We are glad to know that attention is being awakened to it in this Dominion, as being equally necessary here, and know of no instance where it has been practised without being productive of the best results. In fact, from the experience of the most observant and intelligent farmers in the old country as well as in this, the subject of a good and efficient system of draining is looked upon as being at the very basis of successful and remunerative farming. It forms the foundation on which the structure is reared, and underlies the very art itself, being essential in enabling the agriculturist to make the most of his land, his labor and his capital.

Seeds.

What audacity and impudence must we possess to dare to come forward and palm off our opinion throughout the length and breadth of this Dominion on what is the best or most suitable variety of wheat to sow in different sections; to condemn one and laud another. Remember, our task is not an easy one; that is, to decide to satisfy ourselves. The tests on our own farm may be good guide to us in giving instruction to those possessing similar kind of soil and similar climate. But what might suit here might not suit in Nova Scotia or Saskatchewan; and we have to write for all, and no one to give us counsel or aid. Every letter we write for information costs cash from our pocket; and no grant is given from our government for aiding a Grain Growers' Association, which we as farmers think would be of quite as much importance to our country as a Fruit Growers' Association. Still, with the assistance of the real farmers of the country, we are enabled to form some kind of an opinion. We should be pleased to furnish more accounts before seed time, but it is early to have a report in for this month, and next month it will be too late for any information to be given you that would be of advantage this year. We would publish a supplement during the month but the postage costs us too much.

The fall wheat of each kind was badly winter-killed, but what has been left has filled well. The midge has not done near as much harm as usual this year, but we hear of some localities in which it has done more damage than ever. In sections where the midge is still a serious pest, the American Amber, although weak in the straw, will be found a valuable variety.—The old-Mediterranean is as hardy as any variety. The Deihl and Treadwell are both giving satisfaction in this vicinity—that is, comparing them with the old varieties. The new varieties which we spoke of last year are turning out satisfactorily this season, viz: the Boughton, the Weeks, and the Lancaster Red. We believe the Boughton wheat may be raised further north than any other variety, as it ripens ten days earlier than other kinds. It stands the winter as well as any; it stacks well; it is short in the head and straw, and the berry is short and plump.

Some persons still prefer the Mediterranean. It is a hardy variety. The Soles wheat is again cultivated with good success in some parts; still we have no variety that we can recommend as superior to all others. The new varieties bid fair to answer well; still they may not exceed the Deihl and Treadwell that we introduced and disseminated previously. We have an English wheat that has a very large head, and may become of value. But before we can safely recommend it, we shall have it further tested.

The Spring Wheat in this part of the Dominion will be but poor. The early sown has been attacked by the midge, and the late struck with the rust.

Barley is a good crop, but will be a bad color.

Oats are badly lodged, and will not fill well.

The extreme wet has injured much of the hay, and has caused some of the wheat to grow before being cut, and will shorten the pea crop. We cannot state the amount of damage done, as it is but the 28th of July, when this paper goes to press.

The root crops are suffering much for the lack of labor. Farmers cannot culture them, as the ground has been deluged with wet for a long time.

Hops will be a fair crop where they have been attended to, but many of the gardens have been sadly neglected.

The corn will be a fair crop.

The dairymen and stock men have not much to complain of, as there is lots of grass and good, paying prices.