

From New Brunswick.

SIR,—I am very well pleased with your paper; I like its loyal tone and am disposed to place it first among our agricultural papers. In reference to a Dominion Farmers' Club, if there were not so many organizations now of one kind and another to be attended and kept running, one could advise the formation of such a club with some hope of its success. In New Brunswick we have a farmers' association that meets annually and tries to discuss practical questions. In Nova Scotia the Grangers are getting strong, and in fact they are finding their way into New Brunswick this winter, two or three Granges having been formed in this vicinity this month. They have also in Nova Scotia a very efficient Board of Agriculture. Another objection to a Dominion Club would be the expense and the distance to travel, which would have the effect of preventing some of our most practical men from becoming members of such an institution. These are some of the objections that occur to me, but I am entirely in sympathy with any practical movement that will tend to unite farmers more closely together—that will make them more intelligent and give them a higher appreciation of their own calling, although I think in all these they are advancing.

I enclose a circular on Prickly Comfrey that will explain itself. The American Agriculturist speaks highly of it; I had a letter from the editor quite recently, and he says he has yet had no reason to change his opinion about the plant, "that it is a very valuable addition to the plants used for green fodder."

December so far has been mild, but very changeable; had some good sleighing in November, but none since December came in. What a fine country our North-west must be! I read everything I can see about it with a great deal of interest. A great deal depends upon the reports of the first emigrants, as to whether it will be filled up rapidly or not. Our Government should take every pains to secure the best of agents, and smooth the way of emigrants to the very outside limit justifiable.

In regard to the corn duty, I am not sure that you advised Sir Leonard Tilley for the best; but I judge from what you say he is not likely to take your advice. What we as a Dominion want is population and capital, and if farmers by employing more help can raise roots and the coarser grains (such as barley, oats and buckwheat) to feed to their stock for profit, as I believe they can, the money is kept in the country and men are given employment. You will say this is the old story of the National Policy. Well, I am an out-and-out believer in the N. P. That is to say—I want a country of my own; I want to see the Dominion grow into a great nation; I want to be able to feel proud that I am a Canadian. I went for Confederation with this in view, and the N. P. seems to be in the same line. I don't want Reciprocity if it should operate against the building up of our country in those qualities that go to make a great nation—self-reliance and loyalty to the land of our birth.

Point de Bute, N. B., Dec. 13, 1879.

SIR,—I have heard that level culture is practical in the Old Country, viz., Europe (that is, cultivating around root crops, but not hilling the earth up around them). Do you know of it being practiced in Canada, and what is the result?

Of the root crops, which is considered best for cows giving milk? How would sugar beets do? or would they give an unpleasant taste to the milk and butter? If good, where can the best seed be got? M. A., Westmoreland Co., N. B.

[We have had reports from England of level culture being practiced successfully. We have some similar reports from the United States; somewhat depends upon the land; if wet, level culture would not be beneficial, but the contrary. The best roots for milch cows are mangolds and beets. Neither will give an unpleasant flavor to milk. In feeding roots to stock a regular feeding with hay must not be omitted.]

SIR,—I see in your last number the figure of a hay elevator. What is the price of the track and pulleys? I have a fork. J. K., Ancaster.

[Messrs. Morrow & Workman, London, Ont., are the manufacturers, and will furnish applicants with full information.]

Draining.

SIR,—In your December number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, N. F., St. Catharines, gives his version of under-draining, which is as follows:—"Plough two furrows as deeply as possible, throwing this out on each side; then draw another furrow in the bottom of these, then cut out the bottom with a spade and fill in with broken stones, say four or five inches deep; cover with rye straw and fill in the dirt." The undersigned is of the opinion the above named style of under-draining would not have the desired effect, and would consider it so much labor thrown away. I will endeavor to explain the method of under-draining which is extensively practised in the county of Westmoreland, England. It matters not whether the plough is partially used in cutting the drain or not, but my plan is to make the drains three feet deep, and not less than twenty inches wide at bottom; take ordinary building stone and commence at upper end of drain, and lay stones seven inches wide and six inches high on each side of drain, and lay a flat stone cover across on the top of stone or wall, which will leave an open space in the centre of bottom of drain of seven by six inches for the water to run. The person performing the labor stands in bottom of drain, and moves backwards in the operation. After the walling and covering is done the drain can be filled with stones to within some twelve or fifteen inches of surface, leaving them level on top; no straw required on the stones, only throw on the earth. My motto is, anything that is worth doing is worth doing well, and by making a drain as herein mentioned it may be termed an everlasting drain. If stones are scarce the filling the drain after walling and covering might be dispensed with; the drain will answer without, but will do better with being filled as before mentioned.

R. B. B., Seymour.

Progress of Farming in Nova Scotia.

SIR,—I am glad to see that your paper is gaining a large circulation in this Province, and that improvements in farming are progressing. More good wheat was raised here this year than I have seen in any one season. Many farmers have raised enough for their families for a year to come, and it is well harvested and of good quality. In former years too much of our hard earnings went for flour to the United States farmers. We hope it will now be kept at home. The breadth of the wheat promises to be greater the ensuing season. Many who had discontinued sowing wheat, owing to a succession of poor crops, are intending to sow it this year. The potato crop was also very good this year. Some are preparing to ship to England more cargoes than have been sent yet. The apple crop was over the average, and the prices realized have made them more valuable than the extra crop of 1878.

N. S., Clarence, N. S.

SIR,—My friend, Lester Stockton, Cornhill, New Brunswick, recommends your paper, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, very highly to me. Would you please send it to my address.

A. J. G., Oakland, Portage La Prairie, Manitoba.

[From the above letter some idea may be had of the circulation of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. A farmer in Nova Scotia writes to his friend in Manitoba recommending the paper, and his friend at once becomes a subscriber. How many more of our subscribers, who have not yet done as A. J. G., will follow his example? Throughout the extent of British North America the ADVOCATE is subscribed for and highly appreciated. Newfoundland, on the Atlantic seas, furnished its list of subscribers, and British Columbia, on the Pacific, receives its monthly consignment—places between 2,000 and 3,000 miles apart.]

SIR,—As I see in the columns of your valuable paper various questions asked on almost every subject, I here take the liberty of asking your opinion on a matter of taxes. My lease reads that I shall pay all taxes that now are or shall hereafter be imposed during said term. There has been a by-law passed granting a bonus to the railway, and my taxes for the same have been \$10 extra; I have no vote either for or against. I shall feel obliged if you tell me whether tenant or landlord is liable.

W. H., Keppel, Ont.

[We consider that you are bound by the terms of your lease to pay the additional tax you mention.]

Salt for Land.

SIR,—This year I put in a field of spring wheat on land well prepared and manured. It came up all right and looked as well as I could wish, but when it was 14 inches high it was taken with some kind of a yellow blight and never recovered, but gradually seemed to dwindle away. I cut it for feed, as there was nothing to thresh. Some neighbors living a short distance from me put salt on their land, and have had good crops. One had 17 bushels per acre; another 27, and one I have heard of had 32 bushels per acre. These results were on clay land. Now, I would like to know what was the cause of my failure. We had no frost; the weather appeared favorable for a plant, and the land was right; I believe there are no manurial qualities in salt. In what way does it act? I have heard of salt being applied in the County of Peel, and some say it has not acted beneficially there. I would like if you or some of your subscribers would give the result from the use of salt, and the cause of this failure in spring wheat.

A. R., Hyde Park, Ont.

Complimentary.

SIR,—I have read the ADVOCATE for many years. Sometimes I thought but little of it, but the independence shown in its columns has been such that every farmer in the Dominion should read it. You have, as you say, been true to the name. May the FARMER'S ADVOCATE still continue to improve and prosper, for it has done good service. I would rather read one of its pages than a folio of the abortive attempts to deceive that are palmed off on the public under the name of agriculture in political papers. The articles in them contain some useful information, but the interest of farmers is only of secondary consideration. They wish to use us farmers as tools. They try to blind and deceive us. Long life to the ADVOCATE. I enclose my subscription.

A. H., Port Hope, Ont.

Dominion Farmers' Club.

SIR,—I notice that you have started a discussion in the ADVOCATE about starting an agricultural society. Now, I believe it would be a step in the right direction, and that it would advance the interest of farmers if it could keep free from the influence of party politics, as it should be conducted entirely on agricultural principles, and I believe it should not be a secret society, with secret passwords, like the Grange, but it should be open to all who desire to see the advancement of agricultural interests.

W. S., Marvelville.

SIR,—As you express yourself so strongly in favor of Farmers' Clubs, I send you a few notes of the Farmers' Club that held its annual meeting here on the 2nd of the month. The Society was formed in June, 1873, and it has stood well and has grown in favor. It has not as many members now as it had some years ago, but nearly all the members are of long standing—men acting for the good of farming and of the country at large. We have fifty regular paying members. Our last exhibition showed a decided improvement in stock raising, and in the products of the farm and house industry, while our influence has made itself felt among many who did not and will not see the good of agricultural societies. Our accounts are satisfactory, showing that they were laid out in exhibitions, and we will have a small balance on hand at the end of the year when we will close up our books. For the improvement of our stock we purchase pure bred animals. We have now (the property of the Society) a thoroughbred bull and cow, Devon; thoroughbred bull and cow, Ayrshire, and two thoroughbred bulls and cow, Jerseys. We have disposed of our Leicester sheep, intending to replace them with other stock.

C., Clementsport, N. Y.

SIR,—Could you or any of your readers kindly suggest the easiest and most efficient way to secure ventilation, during winter, for a cellar under a dwelling house? The cellar in question is large, divided into two portions by a stone wall, upon which rest two stone chimneys, and the only entrance to it, during winter, is by a stairway leading from the kitchen.

Pictou, N. S.

[Bad architecture is the cause. You should make an opening in the wall. If you have no windows, outlet should be through the chimney.]