

Farmers to Arms.

No time to be lost! Fight and conquer! Are you to be the vanquished or the victors?

We claim this Dominion, let us rule it, be no longer serfs, show your independence, reject the yoke and prosper. The time of the battle is fixed at the annual agricultural meeting in January. Let every man be at his post in good time. Attend the agricultural meeting and decide whether our Agricultural Exhibitions are to be turned into jocky clubs, or to be retained for our agricultural advancement?

In our December number we gave a very broad hint on a most injurious step that has been taken in one of the cities where the Provincial Exhibition has been held in its proper course. We have ascertained the facts. Some racing men and mechanics have put their heads together and are attempting to wrest the power from agriculturists, by forming an association to which the farmers and County Societies are invited to join, ostensibly to hold a great annual Western fair. We have heard from the best authority their policy and arguments, and deem it our duty to expose the whole plan. Their arguments are good, and there is too much truth in them we admit. They say the County Exhibition is not half as good as it ought to be, that the farmers are too slow, too miserly, and too mean to manage an exhibition, and give many instances to prove the above. They also say that the city supplies a large proportion of the prize money, and should have the management, and the way to have a good exhibition is to have a good horse ring made, and get a good fast horse or two advertised to trot. They will give good prizes for horses and trials of speed, and charge admission fees at the gate. The farmers are sure to come in by the tempting prizes they will be able to offer. They want to wipe out all Township shows, get a few of the leading men of adjoining counties to use their power and influence in adjoining counties. By the large prizes to be offered, they consider they will be able to draw them in, and have a four days exhibition every year, with good trotting matches each day. They consider they can get up such an exhibition as to surpass in attractiveness and many other respects the Provincial Exhibition, which can join with them

when in its turn it comes to said city. The Township Shows, they say, are of no account. They have also the city papers to assist them in their plans. One professing to give Agricultural information to its readers, rejected a well written communication, from one who understands the requirements of farmers, because it spoke against this proposal of the city men.

The committee men have commenced their work, hundreds of dollars are already subscribed, and they expect to get a great deal more, and to give thousands as premiums. Their President is appointed, one of turf notoriety. Scarcely any of its officers are agriculturists, or men that have shown any right interest in agriculture. We suppose not half of them ever see an Agricultural paper of any kind.

We consider it an usurped underhanded attempt to wrest the power from real agriculturists, and if carried out in the manner they wish, it must act most injuriously on the Agricultural prosperity of the Dominion. The Provincial, County and Township Societies must all be injured by it.

If these leaders have any beneficial plan to bring forward, why have they not published it in some agricultural paper, to let the public know of it. This paper has been free for any suggestions for improvement that may be made. They may have been rejected by others. It is not likely they may know, and if they do not we must teach them that their plans will not stand the scrutiny of daylight. If people must have horse races, let them have them at their proper places, but we know of no agricultural exhibition that has been benefitted by them. They are exciting, and distract the attention from the purpose these exhibitions are got up for. The truth is they cannot stand in Canada, unless they bring them under the cloak of Agriculture, and as for the utility of these blood horses that another agricultural paper in Ontario has sometimes brought prominently before the public, they would only be a loss to our country to spread such stock, at the present time. There is too much of the blooded stock diffused in the majority of farm horses in Canada, except in those parts where the Clydes have been used to cross with.

As a general thing we consider it would be for the advantage of societies to change the whole of the managers annually, not

merely to change the places but to have at least half of the directors new men each year, the other half only to be eligible for re-election, and those not to hold that position for more than four years, two as directors, one year as Secretary, and one year as President, and after filling the respective offices for two or four years, not to be eligible for re-election for two years afterwards, and not to hold the office of President oftener than one year in four. This would create greater interest in the meetings, and would tend to instil greater aspiration among the rising generation of young farmers. In selecting officers care should be taken to elect only such as evince a spirit of progress. Those that take and read agricultural papers, or can write on agricultural topics, and otherwise show an interest in any agricultural prosperity, such are fit persons. It is of no use electing a man because he is a great speaker, or is wealthy, elect plain, practical farmers, that get their living from the soil. They know what is wanted. If they have read agricultural publications they ought to know, if they have not they are not likely to be of much benefit as Directors. If you wish your society to prosper, do not think of electing a person because he is most noisy in a bar-room, or apparently free with cash at election times. If he has anything to say that is of benefit to the country he has an opportunity of making his suggestions known to the public through this paper, and if of importance they would have their weight, and if not the public can judge of them, and receive or reject, as they may think proper. If any of the officers that you propose electing can neither read or write, you need expect but little progress, yet we have known of such being the case. If they are such their ideas are only of a local character, perhaps confined to the bar-room walls, or particular party or sect. They are not of much use to the Dominion.

The press is the most powerful orator and we as farmers must use it more if we wish to hold the position in the country we ought to hold. We have devoted 23 years in cultivating a backwoods farm, now we devote part of our time in this city, and hear the remarks of citizens on the position and intellect of the farmers, and they speak of us in this way. There were a good many cattle in the market, or store, or bank this day. The cattle they mean are farmers and farmers wives. Show yourselves differently. All the citizens can be properly represented by the hundreds of city papers devoted to them, and are written by them for their advancement. Have your agricultural papers supported and your views expressed in them. Do not forget to lay the claims and merits, and expose the shortcomings of the *Farmer's Advocate* at your annual meeting. Write for it and make it talk. Farmers support farmers.