

**To Our Legislators.**

GENTLEMEN,—We believe that we now command the respect and esteem of more farmers than any other agricultural journal in this Dominion, and that more original correspondence on Agricultural subjects are to be found in our paper than in any other—we mean from the practical farmers of the country, leaving out paid men and political writers. We therefore request your due consideration for the class we represent—the Farmers of Canada.—Great changes are contemplated by some, and alterations are needed. Our farmers have to pay the principal taxes that are raised in the Dominion, and we should have a voice in their expenditure, particularly in regard to Agriculture. You may act judiciously in supporting the various Exhibitions. The Provincial Exhibition, or what might be still better, our Annual Dominion Exhibition, should meet with your due consideration. Our Provincial Exhibition has done much good, despite the nefarious practices that have been carried on by its managers. Man is not perfect, nor are men's works. Self aggrandizement will be found in any place of power. There are enterprising farmers enough in Canada to manage a Dominion Exhibition, and carry it out successfully; and without taxing the poor farmers for it. There is also sufficient enterprise and spirit to carry out Provincial Exhibitions, and City or County Exhibitions. The Township Exhibitions do perhaps as much good as any. They bring out the young farmers to endeavor to excel each other in improvement, and the farmers of the country can compete with each other in the real and practical productions of the soil, in which we all must be interested. And these Exhibitions and their mode of management and support should meet with your first attention.

The large capitalist, such as Cochran, may import an over-fed animal, and keep it at a ruinous expense for the purpose of exhibiting it in the States and a few leading Shows in Canada for the sake of name and show and prizes. But these animals should not be brought into competition with animals that are raised for profit and utility. Such animals may pay the large capitalist, but will be found ruinous to the practical farmer; and they tend to check the real practical spirit of the poor farmer, as he well knows he cannot afford to waste his feed, his stock, and his time for Shows alone.

We believe the most beneficial and useful plan has been most neglected, and we wish particularly to call attention to it, and if possible to cause to be established what we deem of most advantage to our farmers, that is, Agricultural Clubs for discussing the different modes of management of our general Agricultural affairs; whether it should be under the power of the Government or under the control of the farmer, and what systems are best to adopt; what kind of stock to raise; what kinds of seed to sow; what systems of management to follow; what are the best and cheapest modes of draining, and such things as are of most advantage to farmers generally. We consider that Farmers' Clubs, conducted by practical farmers—avoiding particularly political or sectional feelings—would be of great good. Politics have had by far too much to do

with Agricultural affairs. See Geo. Brown and his paper on one side, and the Government and the "Ontario Farmer" on the other—both political, at the root. If the root is right, the fruit will be. IS IT?

**Public Agricultural Improvements.**

Our predecessors have judiciously looked on Agricultural improvement as of much importance to the country, and have granted from the public Exchequer large sums for its aid and advancement. Gentlemen were appointed to expend the money for the purpose for which it was granted, and much good has been done by its judicious management. This is a changeable world, and a world of progress. It might have been thought necessary to devote all the funds and all the energy of the Association in making one grand Annual Exhibition. That has been done, and much good has resulted from it. But as our country has increased, still even in a greater ratio have our taxes been increased, and those who have to pay them—that is: the farmers—have received no more benefit from the increased taxation—we mean in a direct manner. That is: no public money has been expended for the purposes most required, viz., for the introduction and testing of seeds. Every farmer knows from experience that no variety of grain sown in one locality remains profitable for any length of time, and that new seeds are necessary to profitable farming. Every legislator well knows that the importation and testing of seeds must be ruinous to any single farmer, as the losses must be great, expenses must be large, and profits must be small. Still it is necessary that information of new varieties should be given to our farmers, and an opportunity afforded them to procure the seeds without the necessity of each one being compelled to pay agents, freight, and duty, and be put to the brow-beating necessity of passing seeds through the Custom Houses, where the duty may be but a slight one in comparison to the audacious and villainous extortion and insult practiced by some unscrupulous and unconscious large recipients of our public funds.

The following questions should be duly considered:—Is a change of seed of any advantage to the country? Can every farmer afford to import and test new varieties? Should there be any place in the country where seed grains are procurable? Should there be any means adopted to give farmers reliable information in regard to seeds? Could any of the loss sustained by the farmers of the country be avoided, either in regard to the loss or failure of crops, or to prevent him being so completely and systematically deceived by the numerous useless seeds and implements that are palmed off on him? Could not a small moiety of the large sums that are being expended be used in some way that the farmers may receive some benefit from it, and enable them to meet with greater ease the coming taxation?

EXIT OF DURHAM STOCK FROM MIDDLESEX.—J. H. Ring and H. C. Childs, of Colorado, have purchased the entire herd of Durhams owned by T. Brettle, of Delaware. They also purchased seven head of G. Robson, of London; also, four from Mr. Walker, and three from Mr. Smith, of McGillivray.

**American Silver.**

Of all the follies that the Canadian Government has been guilty of, their mode of dealing with American silver coin is the greatest. What is the use of Mr. Hincks taking advantage of the powers the Currency Laws give to regulate the value of foreign coin by proclamation, when he proclaims it worth less than its real and intrinsic value? Does he suppose the people of Canada are fools, and will part with good American silver coin at a discount of 20 per cent., when merchants, mechanics, inkeepers and others will accept it at face value, and brokers buy it at 5 or 6 per cent. discount? See Montreal taking at a small discount, and Toronto crying out to do likewise. In Strathroy and many other places it is accepted at par, or face value. Did ever any person hear of such folly as to try, by Act of Parliament or proclamation by Government in Council, to drive good money out of any country except Canada?

I well remember the rebellion of 1837-8. American silver was not then or since the war of 1812 to 1863 worth less than gold or paper dollars. Why should it be of less value in 1870? Pray, what is money? Is it more or less than what the law makes it? If the U. S. Government say an irredeemable greenback is money, and value for a dollar, is it not money fixed in value by law? If the Canadian Government say, as it hath said, that a Mexican dollar or U. S. dollar coined prior to 1853 is a legal tender at 5s. 1d. Halifax currency, or \$1.02, is not that the value the law gives it? Coining, or the act of money making, be it gold, silver or paper, is the act of Royalty or Government, and is only granted to individuals or corporations by Act of Parliament. If the Canadian Government has the power—and I believe they have—and acted wisely, they would proclaim American silver coin a legal tender to any amount at face value! That would fill Canada with a good sound currency and plenty of change, and the banks would then keep the larger portion of it in their vaults and give bills redeemable by silver. It is true gold would be at 6 or 7 per cent. premium to meet foreign payments, but what if it was? The merchant would add the exchange to the freight on his goods, and all would work smoothly, and brokers would be the only sufferers; and there should be but little sympathy for brokers or bailiffs who live on other people's misfortunes.

We are glad to get Canada silver at face value. Why not take American silver at same value? It is of equal fineness, and weighs more than the Canadian silver of equal face value. I say it is a good enough currency for any country, and especially a young country like Canada. Canadian farmers would not complain, if, when they get dissatisfied with bank bills or shillings they could always get American silver coin at face value, and I say that the Canadian farmer gets the best of the trade when he exchanges his live stock, wool, grain or other produce for American silver coin! I go for legalizing American silver at face value! JAMES KEEFER.

Every farmer knows or ought to know that the Americans are our best customers for stock, and that the Canadian farmers never had such prosperous years as when the Americans could spend their silver among us. Many were then enabled to pay off the encumbrances on their farms, and other odd debts, and still have something left. But we cannot coincide with this policy of favoring a few bankers. The banks have never been accommodating to farmers. Why should the farmers be compelled to suffer the loss that must follow by the present course? It is so arranged that the farmers must be the losers and the bankers the gainers; and forgers can and no doubt will avail themselves of

a good opportunity of reaping a fine harvest. Farmers, if you will continually sell your votes for cash at election times, or what is even worse, for the sake of some favor received or promised, lend your aid to some 40 per cent. city shaver to use your influence in leading farmers to vote for other classes of the community, you are and will be rightly served by making you pay indirectly all the taxes and losses. Send more real farmers to Parliament.—They can vote and think, and are more likely to see that their own interests are better looked after.



**FARMERS' PIC-NIC.**

Farmers, let us give our boys and girls a holiday, and take one ourselves, and go to Port Stanley on WEDNESDAY, the 22nd of June.

The Pic-Nic Train will leave London at 10.15 a.m., and Port Stanley at 4 p.m.

Fare only 30 cents to Port Stanley and back; children 15 cents.

The train will stop at intermediate stations.

**"Do the Best You Can with What You Have."**

A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman* has the following.—

"Hard times" is the sentence oftener heard among farmers, especially those in debt. Wheat at 60c. is far below zero, but pork at 9c. on foot, is above quite; such conditions of the market are to be expected; all roads have turns in them sooner or later. Farmers as a class are yet better off by far than either the merchant or manufacturer; for proof of the former class, the merchant, there has been failures among them during the year 1869, with liabilities aggregating seventy-five millions of dollars. Were there such results to be chronicled among farmers we should have heard the thunder ere this. Some farmers fail; but their liabilities do not affect the commercial world by their magnitude, like that of the merchants, and are usually offset by at least 50c. on the dollar. There is great need of caution, however, even among farmers; experience has taught one, at least, that the true policy for beginners is to 'make haste slowly.' If you have twenty acres of stumps to extract, to bring the meadow into proper relations to the mower, do not set three or a dozen men to taking them out 'by the day'; wait, and then let the sun, rain and frost work for you; they work cheaper, and by the year. Unless there is a 'bond' or two to spare, this will be found the better way. Do the best you can with what you have, rather than run in debt for something better. There are \$50 chickens advertised in the *Country Gentleman*. They are probably worth it to somebody, but if you live in a one-storey house, you do not want them reaching down the chimney and taking the soap bone out of the kettle. Wait until you can get a higher house and can afford to buy your eggs.

"Do the best you can with what you have," is my text. One of the most successful merchants of our acquaintance began business with a jack-knife; he sold it and obtained a better; sold it for enough to buy two poorer ones; and these for others; he added combs, thread and needles; he knew what he was handling. He is a banker now of repute; he made the most of what he had; he was acquainted with his wares. I have known farmers who needed an introduction to their acres after owning them for years; they never had any luck; they sowed buckwheat after corn; wheat after wheat; sheltered their cows with fence rails; lived in daily and yearly communion with their manure accumulations; boarded the hogs in the lean-to of the house; kept a hound and a lank rifle, with a whisky jug, and pronounced their neighbors 'stuck-up.' They did not observe my text."