

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED.

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## The Farmer's Advocate!

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ONT.

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### Provincial Exhibition—1877

The present season is the time to adopt plans for the next. We should endeavor to profit from past experience, and to add to the utility of this great exhibition in all its departments. If there are unnecessary encumbrances, lop them off; if there are any good suggestions for additional expenditure in any department; or any improvements, let them be known through the press of the country, so that discussions might be had on such subjects. The hurrying through committees or incorporate bodies of any new measure is too often done to suit the pecuniary interest or powerful position of some one man or body of men. Those who receive Government pay for any purpose should show us that they are worthy of the pay they receive.

This institution is, or ought to be, for farmers. The agricultural affairs of the country should be controlled by farmers. We suggest that farmers should advocate any improvement or condemn any mismanagement they may notice. Such a course would tend to produce an alteration, if their suggestions are right.

The Exhibition for 1877 may be made the best that has ever taken place in Canada. It requires unity of action to procure this. The first requisite is that the

COUNTY OF MIDDLESEX AND THE CITY OF LONDON act together. If there be a guarantee that the present lands would be perpetually held for agricultural purposes, the County Council would feel justified in granting a liberal sum of money

towards the erection of suitable buildings and making improvements on the grounds. The citizens have always borne their share of the expenses of this Exhibition, and we know they would do their part. The present Board of Provincial Directors are in honor bound to loosen their purse strings this year, because whenever this Provincial Exhibition has been held in this city, the receipts have been so much in excess of expenditures, that their funds have been heavily drawn upon to maintain the Exhibitions in other localities. Many new buildings are required for next year, and united action can erect them in a creditable manner.

The Provincial Board of Directors might excuse our arrogance in presuming to suggest what we deem to be their duty. The enclosed buildings in which displays are made should be enlarged or increased in number; exit doors should be more numerous than entrance doors; guards should be placed and barriers erected to prevent the crowding

nothing gives greater dissatisfaction than the existing rule on shearing sheep at a certain time. The rule is too often violated, and very little regard is taken of it; in fact, the law is so often violated that it would be better to let exhibitors show as they deem best, unless means be taken to have proof given of the date of the shearing.

A question arises among stock men, whether pure-bred animals should be allowed to exhibit in the grade class; also, if grade animals should be allowed to compete with pedigreed animals. It is found that many grade animals can carry off the prizes in the show ring, and the Canadian breeder asks why his cattle are not as much entitled to honors as imported cattle. We merely touch on this point now, and hope those that are interested in this or any other subject pertaining to the interest of this Exhibition, will forward their opinions, so that discussion may be had. This journal is open for discussions on both sides of any question pertaining to our agricultural interests.

Perhaps the Board might arrange with American lines of railway to issue excursion tickets during our Provincial Exhibition.

#### TWO WEEKS OR ONE.

Some are advocating that the Exhibition should be kept open for two weeks. Our opinion at present is that exhibitors of stock would decidedly oppose such a step. The Board may judiciously make Tuesday and Friday of greater interest; perhaps it might be well to have one day, either Wednesday or Thursday, a 50-cent day, as many would rather give 25 cents more to avoid such a great rush as there is on those days in the enclosed buildings.

#### The Hardy Palm.

To the lovers of the beauties of nature there is no tree more dear than the palm with its branching foliage. They are all natives of climes less subject to the winter rigour of our country. Their native home is the tropics. When at the Centennial, we saw some beautiful specimens of the palm tribe; here they could be grown in a Conservatory.



THE HARDY PALM (CHAMEROPS EXCELSA.)

of visitors and pressing from every direction. Visitors should be prevented from sitting on the railings, obstructing the view of articles exhibited. If exhibitors of grain who gain prizes remove their tickets and tie up their bags before the close of the Exhibition, they should have their prizes forfeited. There should be larger buildings, or visitors should only pass in one direction.

A distinction should be made in exhibiting animals under one year of age; perhaps young animals under six months and under twelve months might both be awarded prizes. Perhaps

The palm family is perhaps the most widely diversified of any botanical tribe that has distinct family characteristics; and the useful products obtainable from its members are very numerous. Houses are built of the wood, and roofed with the leaves; the fibers are used for all textile purposes; very many edible fruits are yielded by the trees; oil is extracted in prodigious quantities from one palm tree, and wine from another; and a tanning material resembling catechu is extracted from palm nuts. A common kind of sugar, called jaggery in the East Indies, is the product of a palm; and the betel nut, chewed by the natives of the Indian archipelago and elsewhere is the fruit of a palm tree.