

We beg also to state for the information of those at a distance who seem to have confounded our publication with an opposition paper recently commenced in this city, that we have no connection whatever with Messrs. Eastwood & Edmundson.—The public may judge for themselves which of the two publications is most deserving support. All we ask is a *fair comparison*, leaving out of consideration some peculiar circumstances we might urge on the ground of equity and fair dealing.—We could get up a paper for a quarter of a dollar less per annum, on the hitherto recognised principle;—“*It will do for Canada.*” But we beg to assure our readers that it is our ambition to present them with a paper that shall in point of mechanical and literary execution be commensurate with the increasing demands of this growing country; a paper that shall obtain a respectful hearing at Home, and that will bear a favorable comparison with the similar productions of our enterprising neighbours on the other side. We shall have our arrangements completed by the early part of summer for receiving regularly the voluminous Reports and Transactions of the three great National Societies of Agriculture, in England, Scotland, and Ireland.

In a word, we are determined to spare no reasonable amount of labour or expense in making “*The Canadian Agriculturist*” useful and creditable to our rising country. We ask that country to aid us—not on the ground of charity, nor indeed as a mere private speculation,—but on the broad, enduring basis of *national utility*.

Denison Terrace, Toronto,
January 27, 1849.

To the Editors of the *Agriculturist*.

GENTLEMEN—In acknowledging the receipt of the first number of your invaluable paper for 1849, allow me to wish you every success, and that you may find it remunerative to yourselves, to disseminate useful information in all the rural districts of the province. Allow me also to enclose my subscription for this year. What did the agriculturists of Canada think of their profession before we had agricultural papers and societies? I recollect well, when a boy, (and that is not so long since), that a man would be thought wild if he spoke of thrashing, reaping, mowing or sowing machines; and poor, too, if he began thrashing wheat before Christmas. And we were content to rake our hay, barley, &c., with hand-rakes, which then cost 2s. 6d. each, precious articles; and I know an old friend that will have nothing else, although on an old and large farm, to this day; but he does not take an agricultural paper. As for ploughs, we had only the old-fashioned wooden mould-board covered with sheet iron, or the short Yankee plough, of which they boast. I have ploughed many a day with them; but give me the improved Scotch-English ploughs, such as are made by Bell of Toronto. By the way, I hope the trial of ploughs and ploughmen between the Americans and us will not be lost sight of. We can thrash them, if they use their short bull plough, I guess.

I find the *Colonist* condemns your paper for having taken part in politics, and it would serve you right, if you had done so. I have always taken the paper, and do not recollect it, so I think it cannot be anything very flagrant. Now I would not wish you by any means to dabble in politics, but leave it to the *Colonist*; still I think you might stir up the farmers to look more after their interests than they do; and the best way they can accomplish it is, to send fewer lawyers to parliament—(excuse me, gentlemen, I know one of you belongs to the black profession; but your knowledge of, and interest in, our profession is very different from that of some of these gentlemen).

It is our privilege—it is our duty—and it is in our power to have our interests represented by farmers, and we must do it; but heretofore I fear we have thought more of our party than our pockets. Let any man of sense cast his eye about him (unless he happens to be in a lawyer's office), and say whether or not this should be an agricultural country? Look at the climate, the soil, the extent and value of its natural and navigable advantages; in fact everything is in favour of agriculture. To be sure, we are young and delicate yet, and require some protection from our parent state, and have good reason to expect it; but do we get it? And who have we to look after it for us, if we do not ourselves; we must follow the fashion and look out for number one.

Your obedient Servant,

RICHARD L. DENISON.

To the Editors of the *Canadian Agriculturist*.

SIRS.—Should the following remarks, the result of three years' experience, be considered by you as worthy of a place in your journal, I will be obliged by your inserting them, hoping that some one may be benefitted by them.

In the spring of 1845, being my first year in Canada, I went on a rented farm, in the township of Whitechurch, on which there were three acres of fall wheat, which when harvest came I found to be very much injured by the rust. The wheat grew on dry ground, and had been early sown, and otherwise well laboured. It was fallow the first time broken up, and had received a dressing of farm-yard manure.

Not having seen anything of this disease in the part of Ireland where I came from, I was led, from the loss which I had sustained, to inquire into the matter (and here I may remark, that as lime was very plentiful with us, we were in the practice of using it very largely, every five or seven years); and the conclusion to which I came was, that the ground on which this wheat grew contained an excess of vegetable matter; and on applying some chemical tests, I found a total absence of lime, therefore I reasoned that the excess of vegetable matter in the soil, caused a softness in the external coat of the straw, which under certain peculiar circumstances of the atmosphere, allowed the sap of the plant to exude through the pores of the stem—thus the nourishment which was to have gone to form the kernel of the wheat was drained from the ear, and the sap escaping, allowed the seeds of a tribe of fungus, which are floating about in the atmosphere, to take root upon the plant, and which fungus is neither more nor less than rust.