

### The Ontario Board of Agriculture and Arts.

Every farmer in Ontario that owns land or pays tax should know something about this Association. The law that gave this body power was framed by some considerate person and was intended to act as an encouragement to progress and for the well-being of the farmer. But unfortunately, man's desire for ease, comfort, power and wealth is and has been in bygone ages abused; tyranny, oppression and greed have too often predominated when man has had the power to carry out his will. This Board, we much regret to say, has for a long series of years been gradually debasing the trust placed in it. This journal has often called attention to some of its duties omitted and to gross injustice done by it; we think the truth would not be exceeded were we to use the harsh words, fraud and deception. There are so many ways of perpetrating fraud and practising deceit, of cloaking the designs and acts of cunning and unprincipled people when in power that it is impossible for the public to attain the real plain facts about half the acts that Dame Rumor and visible facts imply.

The recent emergency meeting held in Toronto with closed doors should now awaken every farmer to strict enquiry. Every member of the Board should be called to account for their acts. The rumors are now so rife and numerous that we deem it proper to publish them. Every farmer in Ontario pays for the support of this Board and has a right to go to any member and ask for an explanation. It is charged:

1. That the Board would not admit the press or the public to its last meeting.
2. That some of the cash books have been destroyed.
3. That no proper accounts have been kept of receipts of cash.
4. That the cash receipts at the last Provincial Exhibition show an enormous difference from the numbers of visitors on the ground.
5. That the Secretary, through whose hands much of the money passes, was an insolvent at the time of his appointment.
6. That the Secretary obtained his position and still holds it mainly through the power of the Hon. D. Christie.
7. That the Board has altered and revised the prize list just to suit particular individuals.
8. That the large sum of between \$10,000 and \$20,000, paid into the Society by the late Col. R. L. Denison, has been entirely consumed, with interest and principal.
9. That a special prize has been awarded to the most worthless spring wheat in this Dominion, and that really valuable varieties have been entirely disregarded.

We have for some years used our influence in favor of the Board, and we now write not in the spirit of hostility, but friendship, that its members may know the charges generally brought against it, and may, if they can, offer such explanations as are necessary to maintain the usefulness of the Board, and for the country's good.

#### DARE TO DO RIGHT!

It is your duty to enquire. It is the duty of every individual member of the Board to give you a straightforward yes or no answer, without prevarication or evasion. Ask for yourselves every straightforward, upright, honest man among them, and we believe some of them are such and dare to do right. The winnowing machine is needed in the Board; there are too many in it. Doubt all who evade, hedge or prevaricate. Truth never harmed an honest man in the long run; calumny may have injured many an honest man temporarily. More truth, more honor, more honesty are wanted on this orb of ours.

### The Dairy Interest.

BY J. SEABURY.

I have been very much surprised at the way in which the visit or tour of inspection of Professor Arnold has been managed so far. When it became generally known that the Association had secured his services the coming summer every cheesemaker expressed himself satisfied and pleased with the arrangement; but I question if that satisfaction is so apparent now. Whether the committee who had the management of this thing are guilty of *bad management* or *selfishness* I am at a loss to know. From some facts which have come to my knowledge I am very much inclined to think the latter has been cropping out pretty plainly. When the arrangement was made every one thought and understood that these lessons and instructions were to be as widely diffused as possible, so as to come within the reach and range of all. To me it would appear to be of paramount importance that these lessons should have been so arranged that all the outside and smaller factories should have had equal opportunities and facilities to attend these lessons. Especially should this have been the case in the early part of the season. Every dealer and cheesemaker knows, and this committee knows or ought to know, that it is very important every factory should get a good start the early part of the season. This being the case, arrangements should have been made to have the Professor at as many points as possible, and these points as far apart as possible, during the month of May. Or in other words, every effort should have been used to have him cover the whole ground during said month of May. With a little good management, careful planning and publicity, on the part of said committee, every cheesemaker in this western section could have availed himself of being present at least one day. But instead of this he has been quietly, and unknown to the general public, to a few of the oldest and largest factories in the country, and these chiefly within a radius of 15 or 20 miles of Ingersoll—the very factories that had no need of him, and to whom his visit would be more of an experiment than anything else. Why was there not a programme made out for the month by the committee, and that programme made public through the press and by circular? so that every cheesemaker would know of his whereabouts. The entire dairy public have a right to have an equal share in the benefits to be derived from the Professor's visit. The committee, whoever they may be, are responsible for this piece of bad management or selfishness, and the dairy public have a right to some explanation for this very strange procedure. Two thousand dollars is too large a sum to fritter away or so arrange that a few favorites may get the benefit. What we want is fair play and no favors, as the source from which this money comes gives each and all the right to demand this from the Board of the Association.

### Butter and Cheese Adulteration.

The time has now arrived when the dairymen, the agricultural societies, the public and the Government should consider if fraud and deception should be allowed to continue in the present wholesale and injurious manner. The present mode of coloring butter and cheese is a fraud and a deception. The butter and cheese made from weak, thin, pale or blue milk of the Holstein and other poor milk cows is by means of this artificial coloring made to appear as rich as the butter and cheese produced from the Ayrshire, Alderney and other rich milk producers. No one pretends to claim that the arti-

ficial coloring used is in any way beneficial to the flavor; neither does it add to the keeping qualities of either, therefore any foreign substance added must be injurious. There can be no intermediate position in anything; either good or harm must result. No one claims any good, therefore it must be the reverse. England is gradually becoming more and more exacting in regard to adulteration. We do not think that Canada need follow the pattern of the United States in this matter; but if Canadians would immediately abandon the plan of using any artificial coloring in butter or cheese, and let our goods stand on their just merits, without fraud or deception, our dairymen would soon realize an advantage in the markets of Europe.

Our agricultural societies should expel all artificially colored butter and cheese from competition for prizes, and attach a heavy fine for using it. It is well known that it is the worst cheese that is now colored. An inspector of cheese and butter should brand every artificially-colored cheese or package of butter as inferior. Of course they may be interested dealers or dealers' friends, and some may profess the farmers' interest for policy; but it is our opinion that the sooner this injurious and fraudulent plan is stamped out, the better it will be for our country.

### Sheep—Sheep—More Sheep.

We frequently travel to different parts of Canada, and it has always been a surprise to us that we see so few sheep kept; in fact, there are no extensive flocks in Canada that we know of—the average lot kept is from 15 to 40; some few farmers may have a hundred or two, but they are rare. When we devoted our attention to farming we had a large flock (that is, for Canada); no one in the township bred as many, and but few in the western part of Canada. We found them profitable, and made money from them—that is more than we can say of all the branches we undertook. If we devoted our time, means and manual labor for our support, we should pay especial attention to sheep in particular, and feel satisfied that they would bring us out right. Our opinion is strengthened by reading the following, which we take from the Kentucky Live-stock Record. We think it deserving your attention:

A wether 15 months old will, in his fleece, have paid all the expense of his rearing. And a first-class wether will to-day bring as much per pound for his whole weight alive as a first-class steer will make per pound for his dressed carcass only. Thus on May 10, in the New York market, first-class wethers and lambs were worth as high as 10½ cents per pound live weight, and first-class steers only that same price for the carcass, or for live weight not above 5½ cents per pound. What a contrast! Now the food and land which, at 3 or 3½ years, will make a steer of 1,500 pounds live weight that will dress 850 pounds beef, will carry in good sheep as many in number as will make, each year, as many pounds of carcass as the steer makes in three years. And the outlay in capital will be less for the sheep than for the steer. The steer pays nothing till he goes to market, but the sheep pay their way every year by their wool. It is true that if sheep of first-class quality were produced in large numbers the price they now hold would decline, but it would never be below the price of beef, and mutton can be grown in one-third the time that beef can, and it pays its way as it goes, making far better returns.

We must produce a first-class mutton-sheep to give a great export in sheep for food in Europe. We can grow mutton cheaper than it can be grown in Europe. The same value in sheep as in beef can be shipped with less danger and at less expense than can beef. Less capital for the growth of sheep is required, and less time exacted to turn it.

To-day even the best steers are of slow sale at the present very low prices, while good wethers and lambs are brisk in sale in all the eastern markets at prices, for the best, of double the best