

as the minimum. Last fall we had a very successful exhibition and large numbers attended. One of our mooted points is, the propriety of crop and farm viewing or not. One class of members objects on the grounds that it is unprofitable to them who have not good farms, and which are broken by rock, stream and lowland, claiming that they cannot successfully compete with their brother members who have fine land, broken fields, and where farms are in consequence more regular and better looking to the spectators. They say the only fair way is by weighing in the bag at the annual exhibition. Other parties approve of both methods and would have both the show and the crop viewing. A great deal of warmth has been displayed among the members, and we would like to hear the views of other societies and a little of their experience. We cannot do without the exhibition; Can we do without the crop farm viewing? An opinion from abroad would prove an authority and help us to settle the controversy.

Our societies have at different times brought in bulls, the Ayrshire being the favourite, some fine grade cattle are the result. They are only grades after all. In the west you are so fond of having the Provincial Exhibitions, because you have good ones, our western farmers have pure breeds, their imported thoroughbreds, Ayrshires and Galloways. Having done so well and gained renown, and we trust you enlighten us as to the best mode of producing pure breeds amongst us by means of societies. We will suppose the farmers either to be rich enough or unwilling to pay the high prices asked for stock-getters. Shall we proceed? Give us advice or us a lecture for not being up to the times, something to bring us up to the mark. It is that females as well as males must be selected, in order to have pure breeds. Support the society to be purchasers, we find the expenses of keeping considerable. What is your experience elsewhere? Have you enterprising men, who undertake this duty at reasonable rates, or will it do for the society to purchase and then sell by auction to the highest bidder among the members?

Some of our societies has authorized a member to attend a sale and purchase; intending to select the animals for competition among its members afterwards.

Ayrshire is the favourite here, both milk and beef being looked for. We have a good country and substantial farmers, but the winter is a drawback. There is a determination to move forward, and if any of your societies can give us advice or direction, we will be better off of it and a little plain speaking will do no harm.

Very but little fall wheat has been raised. Canadian Fife has been a great favourite, I think, I think, supply good seed even to us, if applied for in time. Some brought

in from there, did not appear to be any improvement. The Golden Drop is now attracting attention, and it has been noticed as being quoted a few cents higher a bushel in the western market, than the other variety. Why? Does it yield more and better flour? And can you recommend any other variety of spring wheat to us?

Kingston seems to be fixed as your most eastern point for the annual show. Why not Ottawa some time? Have we no reason to get jealous of our western brethren, and shall we not put in our claims for a little more attention? We wish to bring them all down to central Canada occasionally, in the hope that they will think more of us on better acquaintance. The value of the great Ottawa region, its influence and capacity for agricultural and manufacturing purposes will some day flash in upon the intelligent men of the west. The workers here, if not so far on in their agricultural standing yet as their more western brethren, are nevertheless accumulating influence and means, and will not be much longer in a position to be overlooked in the estimate of the progress of agriculture in Canada.

You are pushing up the flax question and have got your scutching machines, not forgetting to make us pay our part of the cost, but it does not appear to have occurred to the managers of the movement, that our Ottawa region was the place to send one of the machines, and that the flax culture could be as well if not better introduced amongst us, then in more favoured regions west. We purposely put in this hint, and wish to send it abroad wide through the columns of your *Agriculturist* and *Journal of the Board of Agriculture of Western Canada*.

Now that a cry to aid the emigrant is abroad, and a desire shown to bring him to Canada, where is he to be planted if not in our Ottawa region of country along and inland from this other frontier of our country? The mighty St. Lawrence has had its day, its canals and its railroads, and the future of the Ottawa bids fair to out rival it yet. The judges of the land will soon find it necessary to preside in halls of justice built on the shores of the upper Ottawa, and we trust that the future Boards of Agriculture will have a sprinkling of Ottawa men amongst them. It will be our own fault if this is not so.

Professor Buckland once paid us a visit, but it is long, long ago, and our eyes have not been delighted with any accredited agents of the great agricultural movements of the day emanating from the Bureau of Agriculture or its Boards. But they gather themselves together up westerly and around Toronto, and we go in for reversing the order of things by which the wise men came from the east, and put in a plea for a visitation and recognition from the west.

Other points might be noticed, but this letter is already long enough for the *Agriculturist*.

W. O. BUELL, Pres. of Ag. Society.  
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