

wished to pay him what might be considered a reasonable amount for his trouble, his own charges being \$128. No less than seven resolutions were put before one could be carried. Even then it was reconsidered and altered on the following morning. It was a difficult case, and one which might turn into a trap to the injury of the Board. It appears that Mr. Becher had been retained by the Association.— Still he acted as Queen's Counsel, it being a criminal case, and the Association not suing for damages, they considered, as we all have considered, that the Queen's Counsel was paid by the Crown. But in this case the Judge would not allow pay to the Queen's Counsel, therefore he sends in this large bill to the Association.

If this is the way our laws are to be administered, that us farmers have to pay for the prosecution of a thief, we will ask you who would prosecute any thief, robber, murderer, or any other criminal? We should soon have Judge Lynch taking his sway in Canada, if such things are to be as a farmer being compelled to pay \$171 to prosecute an offender against the laws of our country. We do not understand, nor did either of the magistrates attending the Board, why or how such things could be; but to save a law suit about it, which appeared inevitable, they appointed Messrs. Shipley and White to see the London lawyer, Mr. Becher, and settle with him.

We neither consider it fair, honorable or just of some of the citizens of London, and even an editor of a Toronto paper, in using every means in their power to weaken and injure the new Board of Agriculture. We notice that they are using the old argument that we brought forward four years ago against the old Board. They should give the new Board a fair trial before condemning it, and trying to injure the Provincial Exhibition. Some we know are doing their utmost to injure it, because the power of control is not in their hands.

Another subject gave the Board some grounds for discussion. It was a communication from the Minister of Agriculture, which, from request, we publish in full, and will be found in another part of this paper. The Minister of Agriculture had previously addressed a communication to the Board suggesting some alterations in its management. The Board considered it an attempt to make the agricultural affairs of the country subservient to party politics, and only one member would support it.— We know many of the members of the Board are real practical agriculturists, and the united body ought to know some of the requirements of the farmers of the country, and should have some power to carry out improvements. Mr. Carling would, we have no doubt, wish to see the farmers prosper. We leave our readers to judge which may be right or wrong.

We do not wish to use our pen with its full force, either for or against either the Board or the Commissioner; but we think it our duty to inform you that there is not such a friendly feeling existing between the Board and the Commissioner as there should be. We would like them both to vie with each other, and let the country see which would do the most good with the powers vested in them; and for the prosperity of agriculture we would strongly recommend, if it is possible, that party politics should have nothing to do with

our agricultural affairs. We, with great sorrow and loss, are forced to admit that it has and does most injuriously interfere and clog the wheels of agricultural progress. Neither the government nor the Reform party will exert themselves to support any public measure, no matter how beneficial it may be, unless they are fully satisfied that the influence and power they would be aiding would be used to support one party or the other.

We attended a

#### TRIAL OF MOWING MACHINES,

about which we make some remarks in another part of this paper. We also attended the trial of Carter's Ditching Machine on the Asylum Grounds, near this city. It worked to the entire satisfaction of all who saw it, and was pronounced an efficient and good implement. We also attended the meeting of the

#### FRUIT GROWERS' ASSOCIATION.

The attendance was but small, but comprised gentlemen who are well posted in their business.

The reward of \$10 offered for 2,000 of the plumb curculio, brought forward ten bottles, each containing the required number. We think it rather a drain on the funds of the Association at but little profit.

There were some fine specimens of raspberries shown, and Mr. McDougall, of Windsor, exhibited some ripe pears. This was on the 13th of June. They were small, but of good flavor.

There was a discussion on the best means of protecting orchards from mice. Some considered that keeping plenty of cats about would be and had been a good plan. Others recommended putting horse-shoe drain tiles around the roots; others, that no mice would be found where the ground was kept clean, and some suggested poison. But some one or other had lost trees when either of the above practices had been followed; and we could not arrive at any better plans for their destruction, or the prevention of the damage done, than have previously appeared in this journal.

We have had but one work-day on our farm this month. We were showing the children how to bud and prune a few apple trees of the suckers that are apt to spring after having been pruned. Now we are ensconced in our office, with the thermometer at 90 degrees, to write articles for your paper, and attend to correspondence accounts and general business. Yet many of you think we have nothing to do. To you who know better, and believe we are doing good, we would respectfully ask if you cannot use your pen and aid us. We wish for correspondence on any subject pertaining to our agricultural prosperity. We do not ask for a letter containing a long list of questions, requesting us to write on them; but as you all wish for useful information, we hope you will favor us with such as will be of advantage to some of our readers who may not know as much as you on some particular subject. Each one of you can inform the wisest of some useful facts or accounts of the crops, etc., in your part of the country. If we have not given you as full reports as you wish, aid us to make the paper, and allow us more time. If we have said too much, or anything incorrect, our pages are open for any of our subscribers to reply, or to differ from us in our opinions.

#### To the Honorable John Carling, Minister of Agriculture.

For the past seven years we have devoted our time and means to the public advancement of agriculture, and its merits. We have written against the introduction of racing at agricultural exhibitions, and nipped it in the bud. We have spoken against the taxation for encouraging gambling and the race-course, as the race horse and its descendants are rather a loss than a profit to agriculture. We have shown the corruption of the old Board of Agriculture through our paper, and have caused the exposure that has taken place in its former mismanagement. We have shown that the only agricultural paper previous to our own had engravings made of 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th prize stock before the exhibition had taken place at which the prizes were to be awarded. We have suggested that farmers' clubs and monthly fairs should be encouraged. We have shown the necessity of having some place for importing, testing and disseminating agricultural seeds. We have suggested the necessity of a general test of agricultural implements. We have requested that agricultural papers should pass through the post office at least as low as political papers. We suggested the propriety of disinfecting the cattle cars of our country while the cattle disease was spreading in the West.

We have given more useful and valuable information in regard to seeds and implements, and have sent throughout the Dominion more valuable seed than any other editor, since we established the Canadian Agricultural Emporium—an institution that some of your advisers have done their utmost to trample down, and which you have as yet in no way aided to build up, despite the commendations from county councils, agricultural societies, the Dairymen's Convention, and the commendations of J. A. McDonald and his Excellency the Governor-General.

We now call your attention to another subject, which threatens to do more damage and cause us greater loss than the Fenians have done; yes, a loss that would be altogether incalculable, and that for years to come. We mean the invasion of the *Colorado potato bug*. We believe you can prevent its spread in Canada by adopting a plan which we think would be effectual and inexpensive.

At present the total destruction of our potatoe crop is threatened, and if steps are not taken by the government to prevent it, we will in all probability in a year or two have the Colorado bug added to the already numerous list of destructive insects that the farmer has to contend with.

We have a plan that has suggested itself to our mind, which we firmly believe would prevent so dire a calamity; and should you desire, as Minister of Agriculture, we would be most happy to communicate it to you, as it lies only with your assistance to make it effectual. Were it otherwise, we would have given our plan ventilation among our readers. But, as we have said, without your cooperation it is a dead-letter, and as we have thrown the results of our experience and observation away so often, by laying them before you without any good result to the country, we deem our

advice and council will be more appreciated if asked for; and, however coldly these have been received in former times, we will, for the sake of the country, be only too glad to lay our proposition before you when it is desired. As we have said it is inexpensive, and there can be no excuse made if it is neglected upon that score.

"I see by the papers that the Colorado potato bug is on its travels north and east of this point, and potato growers are disposed to show fight with the enemy. As I have had an extensive experience with these marauders, I think that I can speak with knowledge concerning them. I first saw them five years ago. The next year I planted, and tried to raise four acres of potatoes, and I don't think that any amount of Paris Green, "eternal vigilance," whipping machines or hot water, aided by ten active fingers to each square rod of ground, could have saved me one potato. The bugs came like the sands of the desert in number, like the locusts of Egypt in voracity; they left neither tops or roots. The next year (1867) there was comparatively few of them, and since then they have not molested my crop. My advice to those who have to deal with them in large numbers, is this: Don't waste time in fighting them, but plow them under and sow to buckwheat or something else, and console yourselves with the fact that they don't stay long in one place, but while they stay they claim the empire, and are able to hold it."

We have clipped the above from the *Prairie Farmer* of last month, and it speaks for itself in regard to the destruction of the potato where the bug obtains a hold. The writer, from his experience, tells us that it is no use fighting with them after they obtain possession, and the consolation drawn from his two considerations seem to us rather of a doubtful nature. Our object is to draw your attention to the fact that they are on their way here, and also to the other fact that we think their progress can be stopped effectually without expense, further than drawing a little on your time and attention, and perhaps that of the government.

#### To Inventors.

A correspondent writes:

A sap bucket wanted, one that will supersede the place of all others yet produced, as he pronounces all faulty in the material of which they are made—the patent pails by falling to pieces in dry places, and the same when kept in a damp place by the rotting of the hoops. Tin ones are expensive, and soon become useless through rust. Earthenware cracks when the sap freezes. A sap bucket made from some other material is therefore wanted, free from these objections, that will not be expensive. Such an article would be good for a patent.

#### Patent Right Frauds.

We beg to call the attention of our numerous readers to the article of our legal correspondent, in this issue of our paper, on patent rights, and the frauds perpetrated by patent right vendors and agents on the farming community. Having the interest of our subscribers at heart, we suggest that if any of them have been taken in or swindled out of notes by these gentlemen, let them send us a statement of the facts, and we will undertake to procure for them the best advice obtainable under the circumstances, as to what course they should pursue in the premises.