

**The Value of Patents Contrasted.**

We extract the following from the **PRAIRIE FARMER**:

"It may be asked what proportion of all patented inventions prove to be valuable to their projectors or to the public—One tenth? Probably not much more than that; but let it be remembered, there are few failures so harmless as that of a useless invention. The patent gives it a chance to prove itself worthy of the public patronage. It simply declares that if it be good, it shall not be stolen; but if it be useless nobody will want to steal it. But of all those who enter upon any occupation of life, how many succeed, and how many fail? How many young men have entered the bar, and have failed to take rank with Evarts, O'Connor, or Brady? How many have launched their barks, laden with mercantile ventures, and have stranded, while Claffin and Stewart were sailing into port? How many have been moved to 'start a paper,' who have lived as long, but not to as much purpose, as Raymond, Bennett, and Greeley? I suppose that nine failures to one success is a very fair portion for the professions of the world, including that of the inventor; or, at all events, I do not suppose that the failures among inventors are more numerous than among every other class of workmen. As to property in inventions, I shall not stop to discuss it. That a man having, by long experiment, by patient thought, by brilliant genius, by the expenditure of time and means, conceived and brought to perfection and embodiment, some new idea, having created some new substance, put in motion some new machine, put some old force to new work, or given to some new force a field for labor, is not entitled to call this which he has done his own and to set his price upon it, need not, I think, be argued before honest men. If we owe nothing to the men who have made this century so illustrious by their great conceptions, then we owe nothing to anybody, and repudiation ought to be the watchword of the age.

**A CASH DEBT DUE INVENTORS—HOW TO REWARD THEM.**

"We do owe them much, not merely a debt of sentimental gratitude, but a debt payable in cash, which shall lift them above want, and place them upon such a pinnacle of happiness that the world shall say, 'Thus shall it be done unto the man whom the nation delighted to honor!' How shall we give pecuniary consideration for inventions? There are two ways in which this might be done. One is by the purchase, for cash, by the Government, of all inventions for the use of the nation. This plan is met at the outset by the impossibility of determining the value. Every inventor supposes himself to have a fortune in every conception that he puts into wood and iron. Stealing tremblingly and furtively up the steps of the Patent Office with his model carefully concealed under his coat, lest some sharper shall see it and rob him of his darling thought, he hopes to come down those steps with the precious parchment that shall insure him a present competency and that shall enrich his children. I should think if he were offered a million, in the first flush of his triumph, that he would hesitate about touching it without sleeping over it for a night. Yet fourteen thousand millions would be a pretty heavy bill to pay from a treasury not over full. Fourteen hundred millions might be thought an important addition to the National debt, or even one million four hundred thousand, which would be just \$100 apiece for all the patented inventions of 1869. I think, therefore, that we may set aside the plan of purchase as impracticable.

**HOW TO DEAL JUSTLY BY THE INVENTOR.**

"No commission could satisfy the inventor, and no price that we could afford to pay would take the place of the stimulus of the hope of unlimited wealth which now lightens his toils and shines like a beacon at the entrance of the harbor that he hopes to make. The other plan is to offer protection for a limited time, in payment for the new discovery. We may say to the inventor: 'You have a valuable secret, which may benefit us. To disclose it without protection would be to lose it. To keep it would deprive us of its use. If you will disclose it to us by so describing it and illustrating it, as that we may fully understand it and may avail ourselves of it without difficulty, we will agree that for seventeen years you shall be protected in its use. You may make out of it what you can. When your limit of time has expired, we shall have it without further payment. We cannot pay you in money, we will pay you in time.' I submit that this is a fair bargain. A new thought developed, explained, described, illustrated, put on record for the use of nation—this on the one side. The right to the exclusive benefit of this new thought for a limited time, and protection in that right—this on the other. This is the patent system. A fair contract between the inventor and the public—ideas paid for by time. It is manifest that the utmost good faith is required upon both sides. On the one hand there must really be an invention; no stealing of the ideas of other men; no crude notions resulting only in experiment. The inventor must have something to sell. On the other hand, there must be protection—no infringement, no piracy, no stealing of the soul of the invention, by clothing it in immaterial changes of form."

There may be plans for the advancement of public good brought forward, that cost quite as much as the invention of a machine, and when found to be of worth, the originators should be rewarded.—(Ed.)

**DRAINING.**—We are now instructed by Mr. Carter, the patentee of the First Prize Ditching Machine, to offer to the public this necessary and useful implement on such advantageous terms as you never yet heard of. Any reliable person in any part of the Dominion where they have not yet been introduced, may have one sent to them on trial, and if it does not perform the work to the entire satisfaction of the person wishing for a ditching machine, the machine will be taken back. Every one we have heard of, since it has been improved, says it gives satisfaction; and not one has been returned that we have heard of. For machine, apply to us; for rights to manufacture, apply to D. Stewart, Aylmer.

**HOW TO MAKE MONEY!****Get up a Club for the "Farmer's Advocate" 1870.**

And gain the Norway Oats and the Harrison Potatoes. 90 bushels of Norway oats can be raised to the acre. 700 bushels of Harrison potatoes can be raised to the acre; many have exceeded these figures. Save the increase and your neighbors will repay you a handsome profit.

The **FARMER'S ADVOCATE** is a practical paper, devoted to Agricultural interests, and gives valuable information of the testing of seeds which is carried on in connection with the **EMPORIUM**. By taking it you obtain accurate knowledge of the best **SEED STOCK** and Implements and the best place to procure them. It is edited by a practical farmer, uninfluenced by politics and without government aid.

**READ AND REFLECT.**

The Governor General says our "undertaking is commendable, and should be continued."

The Provincial Board of Agriculture passed the following resolution at London in September, 1869:

Resolved, That the exertions made by Mr. Weld in improving and testing various kinds of Farm Cereals, and in diffusing a knowledge thereof through the medium of the Press, are deserving the encouragement and support of the farmers of this Province, and that this council will give to the object of improving and testing seed, its best consideration.

Certified,

HUGH C. THOMPSON, Secretary.

Office Agricultural Association, Toronto, Sept. 30th, 1868.

The County Council approves of our course in this manner:—

We earnestly recommend the usefulness of the Agricultural Emporium established by Mr. Wm. Weld, of London, for the dissemination of superior stock, seeds and implements among the farmers of the Dominion, more especially at this time, when from the ravages of the midge and other causes, our wheat crops are diminishing yearly. The exertions of Mr. Weld to procure new kinds of seed are praiseworthy. We also recommend his paper, the **FARMER'S ADVOCATE**, to the support of all persons interested in the success of Agriculture. And your committee would also recommend Mr. Weld to the favorable consideration of the Legislature of Ontario, praying that honorable body not to overlook the claims of Mr. Weld to encouragement in the efforts he is making for the advancement of our Agricultural interests.

J. KEEFER, County Clerk.

**PRIZES FOR GETTING UP CLUBS**

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|--|-------|
| 1st prize—Carter's Patent Ditching Machine | \$150 |
| 2nd do—The Little Giant Threshing Machine  | 100   |
| 3rd do—The Empire Seed Drill               | 70    |
| 4th do—Sell's Patent Cider Mill            | 30    |

The above prizes will be awarded on the 10th day of March to those that send in the four largest clubs. The cash sent must be double the value of the prize at not less than 75c. each.

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| Certain prizes to every one getting up a club for 50 subscribers at 75c. each, |        |
| 1 barrel, 30 cents; 2 bags, 45 cents,  |        |
| containing 1 bush, Norway oats, 45c;   |        |
| 1½ bush. Harrison, \$1.25; half-bush.  |        |
| early rose, \$2. Total   | \$8 00 |
| Clubs for 20, 1 bag, 50 cents; half-bush                                       |        |
| Norway oats, \$2.50; ½ bush. Harrison's  |        |
| early rose, 1 peck, \$1. Total   | 5 00   |
| Clubs for 20, 1 bag, 50 cents; 1 bush. Har-                                    |        |
| rison's, \$1; 1 peck Norway, \$1.50;   |        |
| half-peck, early rose, 62½c. Total   | 3 12½  |
| Clubs for 10, 1 bag, 25 cents; half-bush.                                      |        |
| Harrison's, 62½ cents; 4 lbs. early rose,                                      |        |
| 40 cents; 1 lb. Norway oats, 25 cents.   |        |
| Total  | 1 50   |
| Clubs for 6, 4 oz. Harrison; 4 oz. Norway                                      |        |
| oats; 4 oz. early rose, per mail, post   |        |
| paid to any part of the Dominion.  |        |
| Total  | 75     |
| Clubs of 4 at 75 cents each, 1 package, 4 oz.                                  |        |
| of any kind of seed, per mail. Total   | 25     |

Agent wanted in each Township to canvass for the paper and take orders for seeds, stock and implements.

The price of the paper is \$1 per annum, in advance, or 12½ cents per month, if in arrears. Agents can collect \$1, as we take nothing less for single subscribers at the office.

## FOR SALE AT A GREAT BARGAIN 150 ACRES

Within 4 miles of this City. This must be disposed of at once, and no application responded to without knowing the parties to be **SOBER AND SANE** persons in want of a farm. Apply to this office. 1-in.