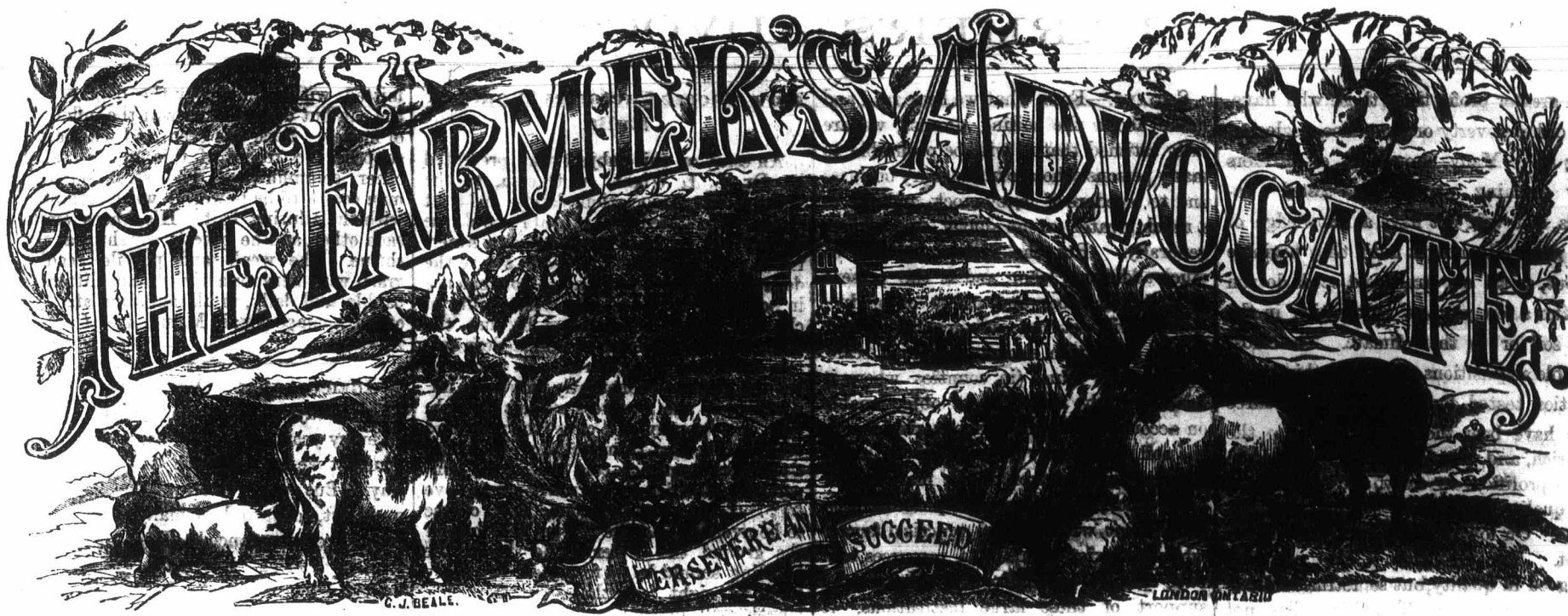




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Editor and Proprietor. }

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Experimental Farm.

We have just heard that the government of Ontario have passed an act for the purpose of establishing a large experimental and test farm. We were much astonished on hearing this news, especially as the Minister of Agriculture had promised to aid us in our undertaking. But we never anticipated that the government would have stepped in and taken from us our plans and put them in operation before consulting with us on the subject, as our readers are all well aware that these very plans are what we have been laboring to bring about for years. In fact, this journal was established for that sole purpose. Although we have been unable to carry out our plans to the extent that we anticipated on our own farm, still we have now established ourselves so as to have the various kinds of seeds tested all over the Dominion, and are even better able to judge of the general adaptability of many varieties much better than by having them tested at one place and under one mode of cultivation. We have gained a pretty good position, although it has been at great cost, as on the outset the expenses were enormous and the receipts but meagre. In fact we had spent everything, even to the disposing of our choice thorough-bred stock, and mortgaged our homestead, to carry out our undertaking. We have still continued, and our prospect for future prosperity was good, but this step of the government in taking from us all hope of establishing a provincial establishment on an independent scale, has now nearly blasted our prospects. However, we still have hopes of being able to carry out some parts of our plans to advantage to the country, if no other obstacle is thrown in the way. Our strength is weakened by a long tug of expensive practice, and the government undertakings are such that no private individual can contend against. Therefore we must bow our head to the laws of the land. Still we believe that the establishment or establishments would have been more economically and beneficially carried out if left to private enterprise, without any aid.

We now imagine that this must have been in contemplation at the time our petition for an act to allow us to establish

a joint stock company for carrying out these plans was thrown out. There exists in our country patent rights to protect individuals who have labored to bring forward any new implement or invention; but for the labor of putting any advantageous plan in operation, no matter how much it may have cost, there is no protection. Perhaps none of our legislators saw that such an act must entirely destroy all our labor, at least as far as any individual benefit could be derived from it. These plans have not been the fanciful imagination of a moment, but have taken years of close, hard labor, to extend our influence from New Brunswick to Manitoba. It would be folly on our part to throw our paper into the arena of politics in general on account of this act, and further, we should be false to our position. Were we to do so, we could then be called political. We therefore abide patiently with the decisions of the rulers of the Dominion, and if they act honorably or honestly with us, they will reward us in some way for the land they have taken from us, and also for our plans, which they have themselves now adopted, as all editors, councilmen and farmers have but little power or weight when compared with the lawyers who are the law makers. We have heard of such a thing as an honest lawyer. If there is such a gentleman in either of the Legislative halls, whether in Ontario or in the Dominion, we should have great pleasure in seeing or hearing from him.

To the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, and the Members of the Legislature of the Dominion of Canada.

GENTLEMEN,—

Whereas, by your Law of Limitation, I have been deprived of land that I had purchased according to the laws of the Dominion, the said law having deprived me of land so purchased, partially caused by the errors of your surveyors, and having been deprived of a large quantity of valuable timber and been compelled to sustain heavy legal expenses on account of the said law, the particulars of the case being reported in your law journals. And, whereas, such loss for land, timber or expenses has in no way been reimbursed to

me, [your petitioner would request that this case be looked into and a proper adjustment made for said case, as it cannot be your desire to deprive an immigrant of his land when duly and legally bought and paid for.

For justice only your humble servant will ever pray.

To the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, and the Gentlemen of the Legislature of the Dominion of Canada.

Whereas, the postage on seeds sent throughout this Dominion is now charged four times more than newspapers, and the Americans allow seeds to pass through their post offices at lower rates than newspapers for the facilitating the spread of seed; we believe the postage on them might, with great advantage to farmers and with no loss to the post office department, be reduced, and that a greater return of the revenue of the country would be the result from the increased productions of the country. Therefore on behalf of the farmers we would humbly ask that seed will be allowed to pass through the post office as cheaply as newspapers.

ALSO,

Whereas, it is of much importance to our country that good seed be sown, and that as the whole revenue of this Province at least, is derived from what the farmers produce, and as there now exists a duty on seeds imported, amounting to 10 per cent., and as there appears a surplus of money in the exchequer, perhaps you might deem it prudent to abolish the said duty on seeds, especially on such as are not raised in this Dominion; and as the farmers are the hardest-worked, heaviest-taxed, and worst paid class, it might be of advantage to them. We would therefore beg to suggest that the said duty be removed.

Your obedient servant,

W. WELD.

Seeds.

Spring wheat of any kind has been a source of great loss to the farmers in this part of the Dominion. For the past five years we have tried and continue to try any and every variety that we could procure. Last year we dissuaded our readers

from sowing any, and would not supply any. This season we shall recommend sowing a little of two varieties: one is the Baltic wheat; it has done well in some of the north-eastern townships. The other is the McCauley wheat, which has been tested in the north and in our township. It yielded double the amount per acre in our township than any other wheat raised in this section, and it bids fair to be of value to the country. A little is quite enough to enable a person to test and get acquainted with the seed. If it answers as well next year as it has the past three years, each one who has it will make a large profit from it.

The Fife, Club, Chilian, Fea, and Rio Grand will not be supplied by us, as we have fully tested them, and have no confidence in either.

PEAS.—The Crown peas are undoubtedly the kind for good farmers to sow who require a large crop of peas, and who do not care about a large crop of straw. They require good clean cultivation, and rich land. They stand erect, can be cut with a mowing machine, and are well liked by good farmers, but not by dirty, slovenly ones, who do not cultivate their land, and leave everything to chance.

The Excelsior Peas yielded the greatest returns on poor and light land. They grow long in the straw, and long in the pod.

The Golden Vines, Creepers, Marrowfats, and Prussian Blues, are all still well liked by some parties.

BARLEY.—The Chevalier barley has proven itself a failure in every instance we have heard of the past season. The Russian barley will become, we think, a favorite crop, and even more profitable than peas where the bugs are bad. This is not a barley adapted for malting, but for stock feeding. We think it will be a great acquisition to many.

POTATOES.—Of all the new seeds introduced by us, none have been of more universal benefit to the farmers, gardeners and citizens than the potatoes. Their great productiveness has in thousands of instances tended to double the crop, and in many cases yielded ten times more than the old varieties; and those farmers who have procured them have and must make a

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