

no such nonsense in olden times, and he will neither aid nor countenance the like. He does not seem to realize that the world of to-day is not like the world of olden times, nor that the net is weaving around him. Immense amounts of capital are gathered together and thrown into huge enterprises. And these again are amalgamated and placed under one board of management, being more easily controlled in this manner, and competition reduced to a minimum or entirely destroyed. Some instances of such combinations will be fresh in everyone's mind. The salt monopoly which existed prior to the opening of the Grange Salt Works at Kincardine had forced the price of salt up to \$1.50 per barrel, but as soon as the Grange works opened it fell nearly to one-third of that price, and the salt trade has been completely demoralized ever since. Last summer there was a ring or combination amongst the manufacturers of binders, and during its existence nothing less than \$200 would purchase a binder; but it went to pieces when they found they could not sell at these prices and were likely to be left with a large number on their hands, and in some instances they were sold for about half that price. Lately a combination has been perfected amongst the cotton manufacturers, and prices have materially advanced, and it may be long before they are so low again as the late prices.

Amongst the rings or combinations we might almost class the lawyers, or the law which we get at their hands. Our legislatures, which are composed chiefly of lawyers, have tinkered and amended and enacted laws until they are so perfect that they are a perfect uncertainty. They are like the man's tree that stood so straight that it leaned the other way. The law has become a terror to the poor man, for in most cases to him it means ruin. This has become so well understood that thousands suffer grievances rather than appeal to the tribunals which ought to enforce justice, for "when they ask for bread they receive a stone." The courts are conducted much on the principle of a debating club, the chairman of which decides according to the arguments brought before him, quite irrespective of right or wrong. And those who are dissatisfied may appeal to another tribunal, and continue the argument, if they can stand the expense, and in the end they will discover that law and justice are quite distinct.

The railways, though of great utility, are perhaps the most grinding monopoly in this country. Hundreds of millions of the people's money have been given to assist in their construction, much of it on specific conditions which have been systematically disregarded and tantalizingly set aside and the people's rights completely ignored. They do as they like and charge as they please, but always against local trade and traffic, charges often being so high as to preclude the possibility of profitably shipping over their own lines between local points. Our Parliaments are composed largely of the hirelings of railway companies, and the laws are made to suit the purposes of their employers. All railroad law is made in the interests of the railroads, so any appeal to the courts is all but useless, and if they are beaten in one court they carry it to the next, so nothing but corporations or wealthy individuals are able to stand the expense.

How long are such abuses to continue? How long will farmers continue to fill our legislative chambers with professional men, whose interests run opposite to their own, and who are paid to deprive them of right and justice? In every county are to be found men well qualified to represent the agricultural interests of the country, men who have no conflicting interests with the farmers, men whose interests are identical with their own, and who would represent them with fidelity and ability. Why are they not selected for this purpose? The answer, I fear, in many instances, is to be found in too strict an adherence to party politics. Rather than support one who had not been identified with their own political party, they support one less suitable, or whose services may be engaged against their interests. Party politics are the bane of the country. It is often said there must be two political parties always. I cannot see it in this light. Political parties in Canada have not always been divided by principles; they have been divided by men. Measures should divide irrespective of where they come from, and this is not always the case. Experi-

ence has shown it to be seldom the case. The people should support the right, irrespective of where it comes from. No party is always right, nor no party always wrong, and right and wrong will be found with both parties. The people, as a body, honestly desire to support what is right. Why, then, is there so much contention—so much bitter party feeling on this subject more than any other? When our intentions are alike why cannot we see alike? The reason, I believe, is because we are differently informed; we draw our conclusions from our information, and they are not the same. Our people are an intelligent people, and a reading people; but their reading is largely from party newspapers, which unfortunately are so biased that they mislead their readers. And thus their knowledge of party men and matters is drawn from an over-zealous partisan press from month to month, and from year to year, until they become so prejudiced that they will believe nothing else nor hear anything else. Were we only to use a little common sense we would notice that in all other respects men of both parties are about alike. The men who support one party are about as good and intelligent as those who support the other, and if we could only get at the honest, naked truth, without coloring or distortion, we would be very likely to arrive at very nearly the same conclusion, and could with feelings of greater confidence uphold what we believed to be right and condemn what we thought wrong. But the information we can at present gather from the political press of either party is so garbled, warped and one-sided that any unprejudiced mind must receive it with great uncertainty.

[Mr. Wilkie forgot to mention that a large number of farmers are waiting for the Government to send out experts to organize them.—Ed.]

Council Meeting of the Agriculture and Arts Association.

A meeting of the Council of this Association was held on the 8th ult. in the city of Guelph. The Vice-President, Mr. J. C. Snell, presided, who, on taking the chair, expressed deep regret at the sad circumstances which brought him to the chair, namely, the sudden death of their late honored President, Mr. H. Parker.

Moved by Mr. Ira Morgan, seconded by Mr. Chas. Drury, that the unexpected and lamentable death of Henry Parker, Esq., President of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, who was closely and prominently identified with this Association for the last number of years, has recently been learned by the members of this Council, and with deep and heartfelt regret, and we take this the earliest and best opportunity to place on record our high appreciation of the important services he has rendered while a member of this Board, and the present year as President. That we desire also to express our sense of the loss that this Council has sustained in the death of one whose ability and zeal in the discharge of his duties, at all times, able in discussion and wise in his suggestions, as well as in his uniform courtesy with his fellow members, will be long remembered, and now more so, feeling his loss and absence in this the present and last meeting of the year, over which, if spared, he would have presided. Be it resolved that a copy of the foregoing resolution, properly engrossed, signed by the Vice-President and Secretary, and sealed with the seal of the Association, be forwarded to Mrs. Parker, who has the deep sympathy of this Council in the sudden and sad bereavement, and that a copy of the same be entered in the minutes of this Council.

The members of the Council spoke in terms of the highest appreciation of the character and usefulness of their late lamented President.

Mr. Drury presented an estimate of the ex-

penditures required by the Council for the next year, as follows:

Prize Farms, \$250; Council Expenses, \$725; Veterinary College, \$125; Prize Essays, \$100; Salaries, \$1,500; Exhibition, \$5,500; Postage and Printing, \$600; Educational Scheme, \$500; Fat Stock Show, \$700; Total, \$10,000.

A discussion took place on the estimates. Mr. White wanted the prize farm expenditures to be devoted to plowing matches. Mr. Moore also favored plowing contests, but thought the scheme too expensive. Mr. Drury strongly favored the prize farm scheme, as he considered the reports of the prize farms were read with great interest. He also supported the educational scheme, although it was not so successful as should be expected.

The estimates were passed as above enumerated.

Mr. Ira Morgan, in a vigorous speech, supported the claims of Ottawa for the holding of the Provincial Exhibition, and made a motion to this effect, seconded by Mr. Drury.

Mr. Aylsworth moved, seconded by Mr. Legg, that the Exhibition be held in Kingston. The seconder supported the claims of Kingston by stating that that city had completed arrangements for the grounds, and that suitable buildings would be put up. Mr. White contended that the passing of a motion so soon for the holding of the Exhibition would prevent other applicants from putting in their claims, but the Exhibition, he contended, must next go east. He expected that the Dominion Government would also give a grant, if the matter were decided now. He would vote for Ottawa. Mr. Drury contended that Kingston could give no assurance of being ready, while Ottawa had given such assurance.

The question was put and the motion in favor of Ottawa was carried.

Moved by Mr. Drury, seconded by Mr. Aylsworth, that the International Association of Fairs and Expositions be invited to hold their fourth annual convention in the city of Toronto, in 1887. Carried.

Farmers who have been studying the wheat-chess question will be interested in the following communication to the *Freeman's Journal* from an Irish farmer, who claims to have found a stalk of wheat from which grains of oats were growing: "In our opinion it has been caused by the hybridizing of some of the wheat stamens when in flower by the pollen of oats growing in the same field. It seems that a manured root crop was followed first by one of oats and subsequently by one of wheat, and it is probable that some of the shed grains of the former germinated late among the latter. As such hybridizing is very rare, and is surrounded by difficulties, the phenomenon is very remarkable. But, according to good authorities, still more extraordinary things have occurred with cereal crops. Stephens, in his 'Book of the Farm,' quotes Mr. Cowper, of Towcester, as growing both wheat and barley from oats, and some of Mr. Cowper's neighbors as producing rye from black Tartarian oats. As the native country of wheat, barley, oats and rye has not been determined, and as these cereals are not known in their original wild state, it may some day come to be proved that they are not distinct species, but very distinct varieties of one plant. This would account not only for the hybridizing in the case of Mr. O'Malley's wheat, but also for the result of Mr. Cowper's experiments."