

We have sent out but very little spring wheat, not having any that we could safely recommend. We desired the Government to expend \$100 in procuring a certain variety, but the public money could not be touched for such a purpose. Perhaps the new variety might not have been of any service to us, but it ought to be tried.

The high rate of postage on seeds has been of great loss to you, as we must necessarily send very small packages when we have to pay one cent per oz., or four times the rate of postage on newspapers. Our expenditure for postage alone during the past month amounted to nearly \$50, mostly paid in 1, 2 and 3 cent stamps.—On one package, weighing 11 ounces, sent to us from the States, the postage amounted to \$2.20. We really think the authorities should condescend to examine into the requirements of farmers, whose interests ought to be looked after. We consider that seed grain has been more neglected by those in power than any thing else.—We hope to see a little more attention paid to this matter.

News Items.

The proposition of the Hon. John Carling, having in the main the plan of making the Agricultural Association a government affair, was discussed at a late special meeting of the Board of Agriculture, and was condemned.

The President and Directors of the Western Fair have had a pretty time of it, yet some of their acts will come to light despite the darkening, close door policy they pursue. The citizens quarrel among themselves for office, power, cash, or something. The President resigned, but afterwards accepted his former position. Some farmers object to their plan of advertising prizes to the amount of \$6000, while their cash does not exceed \$1500. Many ask us to support the Western Fair; we will do so as soon as we are satisfied that it is for the advantage of farmers generally, and that they are the managers of it in reality.

Danger ahead. The Americans have stopped a Canadian vessel from passing through their locks at Sault Ste. Marie, and have sent armed vessels to our fishing grounds.

In New Zealand sheep are selling from one to two shillings sterling per head, and good horses are selling at from 5*l.* to 6*l.* sterling each.

Mr. Sharpe, the Guelph Seedsman, whose advertisement will be found on our last page, is the only one in this Dominion who is connected with an organized firm in Europe for the purpose of raising Seeds for Canada. We hear that his Seeds are giving satisfaction.

The Board of Agriculture have appointed Fleming, as usual, Seedsman to the Association. Does any one know that he has ever done as much good to farmers as Dawbarn, Sharpe, Simpson, Rowland or Bruce? Is his assortment of productions half equal to Leslie's? Has he ever written an article of value to the country? What benefit has the country received from his researches? And what has he ever expended for the public good?

R. T. Hurlburt, of Warkworth, gained the prize given by Mr. McKenzie for getting up the largest club during the past month.

Crop Report.

Fall Wheat has been badly winter killed. Much has been ploughed up, and the remainder in this county does not promise more than half a crop. Spring Wheat but little sown. Barley, Oats and Peas,—considerable extent of acreage sown, in good order and promising well. Grass never promised a larger yield. Fruit crop, from present appearance, will be very large. Apples are now formed, and half of the trees must be broken down by the weight of fruit, unless we have a frost, or some blast or insect to destroy them.—Many of the cherry blossoms are blighted. The currant worm is busy at its destructive work; use hellebore or the bushes will be killed. Shake your plum trees; put a hen coop and chickens under the trees, if you wish for any fruit; the curculio will now be busy.

The Dairying prospects are very good, and Dairymen will make money this year. There is a prospect of a rise in the price of wheat, and wheat growers need it, wheat having paid worse than any other crop for years past. Hop gardens are too much neglected this year, on account of the poor prices received last season. The prospects are, higher prices for hops.

Cattle, horses, pigs and sheep, all command highly remunerative prices, despite the American tariff. The Americans are our best customers.

Farmer's Pic-Nic.

Farmers as a class do not take as much amusement, nor hold as much intercourse with each other as they should. Recreation is beneficial to our children, and they must have more of it, if we wish them to become men and women of influence.—“All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy.”

Tuesday, May 24th, being the Queen's Birthday, the citizens all enjoyed themselves. Thousands visited Port Stanley, business was suspended, the Mayor proclaimed a general holiday, and the lads and lasses, who have been toiling for months, now enjoyed a period of recreation. Excursion Trains were run to Port Stanley during the day. Port Stanley is situated on the Lake, 27 miles from this city. The fare charged for the journey there and back is only 30 cents for adults, and 15 cents for children. Port Stanley itself is but a poor dilapidated place, but there is a pic-nic ground laid out which is free to all, a large shed has been erected for dancing, and there is a run-round on which a hundred children may ride at a time. Several swings have been erected, and numerous seats are scattered about the ground, and there is always plenty of hot water to make tea for the ladies. The pic-nic grounds are situated on one of the highest bluffs on the edge of the lake, and the sight of the lake alone would well repay our children, our wives and ourselves for the journey.

Many thousands of farmers and their families have not yet seen the lake. It is but right that our boys and girls should have a holiday as well as the citizens.—Numbers about here have never yet had a ride on the cars.

The planting season will be all over in the second week of June. The hay will

not be ready, but you can always find work to do. We know that statute labor and haying will be demanding your attention, and that your time is always occupied. Still, there is a duty you owe to your children—that is to educate them. Education is only commenced in the school room, and is not complete while breath remains in your body. You should be daily learning. One day spent in taking your children to such a place would expand their thoughts, and do them more good than a month's hard study. We say, let us give our children a holiday; let them go beyond the smoke of our own stove chimneys, a little further than the next concession, or the school house. Are you so miserable and niggardly that you will not let your boys have one day's holiday with the horses to drive to London? Can you not loosen the tight strings of your purse, to give your little boys and girls 15 cents each to pay for a ride to Port Stanley? There are thousands that will not even afford 75 cents a-year for a paper for their children to read. We do not expect such to give their children 15 cents for a holiday trip. But you that take the Advocate will be willing to please them. Make no excuse, such as Tom's boots have holes in them, or Jane's frock is not good enough, or another time will do, or promise them ten cents to stay at home, or go to see grandma or Auntie. Let them go out and see a little more of the world; at the same time the trip would do you no harm, and your wife would enjoy herself in seeing how happy the children could be.

The time of holding the public holidays—namely the Queen's Birthday and Dominion day—do not suit us as well as another time might. We are nearly all busy planting on the Queen's Birthday, and on Dominion Day we shall be busy in the hay field. We suggest the 22nd of June as a day that might suit us. The G. W. R. excursions take place when we are busy in the harvest field. In the second week of June, and the 2nd week of September, we can better spare the time, than at seed time or harvest.

We have spoken to the managers of the Port Stanley Railway, and they will run an excursion train for us any day we may desire, and at times to suit us, not interfering with their other business. We have no doubt but the managers of the G. W., G. T., and other railways, will accommodate the farmers in any part of Canada, if you apply to them for such a purpose.

It is our intention to go to Port Stanley on the 22nd, and hope to meet many friends there.

Reader, if you are within 15 miles of London, or intermediate stations on the Port Stanley line, take a holiday at the Port.

To Manufacturers.

We have an application from one of our subscribers wishing to know where he can obtain a dog power for churning. We cannot give him the desired information, but think it worth the attention of some, at least, of our manufacturers, to get such a thing brought forward for sale, as we have no doubt the demand would be great, and would prove to be of much advantage to the farmers.

Birds.

To the Honorable John Carling, Minister of Agriculture,

Or to any office-holder that receives one cent for which the farmers are taxed.

Gentlemen, there is a great and increasing loss of many hundreds of thousands of dollars annually sustained by farmers, by the great increase of the insect pests.—Millions have been lost by the midge, the weevil, the apple borer, the grasshopper, the curculio, the caterpillar, the grub, and numerous other pests. Nothing has been done, that we are aware of, by any one of you to devise or attempt any means of checking the ravages of these destructive insects. Can we not profit by our enterprising American neighbors? They have already imported sparrows, and have them now by the thousand about New York; and the cultivators of the soil find that where these exist, they can now raise such crops as they could not before their introduction. In Britain the fields are filled with birds, and the insect tribes are diminished. In some parts of Europe birds were thought to be destructive to the farmer's crops, and a great price was paid to destroy them; but the insects increased at such a rate that the crops were diminishing and a famine was threatened. The propagation of birds was then encouraged and farmer's could again raise crops.

Would it not be well for us to introduce and protect some of the European birds? If they live in New York they can live here. Cannot the directors of our agricultural affairs devote a little attention to testing seeds, introducing birds, and establishing farmer's clubs? It is a fine sight to see the largest and fattest animal that Canada can raise, or the largest turnip; but this is an old time worn although useful trait, which has been taught you by your ancestors. Is there none that can move beyond the old beaten road? Because our forefathers deemed it necessary to tax the poor farmers for a King's or Queen's plate, a large sum annually, which in reality only tend to encourage racing gambling, and breeding light horses—are they in any way advantageous to farmers?

These immensely expensive asylums will require to be kept up and paid for by the farmer; and while the payments have been exacted from him, not the slightest encouragement has there been offered to increase the yield of the farm by introducing new seeds, or by attempting to propagate birds.

Agricultural Emporium and Farmer's Advocate Office, London, Ont., June 1, 1870.

Take notice, that no person is authorised to act as agent in signing for me or in behalf of the Agricultural Emporium, the Farmer's Advocate, or my business in any way, except J. T. Simpson at this office. All agents that have acted and are wishing still to act, must obtain a mandate from me or my signature to all papers after the 10th of June. Any person having claims on me, or the Canadian Agricultural Emporium, are requested to send them in at once, and all indebted to this establishment will please remit the amounts without delay, and save costs. This does not apply to our agents who get up clubs for the Farmer's Advocate.