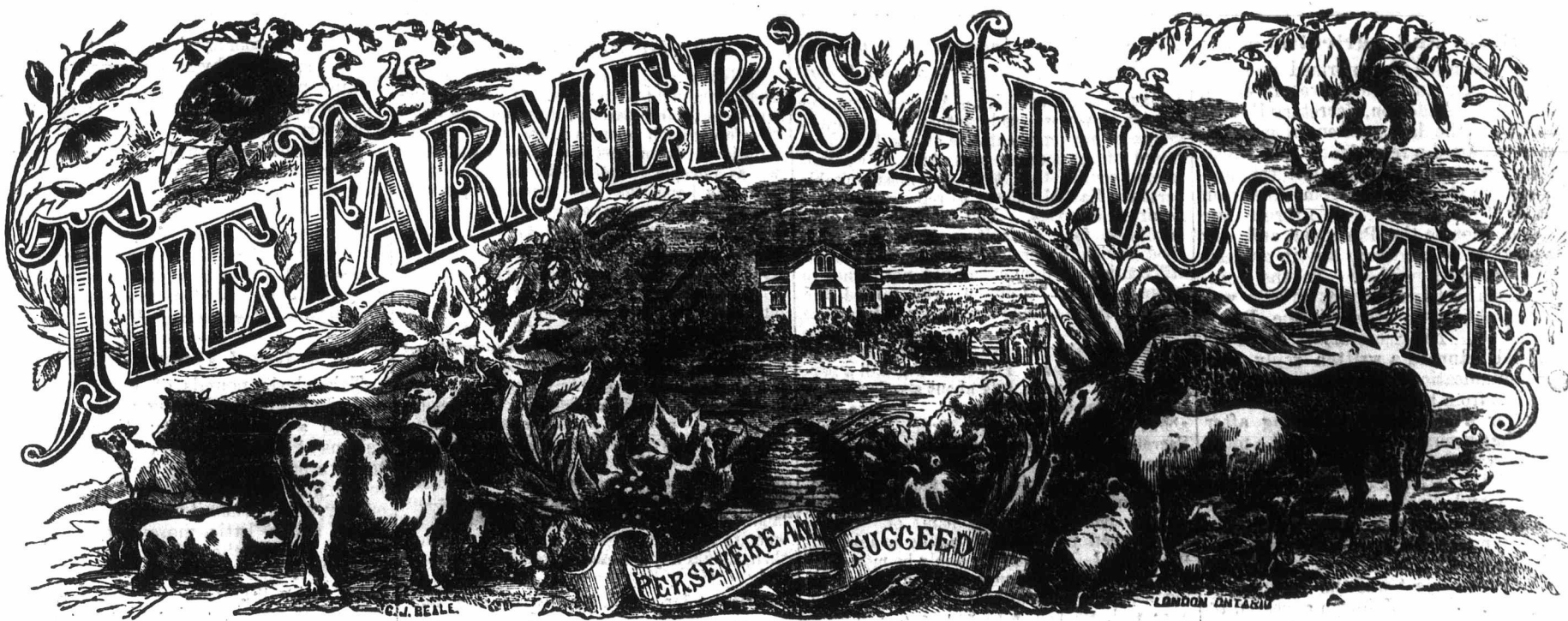


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VOL. VII. { WILLIAM WELD,  
Editor and Proprietor }

LONDON, ONT., MAY, 1872.

{ \$1 Per Annum, Postage Prepaid. } NO. 5.  
{ Office—Dundas St., Opp. City Hotel. }

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**The Season, Crops, &c.**

The Spring is unusually late this year. At the time of writing, April 25, ice is still lying in front of our office window, where the sun has not shed his rays on it, and it will take another week of such weather as we have had for the past two weeks to melt it; but of course this is in the city and in the shade. The ploughs have been running for about ten days, and considerable seeding has been done. The weather has been dry and favorable, in fact, many think too dry for the water in springs and wells, which, probably, were never lower at this season of the year, as last year was so unusually dry; no rain to speak of having fell during the summer, autumn, winter or spring. Many complain of lack of water, even for stock, which is very unusual at this season of the year.

The Fall Wheat, although it exhibited very little blade last fall, many looked with fear to the results of the winter and spring, still the young plants have come through the ordeal of spring and winter frosts much better than was expected, in fact, we do not remember ever seeing such a poor blade winter so well; we have scarcely seen a dead blade this spring. The danger of killing is passed, and it now looks favorable for a bountiful crop.

In some parts of the country there has been a great scarcity of food for stock; many cattle dying, particularly in the north. There has been no loss from lack of food in this section; hay here has been procurable at \$10 to \$12 per ton, but to the north \$35 has been paid. Some who could not purchase were obliged to let their cattle die. There has been much suffering among the poor, struggling families of that section. We are too thankful for the blessings we enjoy.

Wool will be the first article brought to market, and flock owners will reap a rich harvest, as the price will be unprecedentedly high. In some sections some has been purchased on the sheep's backs. Some farmers will not sell half so readily because the price is high, but will lay by their stock for higher prices. If some were offered \$5 per lb., they would not sell, and expect to get \$6. We cannot exactly say what the price will be. We consider that the best course for farmers to pursue is not to hurry their shearing and sell before the proper time, but as soon as the market is fairly opened and the prices established among dealers. The farmers' business and the speculators' business are separate, and if farmers want to speculate they need to understand something about Wall Street. Leave the speculating to the capitalist. If they think 10 per cent. can be made in a year, or 1 per

cent. in a month, they will pay the money; sometimes they lose, but they can store and hold on to the wool at one quarter the cost that farmers can.

Wool in farmers' hands is sure to lose in weight. We have seen it badly damaged by dampness and mold, and sometimes fire and pilfering may lessen your prospects of gain. Our advice is to sell wool and every other crop as soon as the market is open and your crops ready for sale. Grain of all kinds is selling at prices that ought to satisfy our farmers. Cattle may not pay as well this season, as the immense tracts of land in the Western States out vie us in this product. They can raise corn for fuel at a lower rate than we can supply cordwood, therefore we can not but see that our lands must be devoted to other purposes than the production of beef for the spring market. Our grass may do for fall stock, but our spring and summer beef can be raised cheaper where corn is 15 cents a bushel. That is our opinion.

Our dairy productions will be a main stay to Canada; we can compete with the Americans in this line. We have for many years advocated the extension of this business, which has been found very remunerative, and will be. The dairymen will buy out the grain farmers, for they have a fast hold and will maintain it. If you have not turned your attention to it already, do so. We may be in error, but we invite any other persons to express their opinions.

Fruit has and will pay well. We can excel the Americans in raising apples that will keep; we have a mint of wealth in fruit, if rightly cultivated.

Timber has been and will be a source of wealth to us; planting will soon commence, and the sooner the better. Our old cleared lands are not worth half what they would be if we had a good growth of young timber. In fact, we believe that in many places it would now pay better than the cropping system now pursued. It should be encouraged.

**TO CLEANSE FRUIT TREES FROM MOSS.**—Not only the mosses and lichens which so generally affect fruit trees, but the eggs of insects, may be effectually destroyed by dressing the trees in winter, with a wash composed of a saturated solution of soft soap and common salt or brine. The trunk and large branches ought to be first scraped with a scraper made of old hoop or any other implement that may be improvised for the purpose, and when all the scales of bark are removed, apply the mixture with a painter's brush, working it well into the crevices. This is much preferable to, and not so unsightly as, washing with lime.—*Gardener's Year Book.*

[What is still better as a scraper to cleanse fruit trees, is a beef rib handled as you would a drawing knife, it cleans the tree effectually and it will not injure the bark.—*Asst. Ed.*]

**Knitting Machines.**

It behoves us to treat on machinery, as on everything else in our line. We make it our duty to let the farmer know the quality of the article he wishes to purchase.

But our readers look to us for information, and, as a consequence, we intend giving you our opinion in the very face of the law, which may be—as was previously threatened—put in force against us; for editors are liable for heavy damages for telling the truth, if the truth will be injurious to any one.

We wish to keep in the good graces of the ladies, and to accomplish this we must do our utmost to represent articles, if possible, in their proper light. No doubt we have often been in error.

We advertised and spoke well of the Hinkley Knitting Machine. On our first examination we were well pleased with its creditable looking appearance, but on trial it has not proven itself efficient. As far as our experience goes, we had three other orders for the machine, but refused to fill them.

It may yet be got to work right, and if it is, and we are satisfied about it, we will be glad to let it be known.

The Hamilton Knitter, manufactured in our own country, we regret to say has not yet worked to our satisfaction.

The Lamb Knitting machine has given entire satisfaction to every person we have supplied with it. They will knit a pair of stockings in 30 minutes, and make them well. The worst of this machine is that it costs a larger sum than the others. We know young ladies who are making money faster by knitting than their fathers, husbands or brothers on their farms. We have heard of one who purchased a farm from the evenings at her Knitting Machine.

It really is astonishing to see how nicely they work. The old knitting needles will be at a discount where a Knitter is introduced.

A very valuable number of *Health and Home* for April 20 is before us. Besides several fine engravings, and the usual good assortment of excellent reading for all departments of the household, a Supplement in this number gives an account of a four years' Libel Suit brought against the Publishers for exposing Humbugs in which the important rulings of Judge Brady, of the N. Y. Supreme Court, and the testimony of leading physicians, of the advanced ground in regard to the responsibility of manufacturers and dealers in patent medicines. This will be specially interesting, not only to Lawyers, Physicians, and Druggists, but to all who buy and use medicines, and to those who have been swindled by humbugs. Get this number especially, either of your new-man, or send a dime and get a postal card copy from the Publishers, Orange Judd & Co., 245, Broadway, N. Y.

We have received an anonymous communication from Sarnia descriptive of a stump extractor. It is evidently an advertisement. If the writer wishes to have it inserted as such, our advertising columns are open to him.