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## The Farmer's Advocate

APRIL, 1871.

### Seeds.

As reports arrive, and orders come in, to this establishment, we must report accordingly:—

The McCurling wheat is going out rapidly. We doubt if we shall have sufficient of No. 1 to fill all the demands. But as No. 2 is pure and clean, and has only shrunk from its having been sown too late (on the 24th of May), we will supply some of it in filling our orders.

We cannot procure pure Crown peas, that were raised on clay soil, without having a few that are buggy. If any of our patrons whom we have supplied in former years have such that are pure, and grown on clean land, please report to us immediately. We can supply good seed from light land.

The New Brunswick oats have a large demand, and we hope to hear of good results from them after harvest.

The reports of the yield of the Ramsdel Norway oats continue satisfactory. The demand for them is quite brisk. We have a fair supply from good, clean land. They are procurable in one section of the country where a dangerous weed abounds, at a very slight advance above the market price of common oats. We would caution you to be careful where you purchase your Norway oats.

Russian barley is wanted by us. It is coming for its share of attention.

Potatoes are the plants in which the greatest improvement has been, and left most profit to the grower. This is quite an era for them. These new varieties are surpassing the old kinds to such an extent that we, as well as those who have been supplied by us, are quite astonished. We have not time to give the merits of each particular variety at present, but we would say to all of you, procure a small quantity of each, and we believe you will never regret it. Raise them with the same cultivation you give your other kinds and report on the result. We have made a careful and choice selection of those kinds

that we believe will be found most profitable to you.

You may have seen in our list of prices published last month, the announcement of the arrival of our Turnip, Carrot, Mangel, Vegetable and Flower seeds. They are fresh, and imported from the most reliable European houses. When you intend sending for one article, you might just look over our List, and obtain a general supply. When sent by rail, five pounds cost about as much, for passage, as one hundred; and, taking this into consideration, you will benefit yourself by sending a full order.

Flower seeds being so light, we can send them by mail almost as cheaply as if you called for them. Do not neglect giving the girls a few choice flower seeds.

Western Corn.—We would strongly recommend the sowing of half an acre or more of Western corn. You can make a much larger profit from a few acres of this variety than from any grain crop you can raise. It has produced twenty tons of feed per acre. It is better than hay for cows, or for fattening cattle. It requires about four bushels of seed per acre, and should be sown about the 20th of May, on good, clean, well-manured land. We believe it will make more butter, cheese, or beef than any other crop you can put on your land—and what pays better?

### Annual Exhibitions.

Guelph and Hamilton are both making exertions to establish annual agricultural exhibitions. They are both good localities and we wish them success. Guelph has been the main centre for good stock, and we believe they can make a better exhibition of farm stock than any other locality in the Dominion. We can scarcely say what effect these local exhibitions will have on the Provincial Exhibition. Perhaps it may be obliterated altogether, or turned into Dominion exhibitions. The Provincial Exhibition has done a good service to the country, and we should be sorry to see it trampled out of existence. We should like to have some of our readers who really wish for the agricultural prosperity of the country, express their views *pro* and *con* on the great agricultural changes that are taking place. Is there no farmer interested in them?

### Election Day.

This is a holiday in this city. We are ensconced in our office, and know not how the battle wages outside! Agriculture is our politics; and both parties are interested, or at least ought to be interested, in the welfare and prosperity of the real tiller of the soil. We have not been in the riding where our farm is situated since the writs were out.

Our paper is unbiassed by party politics. We endeavor to carry the principle out in practice, although we have been sorely tempted to throw our influence with one party or the other. Agriculture should know no political party. Should the *ADVOCATE* ever be turned from its course of independence, you farmers that are too strongly attached to either party may have the pleasure of hurrahing at the downfall of your standard, or to regret it. If we have not faithfully advocated your interest for six years it has been for lack of ability but not of will. We believe we have far greater influence and weight, and can do you far more good by not interfering.

### The Dairy Business.

For years past this branch of Agriculture has been by far the most profitable in Canada, and we can see no reason why it should not continue so for some time to come, as Cheese and Butter are main articles of consumption, and can be exported to any part of the world. The great western prairies of the States do not appear so well adapted to dairying as our own country, but our farmers are slow to appreciate the advantages it affords to them. They, as a class, do not read Agricultural papers sufficiently. We presume not one-third of the farmers in Canada ever see an agricultural paper, even when borrowed; therefore the majority of them have to follow the example of those that take them, but they do not attempt a move until years of practical experience in their own vicinity show that the dairymen are making money—while the grain-raisers are losing money. The profits that have or might have been obtained during the past ten years would amount to millions.

It has been our duty to constantly urge on our farmers the advantages of a change in their mode of management. We have

lectured and written on the subject again and again, until it is classed with many other suggestions—as an old hobby. If these hobbies are right, and for the good of the country, aid us in making our information more complete. If they are wrong, our paper is open, and always has been, for even condemnation of our suggestions.—Surely there are office holders enough in Canada that could devote a half hour in a month either to condemn an erroneous impression, or to aid the spread of information.

In default of sufficient Canadian matter we again revert to excellent American exchange papers for information—although we have been even condemned for this course—and as Butter-making must be an important business here, who with common sense will condemn us for taking the following from that excellent paper, the *Country Gentleman*. We believe it to be a most economical and advantageous plan. Just try it, and we have no doubt it will pay you well:—

### IMPROVED PLAN OF SETTING MILK.

The present season I have adopted a new plan of setting milk for butter, which I think is a very great improvement on the old method, and one which, I think, when it comes to be better known, will be in general use. The method is this:—

Each milking is put in a single tin vat, made of the heaviest cross tin. The vats are 28 by 40 inches and 14 inches deep, with a 1-8th inch wire around the top, and handles at each end.

These vats are set into water-tight wooden boxes, with an inch space on the bottom and three inches on the sides for cold water.

I use water from a well at a temperature of 48°. If one has running water it would save labor. Five vats are necessary, and with this number milk can be kept 48 hours and have one vat ahead ready for use, or 60 hours if skimmed just before using. The wooden boxes are of clear inch pine, painted inside and out, the vats painted on the outside. I am milking 20 cows and heifers, and find that they seldom fill the vats eight inches deep; so I conclude that vats the size of mine would do for a 30 cow dairy, as I have learned that cream will rise as well when the milk is 10 to 15 inches deep, if kept at the right temperature. My tin vats cost \$4.50 each, my wooden ones \$3; total cost including painting and metal faucets for drawing off the water, not quite \$40.