

Ridings have requested us to contest the election for the local Legislature, in East Middlesex, and for the local and the Commons in the West Riding. You are well aware that our time and faculties are as fully occupied as any person in the County, with public and private business, and it would be giving us much more labor, still, rather than see our County not properly represented in an agricultural manner, we may perhaps allow our name to appear at the nomination for either one of the three named divisions, but we do not promise that we will. In the mean time endeavor to select good, reliable men that can be depended on as friends to the agricultural interests of the country.

THE MONTH.

The month past has been very changeable. The snow left us rather too soon for profit or convenience. In many countries, even where this small paper will go, the inhabitants look on a Canadian winter as something fearfully disagreeable, and to be dreaded, but we in Canada enjoy a winter with plenty of snow. Our crops are generally better after a good close winter, our means of teaming timber and grain are greatly facilitated by it; our health, and vigor of mind and body are improved, and the pleasures of a sleigh ride are enjoyed by the most delicate. Our open winters with little snow, are the most disagreeable, unhealthy and unprofitable. Our Australian, Indian and Californian friends cannot enjoy the music of the sleigh bells. We have now to say farewell to that pleasure for this season. Now, have all tools, implements and seeds ready; have your fencing and building timber in their proper places for

"Spring is coming, Spring is coming,
Birds are chirping, insects humming;
Flowers are peeping from their sleeping,
Streams escaped from winter's keeping;
Shout we then with nature's voice,
Welcome Spring, rejoice, rejoice."

Put a drain in some part of your farm that requires it most. Mr. Brock of Adelaide has 200 acres of land, and last Spring he drained five acres of it, and received more profit of that part drained than off the whole of his farm. All clay lands would be improved by draining, and much of the sandy land. Feed a little chopped grain to the calves with the skimmed milk or whey. You will find it to pay. Give breeding stock of all kinds room to rove about, even a sow is much better for haying the run of a field. Keep the stock off the fields till the ground gets firm enough to prevent poaching the land. Sow your grass seed as soon as possible. See that the furrows are all well opened as soon as the frost is out of the ground. As soon as practicable sow your carrots and cabbages, and plant more apple trees.

Attend to your asparagus bed if you have one; if not plant one. It is an early, useful, wholesome luxury. Have your currant bushes pruned, if not already

done. Plant out a few more. They make a nice wine. Bring out your decanter of home-made wine, when the editor of the *Farmer's Advocate* comes to see you. Do not forget to plant a grapevine, we can make as good wine as half that is sold. Never mind about total abstinence preaching. More people are killed by excess of food than excess of drink. Your hot cakes kill more than hot whisky. Ladies do not be ashamed to see a stale brown loaf on the table—brown bread is much more wholesome than white. If some of you would lead the fashion of having brown bread, you would be conferring a much greater blessing than encouraging waterfall factories or sweeping the streets, or churches. It was but last Sunday I stopped to see a person as I was leaving a church, and turning round I saw a lady outside of the door in an awful dilemma, glowering at me. I soon discovered what the awkward editor had clumsily and unknowingly done. I had accidentally trod on her trail. Had she a broom in her hand, and the crowd permitted her to return within striking distance, we might have had a game of cribbage at the church—that is one for his knob.

Never mind about this ladies, I can't marry you all. I may not agree with you all, but nevertheless, I shall condemn you when I think you deserve it. I intend, however, to advocate your cause, that is woman's rights. Many of you do not require much assistance in that way, but in many respects you must admit being the weaker vessels, and the old saying is too true that the weak go to the wall, and the weak I shall endeavor to protect, being weak myself.

I hope some of you will come forward and assist me in adding to my paper the ladies column.

Now is the time to clean out the cellars and use the white wash brush. On almost every farm you will see filth, rubbish, or perhaps a dead dog or cat, or some other animal. Remember, that all disagreeable sights are injurious to the mind, unpleasant, disagreeable to the other senses, and subversive of health. We would say to you bury all filth of every kind, and you may reap a profit from it.

The greatest objection made to our paper is, that it is so small. Compare gold with copper. Look at our densely packed columns and the small type used. Look at the value to you of our advertising page, compare the amount of original matter our paper contains with any in the Province, and judge and act with sense.

Garner Elwood, Esq., of this city has kindly volunteered to act as one of our agents. We hope other officials and farmers may act in their neighborhoods.

The Canada Agricultural Mutual Insurance Association.

We attended the last annual meeting of the members held in the City Hall on the 24th of last February. The affairs of the Company appear to be in a flourishing and satisfactory condition, and the directors and officers are deserving of thanks for the prosperous state of the Association. All losses that have been sustained by farmers, where incendiarism or false statements have not been clearly shown, have been promptly settled by them.

The very low rate of charges for insurance by this Association are such that every farmer should protect himself by it. The Directors and Officers are men elected by the policy holders, and the working expenses are kept down as low as possible. We know of no Insurance Company conducted on safer principles; there are no shareholders to pocket the profits, if any arise, and there has been considerable. Every policy holder receives the benefit of it by deducting from the amount he would have to pay. We have every confidence in the integrity of the managers. If we had not the ballot would soon remove them. There was some discussion about the propriety of continuing the ballot system, as parties having interest might and perhaps had sent round the country to procure votes from those at a distance who could not attend; and objections might be made against these parties for whom the ballot had been procured at the annual meeting, and the members attending the meeting would have a much better opportunity of judging of the conduct of the Directors or of parties proposed for Directors, than those who voted in the dark or gave their power to others. Parties attending the meeting were only mocked by the number of ballots collected by some individual to suit his own purpose. We consider that it would not be a bad plan to have the nomination of officers one year before the ballot is taken, then all might object to whom they chose, and have an opportunity of judging of the merits of each, and then vote for the man they considered best.

It was proposed to take insurances upon smaller holdings than a ten acre lot, that being the smallest on which the Company will take risks. This is designed to admit houses in the suburbs of the cities. We consider the smaller the holding of land the greater the risk of fire, and if such are admitted they should be at a much higher rate than farm houses and barns. We have no more interest in this association than any other policy holder, although we were among the first to insure in it in our Township, yet we consider it the cheapest and best that we have ever had operating in Canada, and we doubt if we shall ever have a better, safer, or more prosperous one. We consider farmers who do not insure in it are neglecting their own in-