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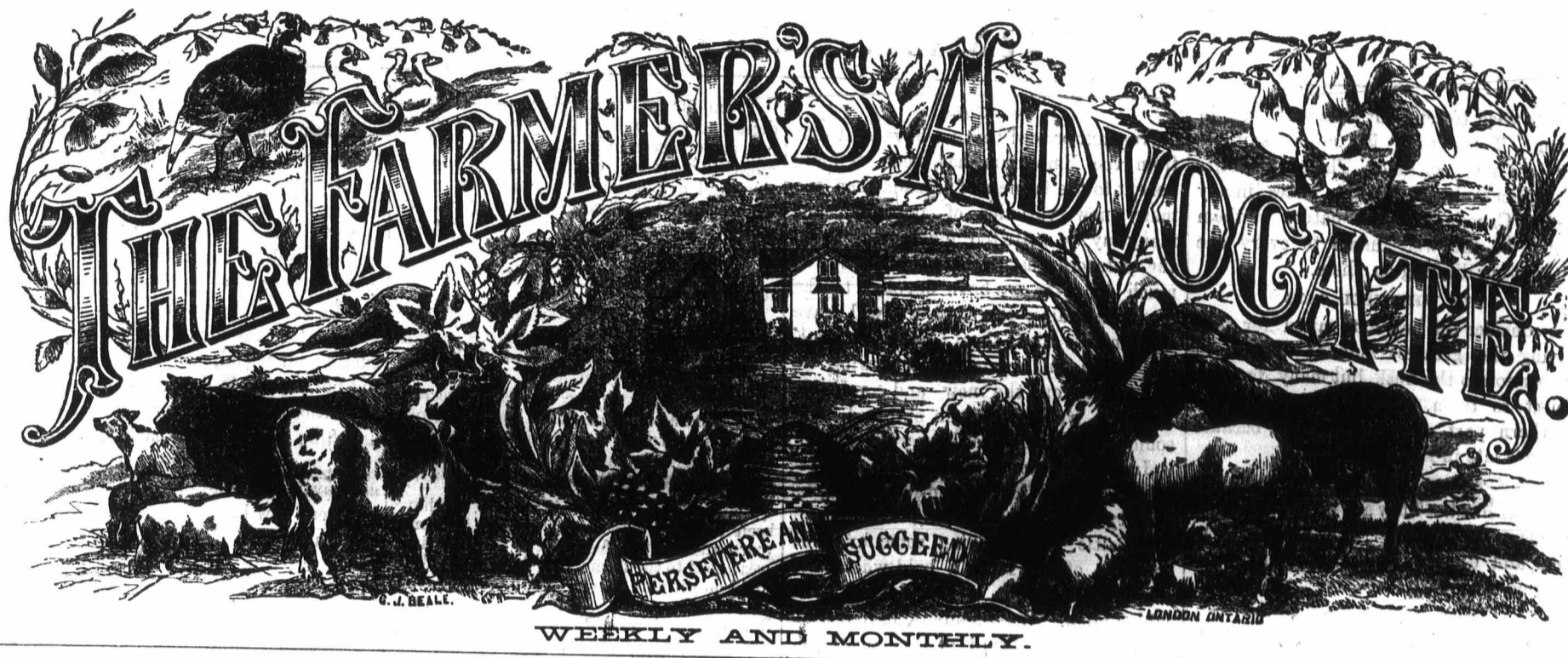
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LONDON, ONT., FEB., 1871.

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The Farmer's Advocate

LONDON, ONT., FEB., 1871.

To Our Readers.

Last month we put our future course of procedure into your hands by requesting you to give us your opinion as to how you wished us to act in regard to the different political parties in the Dominion, and whether we should still continue our course as we have all along done without intermeddling with politics, or lending our influence, whatever that may be, either to the one side or the other. Our position, so far, has been strictly neutral between the contending parties. We sincerely thank you for having responded so frankly and so clearly, that there remains now no doubt on our mind which of the courses to pursue, political or non-political, enslaved or free, working in behalf of a few, or seeking to do good to the great majority, dealing in abstruse questions of State policy, or seeking to advance the agricultural interests of the country. We say we thank you for having so entirely decided the question for us by the hundreds of letters we have received, calling upon us to stick to and continue to be the FARMER'S ADVOCATE in the sense we have always been, to leave the arena of politics to those whose interest it is to advocate them, and to devote our time, energies and influence to those questions that affect the welfare and progress of agriculture. This—life and health spared—we purpose to do, and what we ask for to encourage, strengthen and cheer us in our arduous labors, is a continuance of your sympathy and support, which have been so generously granted to us in the past, and which continues to increase as our plans are more fully understood and made known over the country. You will also see that at the meeting held this month, for minutes of which see page 20 of this issue, a motion was put, discussed and unanimously carried, to the effect that we should conduct the FARMER'S ADVOCATE still as a non-political paper. There have been a few who have given their returns as Conservatives, and a few others who have returned themselves as Reformers. We tender our

thanks no less to them than to the majority of our correspondents, and hope they will think none the less of us by giving in to the majority, especially when backed up by so many cogent and strong reasons as many of them have stated. We therefore go on as the fearless vindicator of the rights of Agriculture, and determine to do what in us lies, to prevent its interests from being injured either by Whig, Tory, or whatever may come next, and seeking at all times to cherish and foster a feeling of unanimity among the farmers themselves, so that when need be they can rise as one body to demand and obtain what is due to them, and to protect their rights whenever or by whoever they may be assailed, and thus take and maintain their true position in the body politic of the country, the welfare of which depends mainly upon themselves.

SEEDS.

The time has now arrived when we should again furnish our Subscribers with information about Seeds. It is of no use making apologies to you because we are unable to do justice to the subject; nor for you to complain that the accounts are not more complete, or that some of them may have appeared before. All that is our duty in this respect we cheerfully perform; perhaps some of your consciences may not clear you on this question. We particularly allude to those leading men, whether in Parliament or holding any of the offices in connection with agriculture, or even as plain farmers, all could have aided us in giving the information required to be spread over the land. Thousands have already assisted us, and we thank such for their aid, whether it has been in the form of information or subscription to the paper.

SPRING WHEAT.

Last season we dissuaded our subscribers from sowing any, as we had none in which we could place confidence to recommend to them. This season we have procured a small quantity of a new kind of Wheat.—We heard of this variety last year, and a little of it was sown by a neighbor; and it has yielded a much heavier return than any other we know of in the township or county. Another party sowed a little of it, but put it in too late, (on the 24th of

May,) consequently it is not so plump as that grown by our neighbor. We have secured the whole of this stock of wheat that we can find, or is procurable, which amounts to but little, as it is but four years since it was introduced into Canada. It was sent from Kentucky—only a few grains—and was then a fall wheat. We do not know what its name was, but it was sown far north of this, and we heard of its superiority from such sources, that we have expended a large sum in procuring it. It is a bearded variety of medium quality, not so good in quality as the Five, but considered superior to the Rio Grande. We shall divide it into small lots, so as to enable it to be introduced into all parts of the country. We have greater confidence of this wheat being of value to the country than any other we have heard of, and as the parties that first introduced it and changed it from fall to spring wheat, have not named it, we must give it a name, and as McKenzie, Blake nor McKellar, among all their agitations of the omissions or commissions of the present Government, have never noticed the requirements of farmers for fresh seeds, but merely look on the farmers as the farmer looks on his pen of hogs, with the main question in view of how many dollars they can make from them, and as the Minister of Agriculture has never advanced one cent to aid the introduction of new wheat, we will call the wheat the McCarling Wheat, from the three great powers McKenzie, McKellar and Carling, and we have hopes of its creating more wealth in the country than all three of them combined, and will recommend each of our subscribers procuring a little. It will be divided into pecks and 4 oz. packages to enable us to send it over the country. We have heard of three other kinds of wheat. One appears to be in demand in this locality, but we have heard of it having been grown in the eastern part of Canada, and have not such confidence in its success. The McCarling Wheat is the only Wheat we intend sowing this spring, as we have lost about enough in experimenting in spring wheat. Even now this may not answer as well as we anticipate, as it has only had three years trial, but think that pretty satisfactory. We have but a small quantity of

it. In no case will any Agricultural Society be supplied with more than one bushel; and single subscribers may be supplied with 1 peck or pound by rail or express, or 4 oz. packages by mail. We cannot supply any but subscribers to this paper with this wheat. We do not intend to make a profit from this lot, but merely to put it at such a price as will pay for cost, packing, and the common price for advertising it. The whole stock only amounts to 40 bushels. Some have advised us not to sell a grain this year; but we prefer letting our friends share with us, and having reports from all parts of the Dominion. If it does as well for the next three years as it has done the past, your neighbors will require the seed. The best and earliest sown lot will be put up in 1 lb. and 4 oz. packages, and the lot that was sown latest, and is not quite so plump, will be put up in pecks and bushels. Agricultural Societies that do not take more than 25 papers, will not be supplied with more than one peck. It is not our intention to supply you with the common varieties, as we have not had a single sample shewn that has been fit to recommend, and our own varieties are not plump enough, consequently will not supply any of them from this establishment.

THE CHEVALIER BARLEY

Has not proved itself deserving of further cultivation, from our own test, or from any source we have heard of.

THE CROWN PEAS

Have given general satisfaction wherever sown on good well cultivated, clear and dry land, but some farmers that have not read the accounts given of them, and do not understand the treatment they require have been wofully disappointed when they have sown them on foul, wet or poor land. They are a valuable acquisition to good farmers that want to raise a large crop of peas without much straw, but a slovenly farmer should not attempt to raise them.

THE EXCELSIOR PEAS

Gave satisfaction as far as we have heard, but up to the present time we are unable to procure a good sample, because the vicinities where these have been mostly sown have been devastated with the bug, not that they are more liable to be attacked by the bug than other peas. We