

Great Britain.

THE ARMY PURCHASE SYSTEM.—The opposition of the House of Lords to the abolition of this grievance has been completely overcome, by the Queen cancelling the royal warrant legalizing the purchase of commissions in the army. Mr. Gladstone advised her Majesty to take this step—which cannot fail to give great satisfaction to the body of the people, although the Lords and other aristocrats will feel their rights assailed by this rather unusual step taken directly in opposition to their branch of the Legislature. Progress is the order of the day, and there can be no doubt but this is progress in the right direction.

This subject is not quite in our way, but believing many of our readers may feel an interest in it induces us merely to mention it.

Letter

To the Directors of the Provincial Board of Agriculture.

Gentlemen.—I sincerely thank you for the honor of being requested by you to act as one of the Judges at the late trial of Implements at Paris; but being desirous of being left open to make my own remarks on implements and agricultural affairs in general, and knowing that many hundreds of farmers were present as capable of acting in that capacity as myself,—led me to decline acceding to your request. I hope, therefore, that my refusal will not appear to you as if I took no interest in the exhibition, as I can assure you I was highly gratified to mark the great progress and efficiency that has been made by our manufacturers in their various machines. Wishing the agricultural interests of the Dominion every success, I remain yours respectfully,

W. WELP.

Patent Washing Machine.

We are continually called upon by patentees of new implements and machines, and of all our callers, the churn and washing machine men are the most numerous, and we are often compelled to act abruptly to get rid of these pests, as we call them. However, Mr. W. Mathewson, of Brooklyn, called here on Saturday with a new washing machine and with numerous testimonials from his section. We directed him to have it tried by Mrs. McKellar, wife of Mr. McKellar, the carriage maker in this city, as they have a lot of dirty clothes to wash from the numerous hands employed in the machine shop. We had previously sent other washing machines on trial, but they were always found deficient and rejected. But Mr. Mathewson's gave entire satisfaction; it washes easily, does not injure the clothes, and will do its work well and speedily. We went to see it in operation, and must say we believe it to be the best yet invented. It works on a rocking principle, and presses the clothes between two grooved boards tightly. The clothes revolve with each motion. We wish Mr. Mathewson success in the sale of his patent rights. Every farm house would be benefitted by having a machine; and we all know our wives and daughters have to work too hard. Anything to aid them is an advantage to the country. We may state that what took Mrs. McKellar

a full day to wash in the ordinary way, Mr. Mathewson did to her satisfaction in one hour and ten minutes.

The Races.

The Races took place in this city on the 21st and 22nd of June, and were well attended. They went off well, giving more satisfaction than usual. There was less fighting and drunkenness than generally takes place on such occasions; indeed we did not hear of a single fight, and only of one runaway.

The annual sale of thorough-bred and trotting colts on Alexander's great breeding farm at Woodburn, Ky., June 28, says the Western Farmer, was very successful, as shown by the following averages:—22 thorough-bred yearling fillies sold for \$12,065, an average of \$548.41 each; 24 yearling thorough-bred colts sold for \$14,635, an average of \$609.80 each; 10 trotting colts of various ages sold for \$3,285, an average of \$328.50. The highest prices obtained were \$3,800 for a thorough-bred yearling colt, and \$2,500 for a thorough-bred filly. Of the 46 thorough-bred colts and fillies sold, but seven brought less than \$200 each—\$100 being the lowest price for any one. The thorough-bred colts were by Lexington, Imported Australian, Asteroid and Planet.

THE POTATO BUG AGAIN.—In using good Paris Green it is found best to mix it with twenty times its weight of flour or Plaster of Paris, as it kills the bugs better. It has been noticed that an overdose of the poison does not kill them as well as a smaller quantity. It is said that large doses have been vomited by the bugs, and they have in some instances recovered.

Loss.—We regret to learn that W. F. Stone, of Guelph, recently lost two very valuable Durham Cows during a heavy gale in the Atlantic. He also lost eight Berkshire Pigs. Six Durhams, we believe, arrived all right.

Mr. Orlando Allen, of the Township of Zone, has purchased the Durham Bull Calf from E. Marshall, advertised in our last paper. We believe this is the first thorough-bred Durham taken into that Township. We hope Mr. Allen's neighbors will appreciate his enterprise.

Bee-Keeping versus Dairying.

The Middlesex Bee-King, Mr. Atwood, of Lobo, called in our office a few days ago, from whom we elicited the following information:—He wintered over 11 skips of bees in 1870, which he increased to 33 skips for wintering. From this stock he sold \$225 worth of honey, and from the sale of bees and hives he realized for his profit for two months' labour attending their sales, fairs, &c., \$400. He also kept 12 cows last year, and made cheese, and realized \$100 more profit from bees than from all the cows. This spring he had 20 skips, having disposed of the others in the fall. From these he has already (July 6) taken a little over 1100 lbs. of honey, and expects to take 250 lbs. more from them. He increased his stock from the 20 to 40; he did this before taking honey from them. He attributes his success to a good season, the Italian Bee, the Honey Extractor, a good hive, and knowing how to manage.

Feed for Calves.

A highly intelligent correspondent of the National Live Stock Journal, after having visited most of the leading herds of Ayrshires in this country and Canada, expresses a fear that the future usefulness of Ayrshire dairy cows is threatened by the attempt of American breeders to make them resemble the Short Horns, or some other model. In Scotland he says the calves are soon turned to grass, and generally appear lean; there slower development and later maturity obtains than in this country. He has also observed that Ayrshire cows show to best advantage in fields of ordinary rather than high fertility, and that when taken to England from the poorer pastures of Scotland, the dairy qualities decline, and the grazing qualities become more prominent.

Dr. Wilkens, of Pogarth, Austria, is the owner of a large dairy, and has carefully investigated this subject, and says he now aims at the slowest possible development of the calf, so that it brings its first calf at from two to three years old. He favors keeping calves raised for beef, fat at all times, feeding them largely on milk; those raised for milking he would keep lean, and early teach them to eat more bulky and less nutritious food than milk—as the grasses.

In commenting on this, E. W. Stewart, in the New York Tribune, while agreeing in part, dissents from some of Dr. Wilkens' positions. He is not in favor of slow development of heifers. His experience in raising 40 or more heifers is that one sufficiently developed and coming in when two years old makes a better milker than one coming in at three. He has had good success in raising heifers on skimmed milk after being taken from the cow at three days old, giving three ounces of oil meal per day for the first three weeks, increasing the amount, and also tempting them to eat grass.

This question is one of much importance. It seems to be generally admitted that a heifer designed for the dairy should not be kept loaded with flesh, but as to the degree of flesh that may be allowed, and the best kinds of foods to develop milk-giving qualities, there is much difference of opinion.

Eating in the Cars.

Hall's Journal of Health says:—Most of the benefits of summer travel and recreation are over-balanced by the almost universal habit of passengers in railway trains purchasing something to eat of nearly every peddler of lozenges, candies, apples, cakes and other trash, who passes through the cars, with the result of leaving but a little appetite for the regular meal, besides a general indefinable feeling of discomfort, of wanting something, they know not what.

Parents of small children seem to think that the best way to keep them from eternal yelping is to stuff them with sweet cakes and candies, and as fast as one supply is disposed of another is provided,—making such a mess on the floor and seats as would disgrace a common pig-pen or hen-coop. By providing sweet cakes and candies thirst is induced, then fulness, then indigestion, wind, and a universal caterwauling of squalling brats, who ought to be spanked within an inch of their lives, a single vauper being enough to keep a car-load of sixty or a hundred travellers in a disturbed condition.

Young children on the cars should not be allowed to eat anything but dry crackers; then they would not grease the seats, nor eat to excess, nor be squawking with the stomachache half the time; and as for grown persons, not an atom should be eaten all day long, except at morning, noon and night meals.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

OUR COURSE APPROVED.

My Dear Sir,—I have been much pleased (and so have several others in this locality) with the independent course you evince in the management of your valuable journal. It seems strange that the present minister of agriculture should give such small encouragement to a laudable undertaking in the interests of Agriculture, like yours; but likely any assistance at his disposal is given to the Ontario Farmer, a sort of half ministerial organ. I imagine that Carling's term of office will be of short duration after the new house meets, but I am afraid that even were the present opposition in power you might not expect any encouragement from them, as they would most certainly support Brown's paper, the Canada Farmer. But still, if you keep on as you have done, in the straight manly course, you will succeed in the end, irrespective of either party. You may have trials and troubles, but you will most assuredly conquer in the end, and have the sympathy and support of the sincere and true friends of agriculture.

I was very sorry to hear of the dastardly manner in which you were used by the Western Fair party, but such acts will only recoil on their own heads, and destroy the object they pretend to uphold. I sincerely trust you will outlive, as a journalist, the machinations of so miserable a clique as the Western Fair Committee, or other enemies of progressive enterprise.

The circular you addressed to the different County Councils was, I think, a step in the right direction, but to bring the matter more home to the farmers themselves, it would be better to send a similar circular to the various Township Councils, and it would most likely have the desired effect.

I have been thinking of writing or sending some correspondence for insertion in the Advocate, but from the very able staff of correspondents you have had writing for you from time to time, it would be superfluous, perhaps, on my part to send anything for your valuable and well conducted journal.

Wishing you every success, and that you may be long spared to continue the independent course you have hitherto followed, I remain, my dear sir,

Respectfully yours,

R. H. McMANUS.

Tecumseh, Bond Head P. O., July 17th, 1871.

We insert the above as a specimen of the numerous encouraging letters that we are in receipt of. We take the liberty of publishing it, as our correspondent has contemplated writing for the paper; and we would like to hear from him on any agricultural subject. We are not aware that we have met the gentleman at any place, but hope we may have that pleasure some day. It is consoling to have the inhabitants of the country, generally, approving of our course. We still continue to solicit correspondence; and will be pleased to insert articles, even should they differ from our own views. We wish both sides to be heard.

THE ENDURING THING.—Wealth, and power, and prosperity, how peculiarly transitory and uncertain! But religion dispenses her choicest cordials in the season of exigency, in poverty, in exile, in sickness, and in death. The essential superiority of that support which is derived from religion is less felt, at least it is less apparent, when the Christian is in full possession of riches, and splendor, and rank, and all the gifts of nature and fortune. But when all these are swept away by the rude hand of time or the rough blasts of adversity, the true Christian stands, like the glory of the forest, erect and vigorous, stripped, indeed, of its summer foliage, but more than ever discovering to the observing eye the solid strength of his substantial texture.—Wilberforce.

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