

FARMERS' ADVOCATE

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WILLIAM WELD,
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County Councils, Agricultural Societies, and the Canadian Dairymen's Association, have passed resolutions recommending this paper to their patrons, and farmers generally.

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LONDON, ONT., AUG, 1870.

The Editor's Labors in July.

TRIP TO AILSA CRAIG.

From an invitation received we went to Ailsa Craig to deliver an Agricultural address on the 1st July, Dominion Day.—The weather was most unfavorable, as it rained all the forenoon; consequently the agricultural picnic, as it was to have been, was totally abandoned, much to the chagrin of the ladies, who had done their laborious part in making preparations for it. The gentlemen were unable to enjoy the sweets prepared for them, as nearly all were obliged to stay at home. In the afternoon, a few leading gentlemen arrived in the rising village, which we believe in a few years will be a town. It was deemed advisable not to go to the Agricultural Grounds, but to have a few addresses delivered in the Town Hall.

Mr. Fletcher, a gentleman who had spent some time in the North-West Territory,

gave some enlightenment to the audience respecting the Red River Settlement, from which place he had recently arrived.

T. Scatcherd, Esq., M.P., and — Smith, Esq., M.P., gave the audience a good dose of politics, Mr. J. Ross following in the same strain. Your humble servant made a few brief remarks on Agriculture at the close of the meeting.

The Agricultural Society intend to hold their picnic after harvest. We hope if they intend to have it under the name of agricultural, that it will not be turned to political. It is ridiculously absurd to call those meetings agricultural; the name disgraces the farmers of Canada. Why cannot some of you give some useful accounts about agriculture, which is of most import to you? Then, farmers, we say let agricultural gatherings that are called under that name be confined to it, and keep politics for political gatherings. You will have enough of them through the country.

ARNOLD'S HYBRID WHEAT.

On the 5th we paid a visit to Mr. Arnold for the purpose of gaining all the information we could in regard to it. We were shown, in his garden, a few rows of his so-called new varieties; but we found great difficulty to detect the difference in the varieties' natural standing, the divisions being marked by a line of thread between them. We were informed by Mr. Arnold that it was impossible for a midge to penetrate this, but we opened a valve and found what we believed to be the effects of the midge instead of what ought to have been a grain of wheat.

Mr. Arnold had some fine heads of wheat and large grain, and our impression is that it may be a new hybrid wheat, but have our doubts of it possessing advantages over the varieties we now possess. He informs us that he has sold between 100 and 200 bushels; his price is \$7 per bushel.

We have expended a great deal of money in trying new varieties, but we do not feel disposed, from what we have been able to find out in regard to this wheat, to invest any thing in it. We called to examine it last year, and the result of our investigation was not at all satisfactory to us, nor is it yet. Both the Toronto and Hamilton papers have issued laudatory remarks about this hybrid wheat, and we hope we may be wrong in our opinion, and that they may be right, as no one would hail with greater pleasure the introduction of

propagation of a wheat of more value than any we now have. We do not wish to lose the name we have already gained, by sending out a variety which we have doubts of being superior to varieties now in cultivation.

Leaving Paris by the morning train, we called at

HAMILTON.

This city has not the go-a-head appearance it had years ago. There are not so many buildings in the course of construction as are to be found in London or Toronto. We were much astonished to find so great a difference in the price of fruit. A superior quality of cherries was procurable in Hamilton for 8 cents per quart to what we have seen selling in London at 20 cents per quart. Fruit and flowers of all kinds are much cheaper in Hamilton than in London.

We were glad to notice that the manufacturers of the city are prospering. We walked through the sewing machine factory of Messrs. Willson, Bowman & Co.—This is the largest establishment of the kind we had ever been through. In one room we counted 35 men at work in fitting the machines together. The total number of hands employed in the various departments is 130. They manufacture 250 machines per week, and cannot keep up with the demand. The name of the machine they manufacture is the "Lockman." We believe they are selling more machines in Canada than any other company, or, we may say, more than many combined companies. We hear their machines are giving satisfaction, and are fully warranted to do so. We were so well satisfied with the work of the machine, and with the price, that we ordered one for our family. They have attached to them the best kind of hemmer that we have ever seen. They only require to be seen to be appreciated.

"THAT CRAZY FOOL!"

Having heard so much about "that crazy fool," as he was called by those who had less energy, spirit and forethought—we mean Mr. T. Cross, of Oakville—we determined to investigate the matter.

He left his own business and rented twenty acres of land at Oakville, and devoted his time, attention and means in planting it with strawberries. His first year's crop amounted to 20,000 quarts.—He sold them all to good advantage. The

croakers about Oakville had said he was crazy;—that the plants would freeze out in the winter. But when they did not freeze they said that people could not be had to gather them, and that he could not sell them. But he has caused the disparagers to look chap-fallen, and many have now followed in his steps in planting strawberries to a very large extent.

We hear that one hundred and eighty acres are now planted with strawberries in that vicinity; but many of the greenhorns did not understand their cultivation, or the land suitable for them, as well as their "crazy fool" did; consequently, some of them have not met with such success, and have burnt their fingers at it.

But Mr. Cross has now purchased 100 acres of land there at \$100 per acre, and is expending \$100 per acre more on it in clearing off the stones, planting, building and improving it. Such has been the demand for land since Mr. Cross commenced his strawberry planting, that \$25 per acre has been paid as rent of land near his strawberry farm. On the 6th July we attended the sitting of the

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND ARTS

at Toronto. This meeting was for the purpose of appointing judges, and arranging matters for the coming Exhibition. But there is generally some other business to be attended to, and there should be more, if all were really devoted to the offices they are holding, as they should be. One of the Board, at least, appears to know so much about stock, and seeds, and implements, and agriculture in all its bearings, that he can learn nothing more! It would be well if he could give some of his great knowledge to the farmers of Canada; they all, or nearly all, are thirsting for more knowledge in respect to their calling, and our paper is open at all times for information for them; and we really think some of the members of the Board might occasionally throw some useful hints to our numerous readers, and thus encourage others in their different divisions, and to give them knowledge that might be of advantage to them.

There were two things which caused considerable agitation in the meeting. One was another claim from Mr. Becher, a lawyer of the city of London, for the sum of \$171, for prosecuting the case against Scanlan for the ticket fraud. They all agreed to pay his disbursements, and