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The city of London, Ont., has long been noted for having one of the best, if not the best, annual agricultural exhibitions in this Dominion. The laws of the city have been framed, altered and arranged so as to continually increase the number of exhibitors, and also to create new institutions, and sometimes to select members, to such an extent, that the salaries, fees, perquisites, etc., to maintain this staff are already found to be a heavy burden on the producers.

The citizens of London begin to feel the injury of this system, and many of the aldermen have already supported resolutions to have the number reduced to three men of straw-men that have got into office and bear the name of aldermen—men who are totally regardless of the interests of agriculture, and even the interests of the city—have united to use their influence, and have been supported by a few speculating gobblers who desire to pocket something out of the wreck.

The usual export of wheat from Russia has been about 40 million quarters (8 bushels to a quarter). This year a famine is threatened in that country, insects having destroyed the crop.

How to Keep Apples.

Farmers as a rule keep their apples too warm, which is a decided mistake. They should be kept as near the freezing point as possible. Some contend that a dry cellar is necessary; but this is also a mistake as experience has clearly proved. Men who have been extensive fruit raisers and dealers, handling thousands of barrels every year, say that they find better kept apples in wet cellars than in dry ones.

Fine saw-dust has also been used in packing fruit for shipping. A layer of two or three inches should be placed in the bottom of the barrel; a tier of fruit is then placed on this, and the saw-dust should fill all openings between the fruit.

A canal boat, having on board farmers' apples, sank in the fall and was frozen in. When it was raised in the spring it was found that the apples, which would not have kept longer than January, in the air, had kept perfectly under water.

Our Prize Essays.

A prize of \$10 will be given for the best essay replying to the following questions. The award will be made to the person who answers the greatest number of them most correctly and who gives the most information concerning them.

QUESTIONS ON THE MODEL FARM OR ONTARIO SCHOOL OF AGRICULTURE.

- 1. Who requested the establishment of this or any institution for similar purposes in Canada? For whose particular individual interest was this institution established?
2. Where was the Model Farm first located, and who was the principal instigator of its removal?
3. What advantages have been obtained by its removal, and what advantages has it lost by its removal?
4. Why was an American chosen as its first Professor? At whose suggestion was he appointed? In what way was he superior to a Canadian? Why is he not there now?
5. Who was the second Professor? Why is he not there now?
6. Who was the first Farm Manager? Who appointed him? Why is he not there now?
7. Who appointed the first Gardener? Why is he not there now?
8. Who appointed the first Principal? Why is he not there now?
9. Is the farm or stock managed as well or better than some Canadian farmers manage their farms or their stock?
10. Do foreigners and professional men know more about the requirements of farmers than the farmers themselves?
11. Why have Americans been allowed to purchase the stock at this Model Farm at one-tenth of its cost to Canadians?
12. How much of the farmers' money has this institution cost to the present time?
13. What has been the highest premium paid by the Government to induce pupils to remain in the institution?
14. Give a summary of the greatest amount of good or evil that this institution has done for the farmers.

About twenty-five acres of sugar beets are reported to have been grown in the vicinity of Belleville, Ont., this year. The result has been very satisfactory. The reported yield is 20 to 30 tons per acre.

Petroleum is an excellent preservative of exposed woodwork and tools. It penetrates the pores, and repays its cost many times over. It is good for all farm buildings, gates, tools and rustic work, and is very cheap.

"The cure of wire worms" implies their entire extirpation. No other remedy can be effectual. They feed on the roots of wheat, rye, oats and grass, sometimes destroying the crop. They are very injurious in gardens. Lime and salt applied to the soil diminish their number, and sometimes free the land entirely from them.