

BUSINESS ANNOUNCEMENT.

TO CANADIAN FARMER SUBSCRIBERS.

There is a number of our subscribers who are behind in their subscriptions. We beg to intimate to those that such back amounts, whether for a whole year or years or for a part of a year, are due to the old publishers. We will shortly send to each one of our subscribers a statement of the amount due, when they will oblige greatly by remitting if convenient. All who have paid us for the present year or a part of the same will of course receive the paper up to the time of expiration of their subscription from the new publishers. Yours very truly,

W. H. MONTAGUE, Editor.

The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1885.

HOW WE HAVE SUCCEEDED.

An Ontario correspondent of the *British Agricultural Gazette*, who writes from Port Perry over the initials of S. L. C., has got into a dispute with Professor Tanner and another Englishman on how we have succeeded in Canada. Our visitors, this correspondent observes, seem to have imagined that because we have now the latest agricultural implements and labour-saving machines, we always had them. He goes on to say that when our pioneers went into the forest they had nothing but the axe and what they could contrive to make with it, and one or two rough carpenters' tools—say an auger and a saw. Our visitors, it may be, saw our present grindstones running with iron axles on friction rollers. The pioneers had only the grindstone itself, with its spindle and crank made of wood, the frame being two rails sloping up against a tree or the log cabin, with notches in the rails forming the journals in which the axle worked. Then, as to the pioneer's house; it was built of rough logs, the chinks being plastered with clay, the floors frequently being logs split in two and smoothed off with an adze or axe, and the roof being made of troughs hollowed out with the same implement and inverted one over the other. It was in this way that the men who have made Canada began life; and if they are in a state of comfort now, with well tilled lands, substantial buildings, well bred live stock and the latest inventions in labour-saving implements, they owe it almost altogether to their own unaided efforts. They were not men of the English farmer class who keep a horse and carriage, who never did any work, and whose hands were as soft and fine as a lady's. The men who settled Ontario for the most part were British farm labourers, who worked hard themselves, and who depended on themselves alone for success in bush life. The few of the better class who did come to the country were generally too proud to rough it; they were not the stuff out of which pioneers were made, and, as a rule, they failed. British farmers would not or could not have withstood the hardships which our pioneers went through, and there is no sensible man in the Province who does not honour our pioneers for their pluck. When we consider the wonderful achievements of the past fifty years, we are led to hope for achievements still more wonderful in the next fifty, and almost to wish that we might live to witness them.

MORE DISCUSSION WANTED.

An English agricultural journal recalls what some one once said, that if you travelled by rail through England in a first-class carriage, you would never be asked a question, and never have one of yours answered, whilst, if you travelled third-class you would of necessity have collected, before you had done, a summary of English history, plus the gossip of the society paper, plus

not much to complain of in this country on the score of exclusiveness, but we are convinced that a great good might be done for farmers themselves if discussion of farm topics were more general than it is. We need to ask a great many more questions, and do the best we can to answer them. There is not an agricultural society in the country whose usefulness might not be greatly improved by frequent meetings of its members and home-like discussions of subjects of common interest. If they could only be prevailed upon to give results with feeding stuffs, manures, drainage, etc., an immense deal of good might be accomplished, for each of those societies would then of itself be as good as an experiment station. And what is perhaps of yet greater importance would be the frequent communication of ideas and observations to the agricultural journals. We have thousands of well-informed farmers in Ontario, who could, if they would, make valuable contributions in this way, and it is only by such contributions that a really live and valuable farm journal can be maintained. It is our object to make *THE RURAL CANADIAN* just such a journal, and we trust its readers will make the best possible use of its columns for the spread of practical information. We should have experiments in every department of farming constantly being made all over the country, and if the results are given to the public through the medium of the agricultural journals, it cannot long continue to be said that the education of the Ontario farmer is in any important respect neglected, or that with us agriculture is travelling first-class after the fashion of travel in the English railway.

COTTAGES ON THE FARM.

The hiring of assistance forms one of the heaviest items to the farmers of this Dominion; and the present high rate of wages often deters many from making much needed improvements for developing the resources of their farms. In our opinion the method adopted at the present time of hiring help is not the correct one. Just engaging men for the busy season only compels the greater portion of our labouring men to seek other employment, and consequently over-stocks the labour market during the winter months. Then, again, there seems to be a prejudice against engaging married men unless they will live with their employer, an opinion prevailing that it costs but little more to feed the hired men. The meals having to be prepared for the family, the extra cooking gives little additional trouble. There is added work and money, however; and the female members of the farmer's household have sufficiently increased duties to perform during the summer months, without having this extra burden imposed on them.

All this could, in a great measure, be avoided by building cottages on the farm, and engaging what might be called permanent help; or, in other words, hiring the men by the year. The labouring man would then have a home close to his work, where he could have a small garden, keep a cow, poultry, etc., and bring up his family in comfort. He would, therefore, be far more likely to study the interests of his employer than would a man only engaged for a few months, knowing that directly the term for which he is hired expires he will be turned adrift to find employment where best he can. It is also only likely such men will demand higher wages to enable them to live during the time they are unemployed.

The building of cottages on the farms would, in a very few years, tend to bring down the high rate of wages, by increasing the rural population. The families of the labourers would be found very

stead of, as at present, filling our cities, towns and villages with idlers.

It is not necessary that the cottage should be near the homestead. It can be placed within a convenient distance, without spoiling the appearance of the farm.

GROWING BARLEY.

In spite of the sweep of the Scott Act in the Province we think that barley is one of the most profitable crops that our farmers can grow, especially since the over-production of wheat in the world and the consequent fall in the price of that staple. The market price of barley is of course variable, like that of every other grain; but the demand for it is constant and prices are not likely to fall below a non-paying figure. The consumption for malting purposes in our own country has never been large, compared with the total product of the crop, and even if every malting house in the country were closed the state of the market would not be very seriously affected. It is to the United States that we must continue to look as our regular market-place, and considering the superiority of Ontario grown barley over that of the product of any State of the Union we have no fear of being supplanted there. American brewers and maltsters must continue to have Ontario barley, and they will be always ready to pay a good round price for it as compared with any other. Then there are these facts to be considered: (1) that there is only the short period of fifteen weeks from sowing to reaping time; (2) that the average product per acre is greater than that of wheat; (3) that at the present time the market price is little below that of wheat; and (4) that even should the demand fall off the grain can be fed to stock on the farm so as to realize a handsome profit. For these reasons we do not hesitate to counsel the farmers of Ontario to sow barley. They can scarcely lose upon it, and they are almost certain to make upon it more than upon any other of our staple cereals. We would also counsel them to sow early, provided the land be dry and in a good state of tillage. The early-sown grows a longer straw as well as a longer ear, and having a better chance to tiller, a smaller quantity of seed is required than where late-sowing is followed.

CANADA SHORTHORN HERD-BOOK.

Below we give a list of transfers of thoroughbreds reported up to March 30, 1885. In the following list the person first named is the seller and the second the buyer:

B. Raspberry Duke [12029], by Butterfly's Duke [11703], John S. Armstrong, Speedside; Ezra Hawley, Carnock.

B. Tornado [12834], by Baron Newcastle 4th [8606], Cyrus Smith, Morpeth; Thos. Huckleberry, Troy.

B. Royal Cecil [12636], by Scarlet Velvet [7893], Jos. S. Thomson, Whitby; J. W. Shier, Vroomantown.

B. Baron 10th [12637], by Baron 2nd [9668], Wm. Redmond, Millbrook; Peter Dawson, South Monaghan.

B. Victor [12639], by Calloden [8292], T. Day Everton; John Gardiner, Merlin.

B. John A. [11875], by 5th Lord Red Rose [10178], T. C. Stark, Gananoque; John Wilmot, Kingston.

B. Duke of Athol [12840], by 5th Lord Red Nose [10178], T. C. Stark, Gananoque; John Sigsworth, Harrowsmith.

B. Grand Duke 2nd [12041], by 6th Duke of Kent [11043], John Moyer, Kossuth; Jasper Crooks, Scotland.