

Politics.

We have had so many letters touching on the National Policy and the Pacific Railroad that we are almost compelled to make a few brief remarks, although we reject the numerous letters *pro* and *con*. You are in a state worse than total darkness if you read and depend on either one of the strong party papers. You must read both sides of a question, or you cannot understand anything about it; and when you have read both carefully, and you desire to arrive at truth and facts, you will be wiser than the average of mortals if you can tell which party is attempting to deceive you most. Whether it will ever be possible to select men that will legislate for the good of the country in preference to their personal interests is a doubtful question. The "outs" want to get in, and the "ins" want to stay there, and both want to make money out of their capital. Farmers should see to it that they are not sold or bought by these talkers just as easily as galley slaves are sold in a slave market.

We have heard the leading politicians in Canada; you have read their speeches. Both political parties have expended millions of your money in the North-West, and either of them will spend millions more. They have drawn men, capital and emigrants from Ontario and the Maritime Provinces, and you are told that the Pacific road is not to cost you one cent. The money we have already expended for emigration, for public buildings, for Parliamentary representation, for railroads on the prairies, has reduced the value of property in Ontario, it is estimated, at from 15 to 25 per cent. And yet we are still to pay for everything for the opening of that country, and neither of our legislative bodies have ever hinted at any return to be made to Ontario for this expenditure. The land was perfectly able to pay for all its own improvements from the rise in its value caused by our hard-earned cash; and in a business point of view that rise in value should be expended in the liquidation of the debt placed on our shoulders, and in payment of the interest on the money we have paid for their benefit. But no! All the increase in value of the land caused by our expenditures is to go into the pockets of land-grabbers and speculators. This should not be. The lands could pay every cent if only properly managed, and the eastern farmers would be relieved, as they should be, from any expenditures in that part of the Dominion beyond what there is necessity for. That the money would in due time be paid back to us, that which we expend should be in the form of a loan, as the opening of that country will in no way enhance the value of farm produce or farmers' properties in Ontario. Neither Macdonald, Blake, Mackenzie, Mowat nor Meredith have ever looked after the interests of the farmers as much as we think they ought to have done. For instance, we have for years, by personal interview with legislators, by frequent telegraph dispatches, and occasionally an article in this journal, shown the danger that existed in allowing diseased animals to be brought into Canada. We have personally examined many animals in Canada that were badly affected with foot and mouth disease; also many suffering with hog cholera. The interviews held, the journeys taken, and the telegrams sent have had their effect, and we are informed that our writings have also had effect in England, and our legislators were compelled to enact a law, which, at the present time, enables us to get \$20 per head more for our cattle in British markets than Americans can get. Yet this act is not as strong as it ought to be. Strong as it is, it is not carried into effect, and there are too many cattle and too many hogs from the other side of the lines allowed to mingle with our stock, which

are brought into our country and sold as Canadian or English hogs when killed and cured. This improper practice has a tendency to reduce the value of Canadian farmers' wholesome meat, despite what little profit the pork-packer or the railroads may have at the present time, and must be a loss of ten thousand times as much to our farmers if it is not stopped. Let our Government officials make a thorough enquiry from their servants, those who receive one cent of Government money, or hold an office of any kind. It should be the duty of every one to know and watch for the protection and interest of the farmer, from whose labor they are paid; and if they do not regard the farmer and his interest, they should at once be removed from their positions, no matter what that position may be. We have tried to conduct this journal for the interest of the farmer; we have discarded politics; we have refrained from voting or using our interest for either political party for 15 years, although we had a vote both in the city and in the county. The last political vote we gave was a Reform vote, and now, after a 15 years' retirement and observation, we do not at the present know which side we would vote on; but you may depend that it will be for the party that we believe will do most good for the farmers.

The first and greatest question of the present time is, shall Canadian stock be kept free from disease or not? Shall the American hogs be killed and sold as Canadian meat in the foreign market?

We are in danger of losing the good name we now have for wholesome meat, and we have the power of raising the value of every acre of land in the Dominion by rigorously and vigorously checking the danger that now threatens us. If we keep our animals free from contagious diseases we shall have a name and a quality of meat that will command a higher price than any other in the market. The thinking men and men of capital will not buy meat that may endanger their lives.

The subject is of far greater importance to the farmers and to the country than all the talk or all the money that is or will be expended on the Pacific Railroad.

Every person and every paper has its price, and our influence and the influence of this Journal, if shown to either party, will be to those that attempt to do most good for the farmer. Nothing can be of more importance, in our opinion, at the present time than a rigid, careful and public investigation into the dangers that visit us from contagious diseases among our farm stock.

PROFITABLE FARMING.—Harriet Martineau published a book entitled, "Four Acres Enough," intended to show that that quantity of land was sufficient for any one to make a good living off. The experience of Mr. W. B. Vanvleet, of Lacolle, Que., tends to show that Miss Martineau was not so visionary as some people thought her. Off eight acres of land he harvested, this fall, 86 bushels of barley, 96 of oats, 30 bushels of potatoes, and about 70 of corn, several bushels of beans, and a quantity of peas, pumpkins, etc. The value of the produce thus obtained is placed at \$500, or, say \$62 per acre.

It was resolved at the last annual meeting of the "American Shorthorn Breeders Association," "That, inasmuch as the Shorthorn race of cattle was brought to its present matchless perfection by the judicious selection of the best animals in blood and useful qualities for breeding purposes, and the vigorous weeding out of inferior individuals regardless of pedigree, it is the judgment of the Convention that the high standard of excellence can only be maintained by a steadfast adherence to this practice." This course is sadly neglected by the great majority of Canadian breeders of all kinds of stock. A rage for pedigree to a greater or lesser degree is found almost everywhere. All animals, especially a male, must have individual merit to be of value in the breeding yards. A good animal with a good pedigree is what we want—others are an evil.

American Pork at a Discount by Consumers.

Since our last issue we extract the following from American papers; the *Boston Cultivator* says:

The local consumers of this city are just now very much worked up over the sale of diseased hog meat, and some have declared total abstinence from eating pork in any way. The recent cases of trichina that have each proved fatal, have greatly prejudiced local meat eaters against pork, and it is the height of folly for pork producers to think they will make anything by selling diseased hogs. They may, perhaps, get more at the time for such stock, but the effect upon the general trade is very damaging, and if unscrupulous parties will persist in marketing such stock rather than take the chances of personal loss, they are liable to bring a loss upon the country at large that will not be easily regained. Foreign countries, depending largely upon us for their meat supplies, have raised several complaints at having detected impurities in our hog products, and if American pork is excluded from any of these markets that now draw largely and regularly on our supplies, she will have none to thank for it but a few of these impecunious farmers who do nothing to prevent disease among their swine, and send them to market in a sick and dying condition.

When the leading citizens of what Americans call their modern Athens, or the city claiming the highest attainments in literature, learning and arts, on this continent, begin to discard their own production, is it not high time that we should check the traffic in American pork in our Dominion, and use every effort to prevent the spread of this disease among our farm stock. We say, fearlessly, that our leading legislators, both in the Dominion and Provincial Legislatures, have not attended to this most important question as they ought to have done. Let there be a strict and searching enquiry made of every member of the Board of Agriculture and every office-bearer in the School of Agriculture or the Model Farm, and let this information be published, then more good will be done to the farmers than all that has been done. Let the farmers elect one independent, honest, sound, practical farmer on the Board of Agriculture Commission with the power that is granted to them; then we might expect that the real interest of the farmer might take precedence over the many places advanced to extract money from him.

Another American paper has the following item:

"Poison absorbed while slaughtering a diseased cow caused the death of John C. Allen, of North Reading, Mass. The surgeons first amputated his fingers, then his right hand, and finally the whole arm, without staying the disease."

Another paper states that the loss to farmers from pleuro-pneumonia in one State alone amounts to \$500,000. Read the last letter from our English Correspondent in this issue; if his deductions are correct in giving us \$20 per head more, or one million dollars more annually from the proceeds of our stock than we should have if we exported from the United States, how much greater must be our profits if we maintain the name of having wholesome pork, butter, cheese, lard, &c. We cannot maintain the high reputation our produce deserves if we allow the Americans to pack their dangerous or diseased hogs in our country; neither shall we hold the advantage we now have of \$20 per head on our horned cattle, if we do not watch closely our interest. We are in danger, or we would not call attention to it. If we are instrumental in checking the danger, we shall consider we have done you a greater service than we ever contemplated when commencing the publication of this journal.

Canada now holds the greatest honor that could be attained for her agriculturists; that is, that her farm stock and her inhabitants are freer from contagious diseases than any country in the world. Let us keep it so. This is what we must do, if we wish to draw the best settlers to our country and the best buyers to our market. The Americans have now pleuro-pneumonia, trichina, hog cholera, foot and mouth disease, &c., &c. Yes, they have the leprosy now on the Pacific coast, brought in by the Chinese. Perhaps we should attempt to check these low, degraded, filthy beings from infesting our Dominion.