

Agricultural Progress.

In the correspondence column will be found a letter from Rideau, coinciding with our views on the Experimental and Test Farm and Agricultural College, and also another from K. K. Kerringham, to the same effect. We have received none from the promoters or supporters of the scheme. We would just like to have one from any M. P. P. who voted for the bill or one of their leading supporters. But no, they dare not attempt to gainsay our assertions in regard to it. Let their own agricultural paper defend them if it dare; we are ready for a battle should they take up the subject. Why have they not treated on this as fully as on other subjects? The fact is, the great political papers have larger fish to fry. Agriculture is but a sprat or minnow to them. But farmers, the time is coming when the agriculturist will not submit to have the wool pulled over his eyes, and a thief's hand forced into his pocket for any such political clap-trap as this Agricultural College has been, from the first starting of the plans till the last vestige of it had been disposed of.

Mr. K. K. Kerringham at the close of his letter asks the following question:—Could not a joint stock company be formed and issue the FARMER'S ADVOCATE bi-monthly or weekly?

As we have not said much about the prospects and progress of the Agricultural Emporium lately, of which this paper has been part and parcel, we now take the pleasure of informing Mr. K. and all other of our supporters and readers that at the last session of Parliament an

ACT WAS PASSED

which gives us farmers a greater power than we ever had before. It enables us to join together with our capital and abilities and establish the Canadian Agricultural Emporium.

In the same Act we have a clause inserted that gives us the power to join our capital and publish an agricultural paper, monthly, bi-monthly or weekly, as we may deem fit. It is our intention to publish this Act in full in the next issue of this paper. It is our desire to maintain the spirit of the ADVOCATE as it always has been, untrammelled by party politics or sectarianism. Agriculture is to be the main object. Farmers' rights and farmers' interests are what we desire to represent. We do not wish to confine its benefits to a few or to a locality, but to make it and the Emporium of as much general benefit as possible. Undoubtedly advantages will accrue to the stock holders; their interests will be first looked after. But who are to be the stock holders? Arrangements will be so made as to enable one person at each post office in Ontario to become a shareholder.

They will all have the opportunity.—Many may neglect to embrace it, and the shares will be taken by others; those holding most shares will have most power. Persons out of Ontario may hold stock, and have an influence, if each post office section should not take up its share. Due notice will be given of the first meeting, which will be called in May. You should all read carefully the Act and Prospectus that will appear, and use your own judgment.

It is already contemplated to issue the ADVOCATE either in an increased size or oftener; or to issue another paper in connection with it, and divide the agricultural department as one, and general household reading for ladies and children as the other. Sometimes we may add a little amusement that has nothing to do with the crops or land, and sometimes the ladies demand more information and amusement for the children. But the control of the paper and the Emporium may, on the formation of the company, be taken out of our hands. We will only appear as a single individual and have a voice in its management and control, the same as you may have.

It will be the fault of you all if it should not be conducted by yourselves and for you farmers. Its supporters, we believe, will be from the most independent of our inhabitants, both Conservatives and Reformers, who we hope will meet on one grand platform and maintain the banner already swaying its colors above all other agricultural papers in Canada, that is, in the number of its circulation. When the opportunity arrives we doubt not that many of you will be ready and willing to increase the sway of power of this journal and the Agricultural Emporium, and thousands will reap the advantages of being connected with it. We believe none can be losers.

Seeds.

Many of our readers will be anxiously looking for remarks under this head. We cannot always procure novelties; many old discovered varieties come into vogue again in a few years, but those farmers who continue to raise the old varieties as a main crop are apt to be the losers.

Where to procure new varieties is often a difficult question to answer, but many of our readers who notice our endeavors to procure such, endeavor to aid us. Many send new samples, some of which have to be condemned, from a knowledge of the varieties and other causes.

A short time since a farmer from the eastern part of Canada called at our office and brought with him a small bag of

HULLLESS OATS.

He claimed to be the only person in Canada that had them; he said he procured them many thousands of miles from Canada. Of course the usual account of enormous productiveness and immense value was portrayed. He was so sanguine of their general adoption and the looming fortunes to be made from them, that he would supply them only at \$1 per quart. He says he now has some forty bushels and will sow them all.

These oats were quite a new thing to us. He had them in the straw as well as in his sample bag. By rubbing the straw as one would do to remove the grain, the oats, after blowing the chaff away, remained in our hand without a hull. The substance of the oat appeared to us quite equal to the grain of our common oat, but we did not purchase any as we would like to know more of its advantages, and we had our doubts of its being a profitable investment for ourselves or our readers, without further knowledge. If any one knows anything about these oats we should like to hear from them.

Another farmer called at the office, from the western part of Canada, bringing with him a sample of a pea he called the

GERMAN PEA.

He said he procured them from a Dutchman who had brought them into the country. He had sown them for two years and no bug had touched them. The sample he brought was pretty badly mixed with other peas, oats and barley. He also set great value on his pea as being bug proof, and an enormous cropper both in peas and vines. He had commenced with one handful and now had a few bushels.—We have been unable to raise peas without having them about half eaten by our pea bug, for the past ten years, and there being no signs of the decrease of these pests, we felt much inclined to try this new pea. The price set on them was such as prevented us from making a purchase at the time; however, we at length succeeded in procuring four bushels by paying a pretty good figure. We intend sowing two bushels ourselves, and the residue, if any, of the other bag, but we shall give our readers an opportunity of getting a handful of them. Perhaps we may have been again gulled.

A farmer from the eastern part of Canada, who was examining our seed, informed us that he had seen the same kind of pea growing; he knew the pea very well. It

was a very prolific pea. He considered it one of the best for raising for feed, as the straw was better than that of our common varieties.

Some of our readers may know more about this pea; it may perhaps be well known and plentiful in some parts. If you can give us information regarding it, we shall feel obliged. This farmer said the name of it was the Grass Pea. It is of a very uneven shape, very hard, white in color; it is not round, flat or oblong; it is a small pea, much smaller than any of the other varieties—between the size of a vetch seed and a pea. We presume it is something of the nature of the vetch. At any rate we intend to try it, and another year, if all is well, we hope to hear and give more information regarding it. We do not think it a pea that would do for exportation for flouring purposes, for that is what our common peas are used for, but what we want on our farm is a pea that will raise both vine and grain, and something that these pea bugs cannot eat.

We consider the pea bug the most unprofitable stock we keep on the farm, and we do not know how to get rid of this gentleman, unless by starvation. If these peas answer as well as we expect from reports received about them, we shall from this article alone add another laurel to the bunch already worn, in introducing and bringing into notice the most valuable cereals. The loss caused by the pea bug alone in one township in one year, would be sufficient to pay all the expenses of the establishment of the Canadian Agricultural Emporium and the establishment of this paper.

We again repeat our request to you—if you know where we can procure any of these peas, or if you can give us any information about them, please do so; or if we are in error about them, we wish to know that also.

From our English papers we learn that they have a new kind of wheat in England. It is called

THE SQUARE HEADED WHEAT.

It is highly spoken of by the English papers, but as to whether it is a spring or a fall wheat we are uninformed. It was too late when our attention was called to it to procure any for this season. We intend to make enquiries about it, and hope to import some of it to try how it will answer here. Perhaps some of our readers will be taking a trip across the Atlantic, and being interested in grain, they might make some enquiries, perhaps import it on their own account.

The New Canadian Herd Book.

We are in receipt of the second volume of the Canadian Short Horn Herd Book. The paper is of good quality, the printing is well done, and the entries appear to be correct as far as they go. It is a credit to our country, and every person that is raising a herd of short horns should have one.

The book is beautifully illustrated with 24 engravings of noted animals, five of which belong to the Hon. G. Brown, four to F. W. Stone, four to Hon. D. Christie, three to Col. Taylor, three to Hon. J. Skead, two to H. Snell, two to J. Miller, Pickering, and one to J. Miller, Brougham.

There are other large importers and breeders in Canada who, perhaps, have as fine cattle, as much money, and as great a desire for publicity as those whose names appear in this publication. We should like to know the reason why they are not entered in this book; we do not believe this omission is in any way due to the Secretary who compiled the work.

Another defect, if it may be called such, is that the illustrations are not true or correct representations of the animals, the names of which are attached. We will make this clear, so that every one of you may understand that we are correct in our remarks, harsh as they may appear, on this important point, but we think it is due to the agricultural interests, and especially to the stock raisers of the country that it

should be known who is in fault for this omission.

If you look at the legs of any one of the engravings and compare their fineness, the fore ones especially, you will see on examining any animal of such size, that they are over fine; the muzzles of all the bulls are also too fine. The bodies of many we know are represented far too symmetrical; the necks of the bulls are generally too fine. Compare and judge for yourselves.

Let us ask why is this? The artist is undoubtedly a master hand; he can draw them correctly, but artists are like other men—work for pay. A true representation might not please the owner so well. The strife with breeders is to excel, and it is the same in every business; the question is who will have the best. Thus the artist's powers are brought into vogue where the breeder's fail. The illustrations are utopian; they are beyond (if we may express ourselves in such a term) the powers of nature. This appears strange that art should exceed nature, but such are the vagaries of fashion.

The Americans have set us such a pattern in the drawing of stock that we have been fools enough to follow, and led us to produce this criticism on our own productions.

We would be sorry to say that any of our leading breeders would desire a false representation of an animal to appear.—The next difficulty is, how are we to have them correct? They pay the best artist to draw their animals, and they are left to him. The result is that the artist improves on the animal to suit his finest imagination of perfection; his judgement is good, and the result is a fine picture, but a false one.

When is this to cease? We hope and trust some of our American exchanges will take up this question, and that the next year's illustrations will show us animals as they really appear, and not imaginary ones. Let us condemn the lot that have been drawn as imaginary, and we shall be doing good service. Write down the imaginary animals, and aim at correct representations.

We hope that some of the other journals that treat on agricultural subjects will aid us in giving information in regard to the question—Why is our second volume of the Canadian Herd Book incomplete? Is there to be another published in the Dominion? Surely we ought to know, and the public ought to know; some should know, and they should inform the press.

The press should not draw a veil over these discrepancies or defects. Look out, farmers! Enquire into these things; you will yet have to pay the piper. Demand explanations. We will give them to you as soon as we can find them out.

State of the Crops.

The fall wheat has stood the winter well; it is looking as well as we ever saw it at this season. We have seen less winter killed this season than for many seasons past. The prospects are that we shall have above an average crop of fall wheat, it nothing unusual occurs to injure it.

A GOOD SUBJECT for discussion at meetings of farmer's clubs and agricultural societies would be the Government Test Farm in all its bearings. We merely throw out this suggestion to our agricultural friends. We would like to have their opinions fully expressed on this subject.

PEAR BLIGHT FUNGUS, an old gardener says, may be destroyed by sprinkling from half a peck of a mixture of air-slaked lime, wood ashes and common salt about the tree to be applied by removing the soil around the trees to the depth of four or five inches, as far as the roots extend. It should be applied once or twice a year. He don't tell us when is the best time.

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