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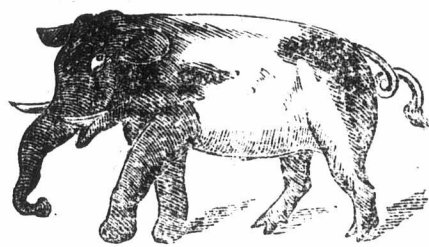
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try pays the heaviest taxes by far, and the money is too often expended in building up cities at the country's expense. This Technical School and the great Elephant—the Agricultural College, Test and Experimental Farm—etc., were never got up for the farmer. We know too well what we speak, and bid defiance to confutation. It was established for city interests and political purposes, and all the fine agricultural talk that may be dinned into your ears is a mere gilded delusion. We do not say that it is not possible to make it of some value to the farmers, but we say the injury most probably will be a hundred times greater than the benefit. It was established to trample down private enterprise. Who dare deny this assertion?

What farmer ever asked for either the Technical College, or the Experimental Farm and College? Which member of the late ministry carried this through the House or suggested it? We would just like to know if it was John A's, or John Sandfield's, or Carling's scheme, or where it was originated and what for. We have our ideas about it, and we represent them in the following out. More anon!



The absurd idea of trampling out agricultural information by a double tax on agricultural papers, and a quadruple rate on the carriage of seeds, must show to every farmer how the cat jumped. If 26 members of parliament residing in Toronto want to keep that little animal for the profit and amusement of themselves, they are welcome to do so; but do not attempt to charge the farmers with the keep of the beast, and say it is for their 600 acres of poor, worn out scrub land, filled with Canada thistles, no water, \$75 per acre, off a branch of railway—a bright commencement. "That's the way the money goes, pop goes the weasel!"

Back at our office at 10 on Saturday night. At work again! So much for our airing trip!

Canadian Politics.

SIR,—I am pleased with the general tone of your paper, and am persuaded your desire is to promote the welfare of the farmers, when you state: "We have for years asked of our present Government that farmers may have equal rights with other classes of the community." At the same time it is said that a man who asks but little of a Government gets nothing. It is quite possible that a community of farmers would share the same fate, unless a large influence could be brought to bear through an organization, or by representation. It is perfectly understood that the agricultural class in Canada is the only one left unprotected for. It is well known that at the time of the Confederation there was an attempt to levy a duty on bread, flour and pork, but the Eastern Provinces would not submit to a tax on these articles, and it was repealed. The same result followed with coal, and the duty on salt is of very little benefit to the manufacturers so long as Liverpool salt is admitted free. And then a free trade in coal oil and salt with the States would benefit these industries more than the duty possibly can. Manufacturers of wool, cotton, leather, harness, cabinet ware, agricultural implements, and almost every interest but the farmers' is protected now. It is well known that we cannot put a tariff in our favor against imports; we are sellers and not buyers. The farming class represent 80 per cent. of the population, and they must compete with all importers for the benefit of those who are unwilling to advocate any policy

that can be of service to us. We notice that a Mr. Robert Wilkes, of Toronto, advocates in the session of the Board of Trade, sitting in Ottawa, a special land tax for the Dominion Government. "Can it be possible that any good thing can come out of Toronto?" is a question which has been decided in the negative long ago, but why Mr. Wilkes wishes to add a new burden without an equivalent benefit is yet to be decided. But Mr. Wilkes and his stamp will bear a most industrious watching.

I regret that your paper is limited to a monthly; we get rusty in four weeks. There is great need of a *live farmers' paper* and we wish you may step in when the waters are troubled.

Yours, M. W. BROWN.

Paris, Jan., 1872.

We are highly pleased that our remarks are finding responses, and we consider the above one of the most valuable of them. It should awaken every farmer of the country to a sense of duty to his calling, and every farmer should endeavor to throw off the chain of city oppression. We have just rights to maintain, and we are not true to our position unless we use every legitimate means to obtain and maintain them, and which we never shall have unless we exert ourselves to obtain them. Are we men, or do we belong to either of the subjects shown in the Darwin Theory, in another part of this paper? If we are men let us be up and doing. You will have another election before long, and let every farmer cast his vote for an agriculturist. There are too many city representatives in the Legislative halls now. Your rights must be maintained by sending agriculturists to counterbalance the weight that the city influences bring to bear. Never mind about party; vote for the real, plain farmer, that gets his living from the soil. Of course, flowing, studied, prepared speeches, filled with anecdotes and repartees, which are often the productions of close application and a systematic training, are apt to catch the farmers and draw the wool over their eyes. The plain farmer has but little chance with the practised elocutionist. Send more farmers to both houses of Parliament.

To the Hon. A. McKellar, Minister of Agriculture.

We farmers are pronounced a grumbling lot of ignorant beings, nevertheless, we believe we have a just right to complain about many things. Of course we do not expect to receive all we may ask for, nor do we ever expect to cease complaining. However, it is our intention to let our voice be heard as long as we can, in every instance where the farming interest is at stake, until some changes are made.

As you now have considerable influence and power in Ontario, we believe your voice will be heard by those who have control of the affairs of the Dominion. We have long suffered under a most unjust law which tends to our injury. We mean the postage on agricultural papers, and on agricultural seeds and plants.

We humbly request that you will use your influence to have the postage on agricultural papers reduced from 1 cent each to 1/2 cent each, and that the postage may be prepaid either by the publisher or receiver of the paper. We wish it to be distinctly understood that we do not ask that agricultural papers be allowed to pass free of postage, as such an act would be made a handle of at elections by saying, "What had been done for the farmers?" We are able and willing to pay our expenses, and we only ask for what is fair, just and honest. We do not think it right that a political paper should be allowed to pass through the post office at half the rate charged an agricultural publication, and the former not even prepaid.

We also ask that seeds may be sent by post at 4 cts. per pound, that being the rate now charged for other mail matter. As it is at present, seeds have to be pre-

paid at the rate of 16 cts. per pound, just four times more than they should be.

Your early attention to the above will be looked upon as a favor by the farmers of Canada.

Yours respectfully,
THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Breeders' Column.

We purpose keeping a column in our paper for the exclusive interest of breeders of thorough-bred stock of all kinds, and we shall be happy to receive any communications of thorough-bred stock bought or sold, together with any particulars as to their breeding, &c.; in fact, anything that will interest other breeders. It is our belief that there are among our subscribers a sufficient number of those interested in breeding pure bred stock, to render our breeders' column a success, especially considering the wonderful advance there has been in the value of pure bred cattle the last year or two. Our earnest hope is that the breeders will keep it filled by sending in useful items and accounts that will be of interest and profit to all.

The 19th volume of the English Short Horn Herd Book is issued, containing the pedigrees of 2500 bulls and 2900 cows; and to show the interest which the educated and highest ranks of society in the old country take in Short Horns, we note that there are no less than 41 Dukes and Lords among the English breeders, while the Queen herself heads the list with an entry of 40 animals from her Windsor farm. How many of the "Upper Ten" are there in Canada who follow such a good example? We fear they are too busy trying to euchre one another in railways and politics to care about the agricultural prosperity of the country. But, to return to the Herd Book—American bred cattle appear to be highly esteemed. There are portraits of "8th Duke of Geneva" and "11th Duchess of Geneva," bred by Mr. Sheldon and exported to England. Bates' blood is the most fashionable, to judge by the fact that of the 13 portraits of celebrated animals in the volume, 10 of them are of the Duchess and Oxford tribes, and we read that at the sale of some of the Duke of Devonshire's herd last fall, 8 animals of the "Oxford" tribe sold for an average of \$3000 each, this being the highest record of any auction sale, while 2 of the bulls sold for \$5000 each.

THOROUGH BREEDING.

Professor Agassiz lately stated a fact which breeders of all stock should never forget nor undervalue, when he said that "no offspring is simply the offspring of its father or mother, it is also, at the same time, the offspring of its grandfather and grandmother on both sides," and we would impress upon our breeders that this principle of the liability to reproduce ancestral characteristics extends much beyond the grandsire and granddam. Our old breeders must have frequently noticed a peculiarity of some ancestor brought out in the offspring, and it is found by experience in breeding that the good or bad points of the ancestors of the sire or dam are almost as likely to appear again in the offspring as those of the immediate parents, in whom they lie dormant, and are produced in the offspring by the accidental circumstance of one parent happening to be in a very vigorous condition at the time of impregnation, or the strain of blood in the sire happening to nick with the same strain in the progenitors of the dam; hence the maxim that like produces like, or the likeness of some ancestor.

The law of Nature in breeding is supposed to be: "the dam gives the whole of the nutritive organs," and "the sire gives the whole of the locomotive organs." Thus a cow that has a disposition to fatten easily will produce calves of similar tendency, and a bull which displays much spirit and temper will be likely to produce calves of the same character. And again, the hereditary powers will generally be found best calculated to do that which the parents through successive generations

have done; "generally," it is said—not "always"—for often the other parent will have a strong counteracting tendency, and this accounts for some cows breeding such good calves to one bull and inferior calves to a better looking sire.

The result of the foregoing experiences in breeding appears to authorize the rule that in choosing a bull it is better, if possible, to choose one whose stock you have seen, and can judge if he has strength of character and blood sufficient to stamp his likeness on his calves, instead of taking the risk of an untried animal; also, in choosing a bull you should study his pedigree and ancestors, for a poor looking bull who comes of first-class ancestors on both sides, will be far more likely to get good calves than a prize bull whose ancestors were nothing above the average. This explains the disappointment which sometimes happens when breeding from prize animals, who, though very good in themselves, have no remarkable ancestors in their pedigree to concentrate in them the capability of transmitting their own good qualities to their calves.

We hear that George Millar's Sale was a good one, prices ruling higher than usual. Short Horns sold for \$150 to \$1500; we believe Mr. Thompson, of Whitby, was an extensive purchaser. It is reported that Geo. Brown has purchased Major Gregg's herd of Durhams.

That noted Breeder, Mr. Snell, of Edmonton, has sold his prize Bull, "Louden Duke," to go to Virginia; we have no doubt but that he will head many a prize ring there.

Even the Japanese are at last going into Short Horns! The government of Japan have bought from Mr. Pickrell of Illinois, a bull and 3 cows at very high prices, for shipment to Japan. They have also bought South Down Sheep and Berkshire Pigs.

We beg to call attention to the advertisement, in another column, of the splendid stock-getter, "Bell Duke of Oxford," noted for getting prize stock. Colonel Taylor informs us he would not part with the bull, but that he has lately bought a pure bred Bates bull to breed with his Bates cows; we hear he paid a very high price for his new bull, which is the only one of the breed in Canada.

Send us brief accounts for this column.

American Postage

We are highly pleased to see the Country Gentleman taking up this most absurd and unjust regulation that exists between the United States and Canada. We have continually complained to our ruling authorities, but to no purpose. The case is this: We find it necessary to transact business with the Americans. The Americans do not know the absurd restrictions. They may place a 3-cent stamp on their letters to Canada, but the Canadians have to pay 10 cents on receiving it. We are continually in receipt of letters on which 6 cents have been paid, yet we have to pay 20 cents. On pamphlets and circulars it is even worse; for instance, to-day we receive per parcel post one pound weight of circulars of Dedrick's Hay Press; 8 cents has been prepaid, still we have to pay 15 cents more. This unreasonable law costs us about \$5 per month more than it should do if fair play could be obtained. Who gets the credit of all those obliterated stamps? The government of either country will destroy them for future use, and yet give no credit for them. We hope this affair will be looked into, and the cause of complaint removed. No one can deny that intercourse is beneficial to both. There is no necessity for this unreasonable, senseless, and injurious obstruction.

TO OUR CORRESPONDENTS IN THE STATES.—In sending letters to Canada the postage should be prepaid in full. If only one stamp is placed on a letter, we have to pay ten cents in gold and the stamp is lost; sometimes we have to pay 20 cts.

TO E. C. SPINNER, Esq., Sec'y M. S. P. A.—Your communication was received but it was too late for this issue, or it would have been inserted.