

## TO THE HON. GEO. BROWN.

SIR: As we have for a long time past been employing our means and faculties for the advancement of the interest of agriculture and the prosperity of the Province, we may be permitted to address a word to you on a subject of importance to us, expecting a reply:

We have written articles for your paper the *Canada Farmer*, some of which have appeared others have not. One article on the Monetary System that was inserted was responded to in a very harsh, unfair and personal manner, over the name of "Agent," to which we made a short and respectful reply, demanding the name of the author, which reply was rejected by your editor. When in Toronto shortly after, we enquired of your editor about it, and was informed that he had not written it himself, and that he did not know who had.

We have expended a good deal of money in your office for advertising, and consider that our suggestions in regard to the improvement of stock, and the establishment of an Agricultural Emporium should have been entitled to some remarks in the reading columns of your papers. Commendatory notices often appear of quack drugs, and things of much less importance, when you are favored with advertisements.

We have spoken to your clerks and editors about this, and we have several times called at your office to see you, to enquire about this, but could not find you since you have moved to your new building. We found you once in your old office some years back, but you could not find time to hear or speak. We also waited on you once in the Tecumseh House in London, but could not obtain an hearing. This is all quite excusable, as you were pressed with business, but the above treatment on the part of your employees, and the high charges demanded for advertisements, although of importance to the country, demand some little consideration at your hands. We have been asked as high as \$36 for a single insertion.

We have thought it necessary, and of utility to the Province, to establish a cheaper agricultural paper than yours. You are aware that inducements for our farmers to read to a greater extent than they do, is one of the best means of advancing the prosperity of the country. There are many that see no paper at all from one month to another. There is undoubtedly room for two Agricultural papers in this Province. Even if every County had one I think it would be a good thing.

This paper has been sent to your office both to the *Globe* and *Canada Farmer* from the first number until now. I also gave you a paper personally in Brantford, and you have never exchanged with us, or made a remark. American editors, from whom we did not expect as much, have

treated us far more courteously, also other papers in the Province; but your agents to whom we have paid large sums of money have neglected that civility. We consider this should be made known to you. We also allowed you the use of one of the best engravings that ever embellished your paper, for which we got little thanks. If our suggestions, or our publication do not deserve a notice, but on the contrary, are tending to the injury of the Province, should it not be considered by you.

In our last number we propounded a few questions to the editor of the *Canada Farmer*, that should be publicly known, and which he has the facility of ascertaining, but he has made no reply. The following are a few of them:

What was the cost of the erection of the Agricultural Hall in Toronto? What are the salaries of parties connected with it? Did rancid butter take the first prize in London? Have the prizes gained by exhibitors at the last Provincial Exhibition been paid to them? If not, why?

**Flat or Lap Furrows.**—An article in the *Agriculturist* recommending to turn furrows "flat as a floor," has provoked comment both among our subscribers and our exchanges and their correspondents. The subject is one which ought to be discussed. The writer long held to the value of lap-over flat-furrows in fall ploughing, for two principal reasons, viz: that they better drain or dry the land, and that they expose more soil to the weather during winter. In regard to these points we have changed our views, having seen it repeatedly demonstrated that the difference is not very great. Perhaps on tenacious clays or springy cold land, essential benefit might be found in lap furrows; on other land not. There are two other considerations, in fact three, which outweigh the above altogether in our mind: 1st, manure is much better covered; 2d, the land is left free from weeds, the sod is perfectly killed out of the way of the harrow, and in the best position to rot quickly and uniformly; 3d, by the action of frost alone, much fall blowed land is prepared for spring sowing of grass or grain. For grass or clover it needs no working over at all. For oats, barley or wheat, all that is necessary, is to harrow or bush in the seed, if sown broadcast, or otherwise, to go right on with the drill, and follow with the roller—this on good, common, loamy soils. We can point to a field plowed two years ago for corn, half with a lap furrow and half with a flat one, where the number of weeds and the labor of suppressing them on the lap furrowed part has been twice, if not three times, as great as the other. And we can name farmers who once held strongly to the lap-furrows, but are now delighted with the working of their flat-furrowed plows. They are not on heavy clays, but we think the principles named equally applicable to clay and sand as a loam, and especially so in spring plowing, to which the objections urged do not apply with the same force as the fall plowing.

**SEEDING DOWN WITH SPRING GRAIN.**

Grass stands a dry summer better when sown in autumn than in spring. Still this cannot always be done, and we must sow grass seed at this season. If sown alone on spring plowed land, the soil should be well mellowed and a great abundance of seed put on. Farmers seldom use enough seed. After sowing, light soils should

be well rolled, and heavy ones either bushed or let alone altogether. If sown with spring grains, there should also be a liberal quantity used. The varieties must of course depend upon the land and the demands of the farm. For permanent meadow, the greater number of kinds, the better. The grass seed should be sown after the grain is covered, and left upon the surface to be washed in by the rains. A light dressing of gypsum and wood-shes is very beneficial after the grain is well up and covers the ground somewhat.

**APPLE BORERS.**

As we have lost apple trees from the effects of these pests, and not knowing of a better remedy we have cut the bark off the parts of some of our trees that have been affected by them. We extract the following remedy from an American paper and intend to try it ourselves. It will be of much use to the country, if it should answer as well with us as with them. I do not see why it should not. Any of you that have trees affected by them, give it a trial, and let us know the result:

**SOAP FOR BORERS.**—Occasionally I hear complaints of the apple tree borer, in old orchards not cultivated. Eli Wyllie, Esq., (close neighbor of mine) had been more or less troubled by them, and for want of a known better remedy one year ago thoroughly besmeared the bodies of his trees with soft soap. Soon after which it rained and immediately after the rain on inspecting his trees, he found hundreds of the borers dead, lying at the roots of the trees. This spring Mr. W. thoroughly soaped some young apple trees, to promote their general good health, not dreaming that they two were wormy—but upon after inspection, found dead borers as in the case of the old trees—but not in such large quantities. Not recollecting to have seen soft soap recommended as a remedy for these pests of the apple orchard, I sent you this for publication, if thought worthy of a place in your valuable paper.

**VILLAINOUS EXTORTION.**

The villainous extortion of the Express Co., is a subject that we spoke against in our last issue. We regret to state that they have not acted on our hints, or viewed the matter as judiciously as our Post Office officials. We must still chronicle another vile act of that Company.

Mr. Thorncroft of Westminster, had \$1500 sent to him by the Express Co., who were paid in full for the carriage at the time of receiving the money, but they would not deliver it up until the charges were again paid in this city.

Mr. R. Lewis, of the wholesale and retail wall paper warehouse, Richmond Street, who by the way furnished one of our signs, had a box sent to him from Montreal, the weight not exceeding 350 lbs., for which he was compelled to pay a carriage of \$8 to London. We hear of numerous similar complaints from various quarters. It certainly is time that these American swindling institutions—we know not what else to call them—should be exposed. We know of persons that are now sending parcels by private parties in preference to sending by them.

We caution farmers to look sharp if they desire to have any transaction with