

side with Tom, Dick, or Harry's, and judging by comparison. Again, it often happens we have to look out for a buyer, and in such a case the evil is augmented, for unless he is more than ordinarily conscientious, advantage will be taken of our necessity. In both cases the remedy lies in competition, which can only be brought to bear by *periodical fairs*. The present practice of millers, giving a fixed price for wheat, irrespective of value, cannot be too loudly condemned: in the first place, it is *unjust*; and in the second place, a direct hindrance to improvement by offering a premium for *indolence and carelessness*. That it is unjust is self-evident: A, has wheat clean and nice, weighing 64lbs. per bushel—B, has a sample of inferior quality, with *just a few* chaffs, smut, and cockle in it, the mixture weighs 60 lbs per bushel; the miller gives 3s 6d per bushel in each case—that is, he robs honest, careful, industrious A of 6d per bushel, to satisfy careless, indolent, unscrupulous B. Our noble institution, the Provincial Agricultural Association, and its various branches, may offer premiums and honours for the best samples of cereals, &c., but the *millstone* is about their necks, and until the producer of a superior sample receives a *direct premium* on every bushel he sells, there will be but slight improvement, *if any*. The millers say, we cannot make *two prices*—in other words, *circumstances* not allow them to be *just*! For his part, he could not see that 3s 6d per bushel for clean wheat weighing 64lbs per bushel as a standard, and *less or more* according to quality, should dissatisfy any one, for he must be rogue or fool who will not submit to fair value. The system of purchasing by sample has been, and is, the only one which the farmers in the Old Country will submit to; why it should not obtain in Canada is a question which he would have the encouragers of the present iniquitous system to answer. *Let us have our weekly grain market*. These various meetings of the farmers, apart from the influence they would exert in promoting uniformity of prices, would be important in other respects. There exists, he was sorry to say, a jealousy or want of sociability amongst the agricultural community, which is in direct opposition to their interests. "*Union is strength*"—but how can strangers unite? *Let us have our periodical markets!* and whilst exchanging our products, let us barter our ideas, shake hands, and become acquainted, then our position will become secure. *Our own Club* is an evidence how much such meetings add, not only to our knowledge, but our happiness; and he would express his hope that there might be at no distant day, in every township in Canada, a *Farmers' Club*.

Mr. Richardson said, he had very little to add to what had been already said; thought that if fairs and markets were established, they would be the means of doing away with so much trading. When a buyer did come to you, you were often obliged to take less for your produce than it was worth, as there was so little competition.

Mr. Samuel Campbell said he thought we ought to have fairs and markets established by all means, where farmers could come and show samples of their grain, and make arrangements with buyers about price, and suitable times to

deliver it. Mr. Wrig't had alluded to a charter for a fair; he (Mr. C.) thought a charter would be of very little use to them, for he thought the farmers capable of establishing a fair themselves without any charter; thought that if fairs and markets were immediately established, they could not expect them to be large at first, but he had no doubt they would soon increase, as both buyers and sellers would find the convenience of them; he was not a member of the committee that had just sat, and though rather out of place, he would make one suggestion to them, namely—that they ought to give a premium for the best fenced farm, and also for the farm cleanest of thistles and yellow weed (*charlock*), as nothing tended more to keep good neighbourhood among farmers than good fences.

Mr. Stewart said he would be very glad to see fairs if they could be established; he did not know what about a charter; he thought we could not come into the town and establish a fair without the consent of the Corporation; he thought if we had fairs or markets we could get more for many articles that we had to sell; he, yesterday, killed a sheep, the four quarters of which weighed 141lbs, besides 14lbs of clear tallow; he could not get more offered for it than six dollars, and he thought if we had a market where there was competition he would have seven or eight dollars for it; the sheep was from the flock of our worthy President.

Mr. Alcorn said, Mr. President and Gentlemen, they were all aware that he was not a public speaker, although much has been said of the advantages, he did not think that in our present circumstances they would do us much good, until such time as we have more manufactures, and our towns become larger, to have a home market to consume our surplus produce. With regard to grain, that unless for the purpose of sale or exchange for seed, he did not think fairs would benefit us much, as the miller and merchant, who are ruled by the price in the British market, gave us generally as high a price as that market will allow them; neither did he think would fairs benefit us in the sale of fat cattle, as our butchers here were not able to lay in a large stock at once, (for want of convenience for feeding and keeping as they had in the old country), neither is our fat such a drug in the market as it used to be, for in the spring there are butchers going about from all quarters seeking fat cattle; he had always found sufficient lean stock when he wanted to purchase; still he was not opposed to fairs, and they might ultimately do good if they could be got established.

Mr. Mason said, he certainly did wish for fairs, for he had been accustomed to them from his earliest days; he thought there was one great evil, and until that was removed, fairs would do us very little good, he alluded to the want of railway communication. Our neighbours on the other side of the lake had as good a market every day as any fair we would have for a long time yet; but he did not doubt that if once we had a railroad, our market would be as good as theirs; he would certainly prefer a railroad to a fair.

Col. Cameron, Kingston, (on the call of the President) said, he thought a man's happiness in