

Agriculturist and Canadian Journal.

TORONTO, AUGUST 15, 1848.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

THE Subscribers, Retailers and Agents of the AGRICULTURIST, and all others whom it may concern, are hereby notified that the Partnership existing between William G. Edmundson and the Subscriber, in the publication of the said paper, is dissolved, in consequence of the sale by the Sheriff, on the 3rd inst., of the interest of the said W. G. Edmundson therein. All monies due on account of the paper, or for advertisements, must be paid to the Subscriber, and all business matters connected therewith can be arranged with him only.

Toronto, Aug. 4, 1848.

WM. McDOUGALL.

From the above announcement our readers will be able to understand more fully the cause of some of our difficulties. It is obviously impossible to carry on a partnership business when one of the partners is in such circumstances that he can neither furnish means nor obtain credit, and especially when the receipts of that business do not equal the expenditure. This has been the case with the *Agriculturist*, as was explained in our last number. The writer has no desire to say a word to injure either the character or the feelings of his late partner, but there are facts which are necessary to be stated, in order that he may put himself and the paper right with the public.

In the month of January, 1847, the writer was induced to join with a young friend connected with the press, in the publication of a semi-monthly paper called the *Canada Farmer*. Our object was to make it something more than a mere Journal of Agriculture—to take up and discuss certain questions connected closely with the interests of the agricultural class, yet not coming within the range of a purely agricultural paper. We fixed the price at 7s. 6d., which, compared with the expense and with the price of other papers, was considered cheap enough. Mr. Edmundson was then publishing the *Cultivator*, and, as the readers of both papers will recollect, a feeling of rivalry soon displayed itself; increased efforts were made on his part to push the *Cultivator* into circulation, and as we found them operating to our disadvantage, we were induced to lower the price of the *Farmer* to that of the *Cultivator*, and to allow the same commission to agents, trusting to a large circulation to make up the expense and loss which would thereby be sustained. The enterprise succeeded as well as we could expect under the circumstances; it was late in the season before we sent out regular travelling agents, and yet our circulation in December had reached 2030. After the last number of the first volume of the *Farmer* was issued, Mr. Edmundson called upon the writer and requested him to purchase the interest of his partner in the *Cultivator*, and join the two papers in one. After some hesitation and delay in settling the terms, upon being assured that the circulation of the *Cultivator* equalled 7000, we closed the purchase, and sent the first number to press. The agreement was, that the writer should manage the editorial department, with such assistance from Mr. E. as he could give, and that business matters, (except receiving and disbursing money,) corresponding with agents, mailing, &c. &c., should be transacted by Mr. Edmundson. During the issue of the first five numbers the writer could hardly get a sight of his new partner, and consequently had all the labor of getting out the paper, except the mailing, thrown upon his shoulders; and even up to the last number, the small share of assistance rendered by Mr. E. has rather tended to embarrass and confuse the business of the publication than otherwise. His excuse was, that from the failure of the other enterprises in which he had been engaged, his embarrassments were so great, that he found neither time nor inclination to attend to the paper. Thus the publication dragged along until the seizure of his interest therein by the Sheriff. The result of this mode of management has been, that the paper was not so well edited as the writer wished, nor has the business part of the enterprise yielded profit to the proprietors or satisfaction to the public. We might say a great deal more to show that the paper has been seriously damaged, and the prospect of establishing it on a lasting basis, even in the best hands, postponed two or three years, by the conduct of one

the proprietors, in which the writer ventures to say he can by no possibility be implicated.

But the consideration of such topics are not more uninteresting to the reader, than disagreeable to the writer; nothing more than a simple announcement of the dissolution of the partnership, and the arrangements for the future, would have been published, had it not been absolutely necessary to account for the delays and changes in the publication, and to restore, if possible, the confidence of its supporters. Such a work as the *Agriculturist*, we feel satisfied, is wanted in Canada, and with a few modifications, if properly conducted, it will, we have not the slightest doubt, receive sufficient support. In the first place, it is a grand error to publish a paper at the low price of one dollar, and to give credit. If you send out agents, you must either pay them, or allow them a commission of at least two shillings in the five. One-fourth of the credit subscriptions, it may be safely said, will never be realised, another fourth, at least, will be expended in the collection. This will leave one shilling and sixpence for each credit subscriber! about the price of the paper, and perhaps the expense of mailing! Figure the thing up as you will, we know that the practical result is even worse than this. Let those who please publish newspapers on the credit principle, we are determined to do it no longer. Papers, whose subscription price is 3 or 4 dollars, may manage it, though, we believe, many have broken down under the system, and many more have not long to live. In the case of an agricultural paper, if it is not worth a dollar, it is worth nothing, and the farmer who is not able to pay the dollar, and pay it in advance, does not want it. We would rather have a circulation of 3 or 4 thousand on the cash system, than twice or three times that number on any other.

We shall be obliged to publish the paper in its present shape till the end of the year, in consequence of not being able to get a press large enough to print a sheet which will make 32 pages, the size of those of the *Albany Cultivator*, or *American Agriculturist*. We intend to commence the volume for 1850, on the general plan of those two admirable journals, and we shall endeavor to give as much reading matter as is contained in either of them. Other points relating to the next volume, will be fully explained in future numbers of this paper.

We must here urge upon our agents the absolute necessity of collecting and transmitting what is outstanding, without delay. The paper is now largely in debt, and to carry it on till the volume is completed, and to discharge its present liabilities, will require every shilling that is due. Societies that have ordered the paper, promising to pay in the fall, will, it is hoped, remit as early in the fall as possible. If parties grumble at irregularities, and at the change from semi-monthly to monthly, all we can say, is, that we undertook what we have been unable to accomplish without twice the circulation obtained, unless we had been willing to submit to a certain loss of two or three hundred pounds, which for the reasons above stated, must have fallen on the shoulders of one partner. In spite of our disappointment and difficulties, we believe we shall be able to satisfy all the reasonable patrons of the publication.

WEEVIL IN WHEAT.—A practical farmer in our county tells us of an experiment he tried in keeping off this scourge of our wheat fields, which proved entirely successful. Last year his crops of rye and wheat were in adjoining fields, and he noticed that his wheat next the rye field was apparently unharmed by the weevil, while the remaining part of his wheat was mostly eaten up by the insect.

In the Fall of 1846, after sowing a small field with wheat, and harrowing it in one way, he sowed a peck of rye over the same ground, and harrowed it in the other way. The result is, his crop of wheat is good, stands 20 bushels to the acre, and is entirely free from the insect; while his neighbours' wheat fields, of as good soil, are wholly destroyed by the weevil, and turned to pasture. He is a firm believer that the small quantity of rye (mixed in sowing) with his wheat, saved his crop. We have seen something of this kind mentioned in the *Cultivator*, and are glad our farmers are testing the result. If the weevil will not touch wheat when rye is growing with it, the mixture should be made until the insect is exterminated.—*Oswego Times*.