

that had been discussed in the papers, and some of the farmers took to create and encourage the farmer to observations, and to understanding; and to make them accurately his own mind. Our farmers are rural capacity, but explain to others in persuasions and was afforded by a tree to express him-tribute something

Howard, Sept. 9th, 1872.

[We are pleased to hear accounts from all parts on any agricultural subject, even though at variance with our own ideas. In different localities some varieties will succeed better than others. Many may and no doubt will agree with us in the remarks we have made, especially as regards this section; even in localities further south the Scott wheat is preferred to the Deihl—Ed.]

PROPOSED TAXES ON IMPROVED ESTATES AND OTHER MATTERS.

Sir,—I send you a strip from the Montreal Witness, containing suggestions for matters to be discussed at the coming meeting of the Dominion Board of Trade.

You may notice there is a suggestion from Toronto for a tax on "improved estates of the country, in consideration of their protection and increase in value." Respecting which I would observe the same reasons might be given for a tax on improved estates in villages, and especially cities, because they too are "protected and increased in value."

I believe that last year Mr. Wilkes, of Toronto, proposed a tax on the transfer of farm lands. I wonder if the two bright ideas originated in the same fertile brain. There is a family likeness between them.

Opinions differ on most subjects; my opinion is that it would be much more consistent with the principles of political economy to tax the sale of plate and jewelry, than land. Farms are necessary to our very existence as a civilized people, but we could very well spare both Mr. W. and his goods.

Respecting our intercourse with the United States, I cannot see either sense or justice in admitting their agricultural products free, while they tax such as we sell to them. Free trade is best, but if we cannot reciprocate free trade, tax both parties alike.

Would it not benefit the country at large to have an inquiry into the circumstances under which the late horse disease originated? It might furnish hints both for the prevention and cure of it when it breaks out again, which I think is likely, for though the late outbreak is the first we know of, it may not be the last. I suppose there was a time when small-pox, cholera, diptheria, &c., were not—but they have been and will be.

A thorough search into the circumstances which originated the late very prevalent disease, and a publication of the results might throw light on epidemics in general and benefit the human race. I think many horses are seriously and permanently injured. Do you know of a reliable remedy for the cough which remains?

Is it not very desirable that we farmers should have an association to discuss and advocate our interests, the same as traders and mechanics have? There are difficulties in the way. Farming is less profitable than trade, and does not so freely furnish the funds for a liberal education, and, supposing the education to be obtained, farmers are so isolated from men in general and from each other, that an education is not of the same advantage to them, for want of social intercourse—even as it is written, "as iron sharpens iron, so doth the countenance of man his friend."

Yours, &c.,

THOS. G. SMITH.

Bramley, Jan. 8th, 1873.

[Thanks to our Bramley friend for his communication and enclosure. Will he kindly let us hear from him more frequently. We entirely concur in his opinion as to the good farmers might derive from an Association such as he recommends. He will see that we have taken up some of the topics in the Recommendations and Resolutions.—A. E.]

FRUIT GROWING IN BEVERLY.

Sir,—I believe your paper to be the most reliable, and, at the same time, the most practical agricultural journal in the country. You may publish the following if you think it of any importance:

In different parts of the country there are tracts of land so very stony and rough as to be wholly unfit for cultivation. During the summer months all vegetation is withered up, except, perhaps, a few hardy mullens growing in the fissures of the rock. Now, if the owners of this land would substitute apple trees for the mullens, it would become in a few years the most remunerative part of their farms. Thorough underdraining, so essential to the health of fruit trees, is obtained by means of the fissures in the rock. The trees send down their roots into the cracks and crevices, and obtain plenty of moisture and nourishment. The trees are hardier, healthier and freer from insects than those growing in deeper soils.

Some of your readers will probably pooch this, but if they will visit the township of Beverly they will find some thriving orchards

which look as if they were growing out of the solid rock. In our own orchard we have grape vines, peach, dwarf pear and apple trees growing in from two, four, to six inches of soil.

I will probably write an article on "Swamp muck as a fertilizer" for your next issue. Wishing every success to your valuable paper, I remain yours, etc.,

R. K. KERNIGHAN.

Rockton, Dec. 23rd, 1872.

[In this part of Ontario we are not acquainted with a soil such as our Rockton correspondent writes of. The letters of practical men, those especially who are close observers of everything connected with the land and its varied products, can never be unacceptable. We had some experience of the fertility of a rocky soil. We look for the communication he leads us to expect.—A. E.]

The following extracts demonstrate the advantages farmers derive from the Agricultural Emporium, by the satisfaction of the writers with the seeds furnished:

Sir,—I feel it my duty to inform you of my success with some seeds I purchased from you last spring.

First, one peck of King of the Earlies purchased for me by one of my neighbors, Mr. A. T. Augustine, in March last, produced eight and a half bushels of good, round potatoes, considerably earlier than the Early Rose, and plenty of Colorado Bugs in the bargain.

From one peck of your McCarling Wheat I got nine bushels and forty pounds of good, clean wheat, by weight.

I like the Advocate very well, and want to renew when my subscription expires. Wishing a happy New Year to you and success to the Advocate, I remain yours, &c.,

ISAAC BEARSS.

Arkona, Dec., 1872.

Sir,—My McCarling Wheat done well. I raised about seven pounds from the one pound received from you last spring; I sowed that and it yielded two bushels. It was a heavy crop, though not as good a sample as last year.

ROBERT BULMER.

Ross, Jan. 1st, 1873.

Sir,—I here enclose one dollar for your valuable paper, as I think it is a paper that every farmer should take.

From the twenty pounds of McCarling Wheat that I received from you, I had eight bushels and twenty pounds of nice wheat.

T. D. CREIGHTON.

Hamburg, Dec. 24th, 1872.

Our readers will kindly excuse us for publishing the extracts we give beneath from letters relative to the Farmer's Advocate and the Agricultural Emporium. In them we do not commend ourselves; we merely give a portion of what others testify of the profits they have received.

Sir,—I cannot refrain from expressing my entire satisfaction with the manner in which the Advocate, as well as the Emporium, has been conducted, and my regret that the services of one who has done so much for the farming community of this Dominion should not receive the recognition they deserve at the hands of the Government.

Your paper and Emporium are institutions of such intrinsic value to the farmers of this country that the number of your patrons must soon be such as to make their influence felt even in our Legislative halls—when, I trust, they will not be slow to appreciate the enterprise as well as devotion to agricultural interests, with which you have conducted your business.

WALTER FINDLAY.

Westmeath, Dec. 28th, 1872.

GOVERNMENT IMPORTATION.

Sir,—A heavy snow storm has lasted all week, and the roads are drifted full. The farmers can do nothing but attend to their animals and keep them as warm and well fed as possible—hard enough to do, as the frost is intense. Plenty of time now for farmers to write for the Advocate, as you want them to and as they should do.

I wish to aid you with my very small modicum of influence in going against a Government turning farmer or importing stock. It may all be very well at first, but is sure to end in a job some day. Canadian farmers have done well and are doing well, without any such manoeuvres. All we want is fair play—"a fair field and no favor."

The Hon. George Brown is one of our largest importers, and it seems to me his interest would be to go dead against the proposed Government scheme; but there are wheels within wheels.

Respectfully yours,

A HUBBARD FARMER.

[A farmer's opinion of the Government scheme of importing improved farm stock furnishes additional testimony that our opposition to the project is judicious and opportune.]

Sir,—You will find enclosed the sum of two dollars, payment for my own and Thomas Bean's Advocate for the present year. I may just state that I like the Advocate better than ever, and I think that no farmer should be without it. Every number contains such a fund of information as will not be easily dispensed with by the practical agriculturist.

I think that the Emporium is also doing a vast amount of good in the country in dispensing new kinds of seeds, &c. The pound of McCarling wheat which I purchased from you in the spring of '71, yielded in that year 63 pounds. After losing a little by waste, I sowed what I had in the spring of '72 on a little less than an acre of land, and it yielded 30 bushels of good, clean wheat, and this with only ordinary cultivation. I still think that it is an excellent variety, and well worthy the favorable consideration of the farmers of Canada.

Yours truly,

WM. BEAN.

Brooksedale, January, 1873.

PROFITS FROM AN AGRICULTURAL PAPER.

Sir,—During the past year I have gathered much useful information from your journal, which has been regularly received. I have followed its advice to a great extent in conducting my farm, and always with profit.

I enclose you the amount of my subscription, which is a small item compared with the profits which have accrued to me from the use of one of its receipts only. Very truly,

WM. P. COCHRAN.

Richwood, Dec. 28th, 1872.

[In reply to Mr. Cochran, we have merely to say that we hope the Advocate for 1873 will be superior even to what it has been. Our aim is to make it worthy of the patronage it has received.]

A GOOD RECIPE.

Sir,—I have a recipe, which, if properly applied, has an amazing good effect upon farmer's boys, keeping them at home in the evenings when they ought to be there, and making them love home better than any other place on earth. Here are the ingredients:

Make them partners with you; give them to understand that they are interested in the success of the farming operations as much as you are yourself. Converse freely with them. Get their opinions, and give them yours; if at all prudent, make use of their plans, and when you think your own best, explain to them why you do not adopt theirs. Don't keep them altogether in the dark with reference to your plans in the future.

Don't require them to stay at home in the evenings all the time; when there is any meeting or entertainment from which they might receive benefit, be sure to let them go. Provide them with plenty of good books and papers, especially those referring to agriculture. Let them get well posted in their own business—farming.

Never scold them because they don't do their work or attend to the business of the farm as well as you do. Encourage them. Give them a holiday now and then; they look for it and they need it; and it will be better for you and them to let them have it.

Farmers, try my recipe; it acts like a charm.

J. LAWSON.

Battersea, Dec. 1th, 1872.

Charles Skelding, of Nisour, Devises Post Office, writes to tell us of the profits he has derived from breeding from a good sire.

Three years ago he paid for the services of "Anglo Saxon," \$15. Some of his neighbors called him a fool for his extravagance in paying such a sum. They paid \$5 for the service of another sire, and now they would willingly give six of their cows for his one. None of theirs is worth more than \$60, while for his he has been offered \$375. His enquiry is: Who made the best bargain?

EXPORTING FRUIT.

Sir,—As you are asking for information, perhaps you would like to know the result of my experience in shipping apples. On the 30th of October I shipped 400 barrels of apples, principally from my own orchard, consisting of Spitzenburgs, Rhode Island Greenings, Northern Spies, Snow Apples, and various kinds of Russets. I shipped to Gilbey & Co., Liverpool. I here give an extract from their letter:

"Your apples are received, and are the best we have ever received from Canada; in fact, some of them brought more than the choicest brands from the United States. The prices ranged from 20 to 25 shillings sterling, per barrel."

ROBT BENTLEY.

Metcalf, Jan. 1st, 1873.

A FAIR TEST.

Sir,—If all agriculturists, no matter whether tyroes or not, would report the result of the different varieties they have tested, we would constantly be in possession of information sufficient to guide us in the selection of the most profitable cereals for seed.

The best varieties cannot be too highly commended, neither can the poor varieties be too strongly condemned, from the fact that the farmer's dividends are vastly affected thereby.

To carry out practically the suggestion just stated, I give what I call a fair test of three varieties which I sowed last spring. I purchased one bushel of the McCarling wheat and one of the April. These were sown on the same day, in the same field, side by side, and the remainder of the field was sown with what I purchased for the Golden Drop, but which I think is Club wheat. The McCarling variety yielded about sixteen, the April eight, and the Golden Drop twenty-five bushels per acre. The McCarling, though not answering my expectations, I think is a good variety; it has a large plump grain, and stands up well. I intend to try it again.

The April Wheat. I must say, notwithstanding its flattering advertisement (see April No. of Advocate for 1872, page 64) is the worst wheat I have ever seen; it will laid down flat and was badly rusted; it has a long, hollow grain. The sample sent me for seed resembled drawings more than anything else. There is not one commendable quality in it. Such importations of seed from Great Britain or any other place are not, in my opinion, well calculated to promote the interests of Canadian farmers.

The Golden Drop or Club will, I think, when the weevil lets it alone, equal any of the new varieties.

P. D.

Cannington, Jan. 6th, 1873.

[As we have the writer's name, we publish the above. We do not hold ourselves accountable for advertisements that may appear in this paper. The April Wheat we have not advertised in our Seed List.—Ed.]

FIRST PRIZE ESSAY ON TURNIPS.

I here offer my plan on turnip culture. Take out stubble ground, plough after harvest crosswise of the lands, let it lie about two weeks to allow any small grass or seeds to sprout then harrow well lie three weeks longer, then apply a coat of well rotted manure, ridge it up in ridges about thirty-six inches in width in the direction best calculated to carry off the water, the ridges to be as high as can be thrown, for the following reasons:—The manure being in the ridge prevents its juices from being carried away by the water; the frost will better pulverize the earth: the surface water will be taken off leaving the ground dry and leamy instead of being water soaked, as is the case when ploughed in lands; the manure will be dissolved and retained in the ridge, and the ground will be dry in the spring, instead of being wet and sodden. After seeding in the spring harrow the ground crosswise of the ridges; plough in the same direction as harrowing; then harrow again and the land will be fine and leamy, owing to its lying dry and the pulverizing action of the frost; apply a light coat of short manure; then ridge up about thirty inches in width; sow one and a half pounds of seed to the acre, between the 12th and 18th of June. The turnip will soon throw its fibrous roots into the manure in the centre of the ridge; then good bye to the flies. A little land plaster may be applied to the turnips if chosen or not, but it will put the plant forward to escape the flies. Hoe and cull as soon as it will not injure the turnip. Do not let the turnips or weeds (especially the latter) get a start; single them to about 12 inches, according to the situation and nature of the soil; keep the weeds down before the turnips covers the row. Commence taking them in about the 25th Oct., according to the quality of the ground and the force employed. Leave all machines in the lane, hang your coat on the fence and go to work with a will, pulling off top tail and putting four rows into one, and you will be better satisfied after than in leaving the roots on to carry a large quantity of dirt into the cellar, causing the turnips to heat and rot, besides the filthy state they are in when cut for the cattle.

These suggestions I respectfully offer

J. JOHN SAVAGE, Gornley, P.O.