

FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE —AND— Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Published in the Dominion.

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The Month.

The season is unusually late. On some farms nothing has been done to this date, April 26th; the grass has hardly shown the symptoms of life, and very little seed has been sown. We look on a late spring with much better hopes for a good harvest than an early one. The winter wheat looks well. The fruit buds are kept back. The live stock are in a better position to thrive than when let out too soon and then re-housed.

Everything betokens a good harvest at the present, as there is ample time to put in the spring crops if we now have fine weather. Should we have much rain they will not be put in in good order, as everything must be done in a hurry this spring; but most farmers have their land ready, and the machinery will soon put in the seed.

We again repeat our advice: Get and keep every good farm animal you can attend to well; we anticipate good paying prices for good meat of all kinds. One week after shearing your sheep dip the lambs and kill the ticks; this will pay in increased mutton and wool. Keep the calves thriving; a little linseed or corn-meal added to their feed when they are fit to take more or better milk than you have for them, will put cash in your pocket.

The tabular market reports in this issue deserve your particular attention. The small quantity of butter and the large quantity of cheese held in Liverpool—the low price of grain and the large stock held should tend to show the thoughtful farmer in which direction to turn his attention. We have given you our opinion in previous issues and again repeat it: Make more butter on the factory system and less by the hand churn; pay

less attention to wheat and more to stock raising; more forage crops and more roots; seed to grass; keep all the young stock you can possibly attend to well; feed them better; keep them growing; do not stint them, but give them a chance to fill themselves quickly. The farmer whose cattle are seen lying in the sun in the morning and in the shade in mid-day, will buy his neighbor's farm who keeps his cattle hunting all day for a bite to eat. That man who brags about having plowed and sown two acres of wheat a day for ten days in succession, will grumble about buying his wife a new calico dress next fall; he will say he cannot afford it. We know how it has been and will be; seven or fourteen bushels of wheat per acre will not pay. Good meat, good butter and good useful horses will pay best this year. There was a time when poor butter, poor cheese and poor meat were sold and left a profit to the farmer; that day is passed in Ontario. If you cannot raise a first-class commodity now you may just as well leave this part of the Dominion and emigrate first as last. In the Western and Southern States, in sparsely settled districts, where emigrants are pouring in and provisions are scarce, or where they are not in a position to supply the epicurean tastes of the British nation, high prices may be obtained for inferior stuff; but the price of land here is such and the taste of the people is such that a third-class article is not wanted. Aim to surpass your neighbor in raising the best produce; then you may be able to leave an unencumbered farm to your heirs.

The Farmers' Representatives.

Do not put yourselves out much for the elections; better pair off and stay at home than vote for so many representatives. Look on the present state of affairs with calm thought and ask yourself if your representative is not directing his attention far more to party pilferings than to the real interest of the Dominion. You should know most about the agricultural part of legislature; that is your line. Get well posted in that; do not be led away with clap-traps that are beyond your sphere.

Canada has been pronounced the brightest gem in the British Crown. We have been blessed with a healthy climate, a productive soil, an immense domain, the finest water privileges, excellent railroad facilities, and timber and mineral wealth. Let us ask ourselves: Have they been managed to the best advantage? Is Canada in as good a position as she ought to be? Can improvements yet be made? On what grounds have we stumbled? Has it not been by grants of privileges and rights, and expenditures to purchase party influence? Should we not have money in our treasury, or invested in paying improvements, instead of having a heavy and increasing debt? We must pay our debts. Is our new tariff framed for such a purpose and without regard to party? If it is framed in the interests of individuals and private parties, we should express our disapproval; if not,

we should rather aid than attempt to obstruct. We ought to judge calmly and look at both sides of the question.

It is an undeniable fact that in too many localities the smallest affairs—even to the election of pathmaster and poundkeeper—are conducted on such issues as the following: Is he a Protestant or Catholic? an Oddfellow or Mason? a Reformer or Conservative? and so forth. Thus too often a cramped, bound and trameled man is put into power and an honest freeman is rejected; although an honest, straightforward man will not aspire for office under such circumstances. Some unprincipled person will fish for nomination to office, and supporters are easily bought and induced to support almost anybody. Thus our offices—from poundkeeper to M. P.—are filled, and because of so many cliques and such disreputable modes of carrying elections, many of the most suitable men will not accept office.

If you have a free, untrameled, independent man in your riding, and that person has commonsense and real, unencumbered property, prefer him to any fettered slave. No prisoner can act freely. The sums expended for education should now give us free men and men of judgment. Do not make yourself a slave; keep free and do not pledge yourself, but use your own judgment unshackled in the coming election.

Board of Agriculture and Arts.

The Board of Agriculture and Arts of Ontario recently held a meeting in Ottawa. The only work we have heard of being done was to curtail the prize list. The enormous expense of this large and cumbersome body in travelling such an unnecessarily long distance to hold their meetings makes it necessary to cut the prize list down. Why go so far? Why have so many members? If the people of Quebec paid half the expenses then the Board might with propriety hold their meetings and exhibitions on the line. We should be pleased to hear what other business was done. Where is all the money gone that the late R. L. Dennison paid to the Association. We have long since said that there was something too mysterious about its transactions. The last time that we were in the Board room a member moved that the apartment be cleared of strangers, so we took the hint, and since that day the Board has had a downward tendency. The farmers are now aware that they have paid too much for nothing. A day of reckoning is at hand.

A company has been formed in Fredericton, named the New Brunswick Sugar Company, to cultivate the early amber sugar cane, and to erect a factory to make sugar and syrups; capital, \$5,000, in ten shares. Some \$1,400 were subscribed at once. Farmers have already bought cane seed to plant.