

FARMERS' INTERESTS.

FRIEND WELD.—There is plenty of room for the discussing of the position of the farming class in Canada. From the peculiarity of our commercial relations, however, we are almost powerless, and it appears futile to discuss the question for two reasons, one is—few take the trouble to investigate the disadvantages we labor under, and if they did they are met by obstacles which appear almost insurmountable; and the other reason is we have the whole Press of the country against us; they are like a certain class of whom it was said, "They lay previous barrens upon us, but will not so much as lay their fingers to it themselves." Why is it that every serious of production in Canada is protected against foreign competition? while the farming class are compelled to compete against the world, it may be said, while every other industry has a stimulus by way of a percentage.

Wool is imported free of duty, but if we happen to have a quality or fibre in demand in the market which we have, we are met by a duty of ten per cent. per lb.

It is a fact well known that corn is admitted free of duty, which article affects injuriously the price of oats and peas.

Wheat and flour is being imported in immense quantities, and, of course, affects prices to our disadvantage. We have, if we happen to cross over with a car load of sheep or cattle, 20 per cent is demanded and taken. Every one does not know, but they might, if time was taken to investigate, that twenty-five hundred per cent. of the products of Ontario cross the lines to the south of us, on which we are paying 20 to 30 per cent to obtain it at market. But there is another side to the question, which we must not lose sight of, that is, add the import duties on cotton and woollen goods, hardware, etc., and it makes a round 50 per cent., or nearly so, that the farmer is obliged to submit to; is there any other class similarly situated in the Dominion? Now, Mr. Editor, you will be kind enough to speak, if you find these things really exist, and we shall be under obligations if you can demonstrate that they do not. To illustrate one particular article:—When potatoes are scarce, why, they are imported free of duty, but when they are a good crop, the duty against us is almost prohibitory. It certainly is a very humiliating position for a class of the community who represent so large a portion of the whole as farmers—they have not so much as a single paper to speak for them. I do not wish by this to be understood as disparaging the day of small things, but who hath believed our report—or who cares or imagines if these things are so?

I believe support is efficient can be obtained to make your paper independent. A competency is essential to an open, fair discussion of our situation. But if you speak only twelve times a year, and others three hundred, or fifty-two even, your call for aid and rescue must be prodigious to make even a show of opposition, but which is a fact, if they hear you only once a month, it is easy to infer you are silenced, sunk, or disabled. But you may very naturally ask, what course is necessary to pursue to interest the farmers in your support and make a mutual and reciprocal interest? why, you just tell them how to obtain a large percentage over present prices, and that they can, by certain justifiable legislation, improve their farms. If good ones, twenty dollars per acre. That little manufacturing interests will spring up all over the Province, and the large manufacturers will double their production, that twenty millions of our money that now goes out of the country to pay for goods will be paid to our own people; that it will be circulating among the farmers and mechanics, and that the Bank of Montreal will not use for its circulation this side of the lines, instead of speculating with its gold in Wall Street; that, instead of drawing capital and interest out of the country, it will contribute. Your Emporium is a good thing—how it pays. Only wish your territory were equal to your abilities, and your aims and operations were equal to the wants of the whole community, which you could so readily supply. I make no apologies for the length of this article. Who will speak next?

Yours, DR. BROWN.

Paris, Dec. 12, 1872.

MALARIA.

Analogous diseases seems to pervade the animal and vegetable world—indicated by the periodical visitation of epidemic maladies, viz:—cholera, cattle plague, potato blight, odium in grapes, and mould in hops. The primary cause no longer remains in obscurity, being clearly traced to the baneful influence of malaria, widely diffused, and always attended with sad consequences. The deadly poison can, however, be soon decomposed, and its virulence subdued, by proper chemical agents, easily provided and safely used. It is well known that the gem like dew drop is charged with electricity, and when impregnated with marsh miasmata or noxious gases, combine deleterious elements, which, inhaled by the

lungs, vitiate the blood, engender various disorders, and often prove fatal to human life. Silk being a non conductor, respirators contrived chiefly of that material will afford protection from the infected vapor, obviate the dangers incidental to exposure and achieve the object designed. A simple method is suggested for purifying foul or contaminated air, which will be found on trial peculiarly effective in restoring a wholesome condition, while involving a small outlay in application, and little skill in performance. The expedient consists of burning green wood refuse, branches of trees and collected weeds, with a sprinkling of sulphur and lime, at convenient spots in the several gardens, vineyards, or hop grounds on the appearance of night fogs, and repeating the experiment when necessary. The operation will serve as an inducement to eradicate wasteful plants, followed with the advantage of increasing the growth of profitable crops. The antiseptic qualities of pyroligneous acid are duly valued and successfully tested. The system of lighting bivouac fires in military encampments, and in the Campagna, near Rome, at harvest time, has been long practiced for sanitary purposes, to dispel malarial effluvia and destroy the germs of disease. The custom that has existed in Ireland for ages, of lighting fires through out the country on the eve of St. John's day, and chasing the cattle in the field with burning bushes, regarded by many as a Pagan rite of Baal worship, probably originated in precautions against murrain, usually prevalent at midsummer, displaying simple devices to purify the atmosphere by means of fumigation, and stimulate perspiration in the animals by active exercise to preserve health. Among the measures advisable for abating pestilence and preventing the spread of contagion, fumigating deserves special notice. The process, correctly conducted with right ingredients, seldom fails to produce satisfactory results. The fumes of burning coal tar, mixed with oakum, aid beneficially in relieving asthma, whooping cough, and other pulmonary complaints. New Orleans journals remarked that during the outbreak of yellow fever in that city, persons engaged in gas works and in laying asphalt pavement escaped from attack amid unprecedented mortality. Gunpowder, ignited in a damp stable, or otherwise artificially prepared, exhibits rare disinfecting powers, arising from the united action of sulphur, carbon, nitre and hydrogen gas. The fact is recorded that the cholera at Paris, in the year of its last visit, suddenly ceased, just after a grand display of fireworks. It is worthy of observation that Lisdoonvara, in the County Clare, has been invariably exempt from cholera while raging in the vicinity, doubtless owing to exhalations from sulphur springs which abound in that locality. The properties of sulphur are, as yet, imperfectly understood; but when its intrinsic worth becomes fully developed, a reasonable expectation is indulged, that an article largely consumed in the business of destruction, may, ere long, be wisely rendered available for a more noble pursuit, in mitigating some of the ills which flesh is heir to, and, favored with divine blessing, confer signal blessings on mankind.—*M. J. Keating, Dean of Kilferonora.*

OUR FORESTS.

What are we to do for wood and timber in the next generation is becoming a very serious question. It is estimated that eight millions of acres are stripped of their forests every year to supply the wants of our present population. If these eight millions were left to grow up to wood again, or if a large territory were planted every year, the fall of the forest would excite no alarm. But this is not the case. There is absolutely no system in our preservation of forests, and almost every landowner follows the impulse of immediate profit. A very large proportion of our farming population use wood for fuel, and the destruction of forests from this source is immense. On almost every cultivated farm the breadth of forest is steadily waning. If there be any exception to this rule it is in the older States, where the agricultural population does not increase. Our railroads consume large quantities

for fuel, and the draft for ties is very large. Every mile of railroad calls for two thousand ties, and these do not last more than seven or eight years. One only needs to visit the lumber regions in any of the States to comprehend the rapid disappearance of forests from these large tracts put down in the census returns as uncultivated lands. The steady advance in the price of lumber in all the older States is probably the best measure we have of the extent of the evil. Concerning the influence of this destruction of forests upon the rainfall and the climate there is much discussion and some difference of opinion. There can be no doubt that climate is softened by the shelter which woodland is afforded. A belt of evergreens inclosing a garden in any of our Northern States will virtually remove it three hundred miles south. The ground is not frozen so deep in winter, the snow disappears earlier, and fruits and flowers can be grown with certainty that can not be raised outside. The advantages of shelter are conceded by our best cultivators. The rainfall may or may not be increased by the forests. It is conceded by all that the rain which does come is more evenly distributed, and that there is much less liability of damage from floods or drought. It is pretty well settled in European countries that the welfare of the farmer interest demands that at least one fifth of the whole surface of a country should be kept in forest. More crops, and of better quality, can be drawn from four fifths of the land with this protection than from the whole without it.—*From American Agriculturist.*

TO PRESERVE POULTRY IN WINTER.

This is a matter not fully understood, and for the information of the general reader we can not do better than to give the mode practiced by the venerable Judge Buel, in preserving poultry in winter. He says:—"I purchased a quantity of poultry for winter use early in November. Their sides were carefully drawn, and their place partially filled with charcoal, and the poultry hung in an airy loft. It was used through the winter, till about the first of February, and although some were kept seventy days none of it was the least affected with must or taint, the charcoal having kept it perfectly sweet."—*Lewis' Poultry Book.*

GROOMING HORSES.

Though suitable and properly prepared food is the prime requisite for the horse, regular grooming holds the second place in the management of him. A man who omits the customary ablutions at stated times—who goes for days or weeks with uncombed hair, may exist—but does not live in the proper sense of the word. So of the horse. Grooming is alike essential to looks, health and elasticity of action. The curry-comb and card should be brought into daily requisition, nor should the clipping shears be omitted. Fetlocks bedraggled with mud, unkempt and tangled mane, detract much from the appearance of the animal, repress his ambition, and hence diminish his usefulness. A man who neglects the regular grooming of his horse, is an enemy both to the beast and himself; to them because he withholds labor which is their due, and to himself because he depreciates the value of his own property.—*Live Stock Journal.*

TANNING SHEEP SKINS WITH THE WOOD OX.—The following directions are from the American Artisan:—Take the skin upon a board with the flesh side out, and then scrape with a blunt knife; next rub it over hard with pulverized chalk until it will absorb no more. Then take the skin from the board, and cover it with pulverized alum; double half way over with the flesh side in contact; then roll tight together and keep dry for three days, after which unfold it and stretch it on a board or door, and dry in the air, and it will be ready for use.

EFFECT OF TURNIPS ON SOIL.—Prof. Voelcker says, in the Mark Lane Express, that by far the largest proportion of the fertilizing substances contained in the turnip crop, probably about seven-eighths, is returned to the ground, and if the crop is consumed by the sheep on the field only about one-eighth of the materials useful as manure is carried away by the sheep in the form of bone, and the nitrogenous matter, which enters into the composition of the animal organism.

A country youth inquired at a city drug store for ten cents worth of "love powders"; "something that couldn't stir her up much, but make her dream of him at nights." The urbane druggist's clerk put up some magnesia, and cautioned the purchaser not to give his victim too much of it at a time, but rather win her affection by degrees.

Parties are now given in Boston at which the word 'fire' is interdicted. People are shied of it. 'Conflagration' creates convulsions and 'insurance' induces suicide.

A young man who went West a few months ago, has sent only one letter home. It came Friday. It said, 'send me a wig,' and his fond parents don't know whether he is scalped or married.

An advertisement in a St. Paul (Minn.) paper reads: Persons who have contracted debts to B. F. Simmons are forbidden to make payment thereof except to the undersigned.—Mrs. B. F. Simmons.

An original Pennsylvania editor comes out fairly and squarely. He calls his paper 'An airy old sheet, devoted to wind, whiskey, wickedness and other religious matters. Vox Populus, Vox Belzebub.'

The city editor of the Indianapolis Sentinel speaks of the sprightly lunatic who preides over the city department of the Journal.—The Journal retorts by a gentle allusion to the idiotic wanderer temporarily roosting on the local columns of the Sentinel.

An Alabama editor mildly alludes to his rival as a 'reservoir of falsehood and an aqueduct of mendacity'; whereupon his rival retorts by referring to his contemporary as a 'bottomless pit of infamy and an earthquake of blasphemy.'

King Baby.

His sceptre is a rattle,
His throne is mother's arms;
He reigns a tiny tyrant,
In all his diptid charms!
Yet round his royal presence
Our loving hearts entwined;
Dictator of the cradle,
And king by right divine!

Whatever be his mandates,
No courtiers dare rebel;
His mother's chief of the household,
Prime minister as well!
In yon perambulator
His d'way car of state,
Exacting easy moult,
What triumphs on him wait!

In purple ease and splendor,
Long, long he seeks to reign;
All hints of nose disjunct
He sniffs at with disdain!
Alas! that royal greatness
Should ever be disowned;
Here comes a tiny stranger—
King Baby is dethroned.

—*From the Aldine for November.*

UNCLE TOM'S COLUMN.

We put this out of acrobats in again this month, because nearly every one disagrees as to the number in it. The answers have been five, nine, ten, and fourteen. Now, Uncle Tom says there are ten, that is, two on each head. Mr. Weld says nine, so how are we to decide? We have determined to leave it to those who write this month. Let each one of you examine the puzzle, and send his or her opinion to us, and then we will decide by the majority.



PRIZES FOR THE OF PUZZLE.

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4. A kind of gr
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