

THE MONTHLY FARMERS' ADVOCATE

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DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY.

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WILLIAM WELD,
Editor and Proprietor.

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The Farmer's Advocate

(ENLARGED)

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The Farmer's Advocate

LONDON, ONT., MAY, 1870.

Is the Interest of the Farmer Attended to.

No one will pretend to deny the fact that our cereals and root crops degenerate from repeated sowing, and numbers of varieties that, when first introduced, were found to be very productive and profitable, have, from continued resowing and planting, caused a great loss to the farmers in every section of the country. Nearly every farmer will substantiate this.

There are persons that, from careful culture and judicious croppings, and by making fresh importations, have done good service to the country, by providing us with new kinds of different seeds. Much more has been done by the Americans in this way than by us, for every new sort of seed that has been of any service to us, as far as our own experience has gone, has been procured from them. We know not of a single instance where any really good wheat, oat, pea, barley, potato, strawberry,

apple, grape, cucumber, melon or squash, has originated with us.

There has been a great talk of Platt's Midge-proof Wheat, Arnold's Grapes, Bishop's Strawberries, &c., &c.,—but what good are either of them? The most important vegetable we have is the potato.—The best kind we could raise were the Pink Eyes. They failed to yield a remunerative crop, with but few exceptions.—For the past three years the American new varieties that have been tried in numerous parts of Canada, have been found to do well, in many instances yielding four times as much as our old varieties, and in some cases one hundred times more.

Our present protectors of agricultural interests have now put a duty on Seeds imported from the States. They promise to aid Agriculture and protect our interests. Can this be for our interest? We fail to see it. Money is required to carry on the government of any country, and various ways are adopted in this age. Would it not be better to lessen the heavy burdens that are laid on the poorest, the worst paid, the hardest worked class we have.—Yes, the poor, backwoods settlers, who are striving to pay for their land, and from whom all our revenue must directly or indirectly be derived, are the heaviest taxed class in the country. If they raise money enough to pay for an agricultural paper—and scores have written us stating that they really cannot get sufficient money to pay for the Advocate even at its present low rate—then the government takes directly out of our pocket one quarter of the sum that each subscriber pays us for his paper. Is that not a tax on farmers?—Political papers are not dealt with in this way. Many a poor, honest farmer, sends us 20 cents for a small package of a new kind of seed, to endeavor to raise something more profitable; and government receives from each of these 4 ounce packages, 5 cents for postage, besides the duty charged when the seed is imported. The very rags and tatters that our farmer's and working men's children are clad in, are now additionally taxed; and even the salt they put in their mush is now taxed. Some others are not half as heavily taxed, in proportion to their ability to pay, as the farmers.

Let our government tax the incomes, the carriages, buggies and horses, the jewelry, plate, liquor bottles, glass, and all luxuries, and by this means relieve the necessities of

life, and the means for producing them.—Agricultural papers should not be taxed, nor the seed that the farmer requires to sow his land. Hundreds of our farmers are leaving the country every month, and we do not wonder at it; for the farmer's interests are not advanced even by the money which he pays to government, under the name of being for agricultural advancement. It is being, and has been, expended more for his detriment than for his benefit. Tax your very seeds! Whose doing is this?

We respectfully solicit the attention of our Government to the following letter:

Comber, April 3, 1870,

Wm. Weld, Esq.,—Dear Sir,—As my year's subscription is about expiring, I wish you to stop my paper. I am living on a bush farm, and my means are so limited that every dollar is of moment. I have received the greatest pleasure in reading its contents; it is only necessity that induces me to limit my pleasure. Wishing you the best success, I am, etc.,

G. B. SCOTT.

Agricultural Affairs.

Nothing can be more injurious to the prosperity of Agriculture, than to attempt to make public institutions connected with it, political machines. Such is and has been too much the case in this city.

The cities generally rule the country in most matters, and they manage to do so pretty effectually in agriculture. A private meeting of managers has been held, and the reporters' presence carefully excluded. If the agricultural affairs of our county cannot be openly discussed, and publicly made known, we must conclude that darkness is preferable to light.

If the powers that be really wish for the prosperity of agriculture, why do they not organize a public farmer's club, and allow open discussion?

Would not a monthly, or quarterly, free fair be of more advantage than a three days' exhibition, where buyers and sellers both have to pay 20 cents every time they go on the ground, and farmers are compelled to remain in the city over two nights when they take anything to it.

Scarcely a sale took place at the last fair held here; yet there are those that would wish it considered a great success.

Yet another Humbug Exposed.

Such has been the rivalry among some Seedsmen in the city during the present spring, that to be able to supply those farmers who run from store to store in quest of the cheapest Seeds, a very light colored sand has been introduced into Clover Seed, increasing the weight over 25 per cent.—We do not say that it has been practiced by many, but one such instance has come before our notice. Purchase your Seeds from reliable dealers, such as Simpson and Rowland. There is a great deal of humbug in the seed business, and it appears the greatest humbugs make the most money, and gull the farmers that do not know it.

We have some very grave doubts about the Norway Oat being a new variety. We think some of the American journals may be in error, either wilfully or not we cannot say. But it should convince the Legislature of Canada that there should be a place in our own country where proper tests could be made of any new varieties. The White Willow humbug must have taken \$100,000 from our farmers, and the Everlasting Strawberry nearly as much. The Norway Oats must have taken more, and what is to prevent these unscrupulous vendors from fleecing our farmers with repeated humbugs?

Are there not really genuine and good varieties to be procured? And should there not be some means of giving information to farmers of what is going on.—We should have issued an extra to caution some from touching them too heavily, but the postage and cost prevented us.

Politics.

Farmers of Canada! Be alive to your own interests. No man that has read the Farmer's Advocate since its commencement, can accuse this paper of favoring either political party. The sole object has been to make it an independent agricultural journal, devoted to the interests of practical farming. Remember, every other Canadian paper we have seen is mainly supported by political parties, for political purposes; Canada is not peculiar in this. You cannot form a correct judgment by hearing only one side of a question. We have spared neither time nor money to advocate your interests to the present time. We now give you a large, handsomely em-