

THE CANADIAN FARMER AND MECHANIC.

TO PROMOTE THE COUNTRY'S WEALTH AND THE PEOPLE'S GOOD.

VOL. I.

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The Farmer & Mechanic.

TO OUR PATRONS.

That agricultural papers, judiciously conducted, are beneficial to any agricultural country, will not, it is presumed, be doubted. But should any doubt this, we would direct their attention for a moment to those countries where agriculture flourishes, and the farming interest is most extensive; and let it be asked, what are the means by which this high state of agriculture has been attained? Look to England, Scotland, Germany and Belgium. England within the last half century has doubled, and Scotland has tripled her annual amount of produce. Germany and Belgium from being the worst cultivated and poorest countries in the European catalogue, are now counted as the best agricultural sections of Europe—the cultivation of the soil most judiciously and scientifically conducted there. Three hundred years ago their fore-fathers raised only about one-fourth or one-sixth as much as is raised at present. How is this accounted for? The soil is the same, the climate the same, or nearly so, the same race of people cultivate the soil. Why then, this astonishing change? But one answer can be given—it is effected by the improved system of agriculture.

As population increased, a corresponding increase of the productions of the soil was required, and to effect this the best aids of those countries were called into requisition. Men of the best genius and most profound research sedulously applied themselves to the development of those great truths on which the science of agriculture is based. Experiments were made, theories were tried, and adopted or discarded as experience dictated. The light of science shone on the path-way of the practical operator, illuminating his mind and lightening his labors, giving him assurance of a more bountiful and pleasing result; and at length the agriculturalist awoke from the slumbers that had bound him, and throwing off the shroud of ignorance that for ages had enveloped the profession of agriculture, stood forth disenthralled and unencumbered, in the dignity of manhood, asserting the rights and claiming the honors due to his exalted and honest employment. Those honors were accorded, and agriculture in those countries ranks high in public estimation. As an evidence of this go to the "fairs" of England, Scotland and Ireland. There you will witness immense crowds of very respectable people exhibiting the choicest productions of the land, the best cattle and the finest horses; and mingled

see noble Lords, Dukes and Earls, striving with the gentry of the land to be foremost in the exhibition of the choicest stock, or vying with their rival neighbors in rewarding the labors of industry, and in bestowing prizes on the fortunate winner.

It is our privilege, and not only our privilege but duty, in some measure to redeem this country from its present degradation. This is easily done, and certainly will be done if the wealthy and honorable classes will, as it is their duty and interest to do, take a stand in favor of it. Indeed, we believe this will be done immediately. Honorable members of the Legislature are embracing the cause of agriculture; its claims are being examined, its importance acknowledged; the fostering care of government has taken it under its protection; agricultural societies have been and are being established; a general interest is being awakened on the subject; and nothing seems to be so much called for at present, to aid its progress, as a periodical devoted to and advocating the interests of agriculture.

But hitherto it has been thought impossible to sustain an agricultural paper in Canada. However, this we are not prepared to believe. To us it appears strange and unaccountable that in a country claiming a population of nearly a million of people, and five-sevenths of that population are directly or indirectly connected with agriculture, the people cannot support an agricultural paper at the insignificant sum of five shillings per year!

We believe the Agricultural Societies of this Province will liberally aid us, as government aids them, and we have the fullest assurance, as stated elsewhere, of the aid of the first men of the Province. The object of this paper is to advocate the interests of the great producing classes of this Province, and as the mechanics constitute the next largest class of practical operators, and as the interest of the mechanic and farmer are closely connected, and as their interests are unaided by any periodical published in this country, we have been induced to publish a paper under the title of the *Canadian Farmer and Mechanic*, devoted to the united interests of both.

Believing that the general weal of the country requires such a periodical, and that the interests of all classes will be subserved by it, we throw ourselves on the public for its support, craving their forbearance of its imperfections, earnestly but respectfully soliciting their approbation and patronage to facilitate its speedy and extensive circulation.

OUR PAPER.

We shall send several hundred copies of this paper to persons who are not subscribers, and we wish those who receive it, if they do not like to take it, will try to procure a subscriber for it in their stead. By taking a little trouble we are sure many hundred subscribers may be added to our list. But those who do not wish to take it, and will not procure a subscriber for it, we wish would return their paper to the office, at Kingston. If due diligence is used, few returns need be made.

This paper contains more reading matter in each number than any paper in the Province of Canada, and illustrated as many of the subjects will be by good engravings, will be not only the best, but the most useful and by far the cheapest published in this country. Here the farmer and the mechanic will have the market price corrected monthly; the former will know for what he can sell, the latter for what he can buy any article in the market. A summary of the news of the month, domestic and foreign, will be given. Notices of the progress of improvement in arts and agriculture will be faithfully furnished, forming just such a paper as the country has long required, and all this for as trifling a price as can be asked. It strikes us that a farmer cannot be found in Canada whose conscience would not upbraid him to ask for such a paper, containing so much useful information, at a less price than five shillings per year.

But it must be remembered that the expense of publishing is great, and requires cash down. Therefore, we must insist on immediate payment being made. Were we to credit, the sum is so trifling, that, scattered over a large country, the expense of collecting would be ruinous. We make this statement that our friends and the public may see the propriety of the request.

APOLOGY.—DELAY.

On issuing our proposals in May last, it was our intention to publish in June following, but being a busy season of the year and the farmers much engaged at home, the returns of subscriptions had been but partial, up to the time we had proposed to publish. Besides, when we came to make inquiry, it was found that no office in town was sufficiently extensive to publish their own and our paper. The consequence was, they had to order a new stock of type and materials for printing this work. At length, the work is before the public, they will judge of its merits, and approve or condemn accordingly.