

On the Wing.

TO OTTAWA.

After completing our labors on the February issue, we took a trip to Ottawa to see the Minister of Agriculture about the dangers that threaten our greatest agricultural interest, that is, the health of our flocks and herds, which is in danger of being injured by dangerous diseases.

We called at the office of the Minister of Agriculture in the morning, but he could not then spare time to see us, being fully engaged. He appointed 4 o'clock p. m. for the interview.

During this interval we walked into the market to see how our brethren fared in this part of the Dominion. Many poor-looking farmers were there, most of them having one horse, and that a poor one—looking more like ponies than real good horses, some of which we thought we could have lifted if we got our back under them. These horses were hitched to poor-looking sleds, some of which were rough, home-made affairs. The horses were poor, the loads poor, and the farmers appeared poor. The farmers of Western Ontario would be

citizens have not time to go out of the city; thus the hucksters buy at a lower price from the farmers and charge the citizens for their trouble.

These poor farmers, trying to get a little money to pay their taxes, or rent, or procure a little clothing, should not have been so over-burdened by their task-masters as to have such fees exacted from them. What has been done, and is being done now at the seat of Government, might be done by other corporations. We request that some Member of Parliament now in Ottawa will at once enquire into this disgraceful procedure, and bring in some Act that will curtail the powers of senseless or dishonest municipalities to defraud the poor farmers in such a manner in any other part of the Dominion.

We instructed our artist to make the accompanying cut, to depict the case more forcibly than pen alone can do it. We do not mean to imply that all are poor farmers in this locality, but a greater proportion are poorer than in the West.

On our way home we stayed a night in Toronto. We heard there was expected some good, interest-

many a speech, with hardly anything else in it. Not finding this interesting, we got heartily tired of wasting our time in listening, so we walked into the reporter's room. We were informed there that this M. P. P. had his editor preparing the speech since the commencement of Parliament, and that it was being reported merely to publish in his pocket-paid paper. The house adjourned about 8.30. That was the day's work we have to pay for. We shall give you more about Ottawa at our leisure.

Officers of Agricultural Societies for 1879.

ALGOMA—W M Simpson, President; Geo Alderson, 1st Vice do; Thos McCulloch, 2nd do; Chas J Bampton, Sec.; W H Carney, Treas.

CRAMAHE—Geo Wirm, President; J H Chapman, Vice do.; H J Scripture, Sec-Treas.

NORTH HASTINGS—J M Ashley, President; W Kingston, 1st Vice do; Joseph Doak, 2nd do; Thos Eno, Treas; P Fargey, Sec.

EAST YORK—A D Milne, President; Captain Reesor, 1st Vice do; Alfred Mason, 2nd do; James Robinson, Sec-Treas.

OTTAWA AGRICULTURAL INTEREST—Market Fees, \$3.60. To M. P.'s.



TORONTO ENB CO

TORONTO AGRICULTURAL INTEREST—Neglected or obstructed. To M. P.'s.

ashamed to be seen driving such unsightly sleds and horses. The complaints we heard were loud, long and numerous about the impositions under which these poor farmers groaned. One great cause of complaint was the

MARKET FEES.

Some artful dodgers about Ottawa have passed a by-law regulating the market fees so that a person has to pay 15c. for each kind of product brought on his sled. We heard of one man who had paid \$3.60, another \$2.45, and we saw several who had paid over \$1. The way they fleece the farmers is this: The fee is 15c.; if a person has meat and a hide he has to pay another fee for the hide, and if he has vegetables on the load, another 15c. And then the weighing; they had a by-law that all grain should be weighed on the market, and thus farmers had to unload, reload, then take their grain to the merchant or miller, and weigh it again. These unjust—we might almost add, thievish—laws have so disgusted the farmers that they are establishing a market in the suburbs of the city. This is also a loss to the farmers, as

ing speaking in the Parliament buildings, and we went there at seven o'clock. While waiting there we went into the reading-room and asked to see the agricultural journals. We were informed that there were none; there had been one sent, but some person had carried it away. Here was a room full of papers, all kept on file—perhaps hundreds, for ever Member is supposed to have one; some Members have several to advocate their cause. These papers the farmers have to pay for both directly and indirectly, yet so little do most of these M. P. P.'s care for agriculture that the whole stock of the country might become diseased and taxes might be collected in any manner, so long as some of them could create an office or get a contract for an intimate friend; and the farmers have to pay for it. What we want and must have is Members who will look after the interests of farmers better, or we may say to them the same as the French farmer is saying in this illustration.

A certain M. P. P. had the floor and was delivering a long oration, just such as we have read in

The Sugar-beet and Mangel Wurzel.

The N. Y. World says:

"The sugar-beet is in reality a mangel wurzel. As the industry of manufacturing sugar from the beet grew, and seedsmen were called upon to supply seed of the best variety for this purpose, they selected the long white mangel wurzel. These, however, were not entirely white, and further improvements in them were made to the end that all coloring should be eliminated. The improved sugar-beets of commerce grow almost entirely under ground. They are more nutritious than the mangel wurzel, are equally hardy and productive, more palatable to stock, and consequently to be preferred. Davy found in 1,000 parts the following quantity of nutritive or soluble matter: Mangel wurzel 136, and sugar-beet 146. Mangels in turn differ from table beets in their general coarseness of structure and the larger size to which they grow. The elements entering into the composition of each are the same in kind."

Belts made of raw cow's hide, simply dried in the sun, cut perfectly straight, with the joints carefully stitched square and even, with saddler's hemp, have been found in practice to last longer than leather belts, besides being less than half the cost.