

The Agricultural matter published in the WEEKLY GLOBE is entirely different from that which appears in THE CANADA FARMER.

50 CANVASSING AGENTS WANTED—First class men, of good address, steady, and pushing, to canvass for the CANADA FARMER. Address, stating employment, previous engagements, age and references. Publishers of the CANADA FARMER, Toronto.

## The Canada Farmer

TORONTO, CANADA, FEBRUARY 15, 1876.

### A New Move in Agricultural Education.

It is imagined, in some quarters on this side of the water, that the British farmers know pretty well everything that is worth knowing about their business. This impression might fade away on closer inspection, and it is not impossible that some British farmers, were they not restricted by their leases and agreements, might "skin" their land as greedily or farm it as ignorantly as do the worst of our own farmers. However, the need of more enlightenment is felt there just as it is here, and we are glad to notice a move in the direction of getting it.

England has no Government institutions for the promotion of agriculture similar to those of France and Germany. The one agricultural college at Cirencester is a private institution, and that was quite recently the only place where an agricultural education could be obtained. The farmers of Cuesare, according to the London Farmer, have been lately deliberating on the subject, and have hit upon what seems to be a good plan, namely, utilizing an existing grammar school for the purpose. The trustees of the Sandbach Grammar School have been treated with, and have entered into arrangements, to engage a properly qualified teacher to teach the elements of chemistry, botany, land surveying, and such other studies as are necessary to the farmer, provide twenty boys are guaranteed for four years at the sum of £10 a year as boarders, or that 10 guineas per annum be paid the master by the Chamber for each vacancy below twenty. Ten pupils have already been promised, and there appears every likelihood that the scheme will be successful. If looked at simply as an experiment, says our contemporary, it will be most valuable, and will help to solve the problem of the better education of farmers' sons—a subject of pressing importance in the present age, and one that cannot be postponed or evaded much longer.

### Canadian Farmers and the Centennial.

The principal work connected with the representation of Canada at the approaching Centennial exhibition at Philadelphia is nearly done. The design is laid out, and the framework, so to speak, is complete. There remains but to fill in the details in the best manner possible; and it is in this work that the success or non-success of Canada's representation will consist.

Are farmers fully alive to the importance of exhibiting their productions? There is every reason why they should go heart and hand into this friendly competitive display, for we have little fear that they will come out of it with credit to themselves and great benefit, commercially and otherwise, to the country. What have we in Canada to fear as regards the comparative quantity and quality of our agricultural productions? In the matter of grain, wheat for example, we know that American new varieties grown in Canada have improved to such a degree as to quite eclipse the original importation. We know too that it was long (and, in some cases, is yet) the ordinary custom amongst American flour dealers, to exchange the contents of Canadian and American barrels ere shipping them to England, thus surreptitiously securing our better article under their brand, and claiming credit abroad for that which did not belong to them. We can raise peas, too, superior to those of any other portion of this continent, and there is little doubt but we can hold our own, and perhaps more in all other articles constituting our common productions. Our cattle, whether animals of fancy pedi-

gree, or those that are bought for every day use—our sheep and horses, are in request all over the continent.

Our manufacturers are going heartily into the movement, a large space of ground having been already secured for their various departments, and they are going into it hopefully too. Why not? On the only occasion on which Canadian implements were sent over to compete with those of America on American grounds, they secured premiums and medals in every case. For our own part we have not the slightest misgiving as to a similar success crowning the efforts of our farmers, if they only exert themselves and make a good turn out, and this they can do if they like. In this connection we would commend to their perusal an interesting letter on "Pomology and Emigration," which appears in another column.

The full details of the Exhibition, that is days, &c., set apart for the exhibition of different departments, have not yet been made public, but will be ere long. From our American exchanges, however, we gather the following dates for fruit and vegetable displays. Probably flower shows will also be held in connection with these—June 10th, Strawberries; June 15th, Raspberries and Cherries; July 1st, Southern Pomological; August 15th, Peaches and Melons; September 12th, Grand Pomological; Oct. 10th, Vegetables generally; October 25th, Roots and Cereals.

### Horse Racing at County Fairs.

Happily amongst us Canadians this species of gambling at our agricultural fairs, is the exception rather than the rule. It is, however, occasionally a concomitant of them, and to be deprecated accordingly. With our American neighbors the custom is much more prevalent, but public opinion, even over there, is beginning to discourage and frown it down. The practice is in itself a cruelty in every sense of the term, nor has it a single redeeming trait to recommend it to any one except the usually questionable characters who make it their business, as they do cards and dice, solely to fleece others and fill their own pockets. A writer to the Ohio Farmer offers some very pertinent remarks on the point when he says:—"Use your influence at all times against gambling at our county fairs, and especially denounce horse-racing for larger premiums than you would be willing to award to a good breeding mare or stallion. By so doing, you bring wealth into your county. As many fairs are conducted now, the money is given to some old worthless nag outside of your county, probably not worth fifty dollars for any purpose except gambling. Such an animal does no one any good but the owner. I have yet to see a very high degree of refinement and morality in men that make this a business. The abuse given to dumb animals at our fairs is inhuman in every sense of the word, cruel in its very nature, and should be stopped by law. Why not allow card tables on our fair grounds? It is no more gambling to play a game of cards for one hundred dollars than to drive a horse for the same; besides, it is not injuring a dumb brute. They say it draws a crowd. If our societies cannot live and keep their heads above water without gambling, let them sink. If the horse race is all that saves our agricultural societies, better let them go down. If they have no higher object than this, better have no organization. They have, in every county in Ohio and in every State in the Union destroyed, in a measure, the object which these fairs were intended to promote. Could the money spent on racing horses be applied to breeding fine draft horses and roadsters, a very different result would soon follow. Besides this, every fast horse raised, costs thousands of dollars to make him so. Nine out of every ten that are fast, get just fast enough to lose money in every race, and are finally sold into a team or to a city driver, or get on to a farm; and the owner is always disappointed. Now I repeat again, use your influence against horse-racing, and do it boldly. A firm, persevering, consolidated effort will, in time, make our county fairs what they should be—agricultural fairs.

### The Man Who Borrows.

Who has not been driven to the verge of profanity, on going some morning to the accustomed place for a tool and not finding it? A search high and low all over the building takes place with no success, and then a cross-examination of the household brings out the fact that "neighbor

A, borrowed it a month ago, and I don't think he ever brought it back. Let me see. No it wasn't A. It was B, that had it," and so on. No doubt borrowers are permitted to exist for a good purpose, but as with mosquitoes and other minor plagues, the reason for their existence is to the sufferer an inscrutable mystery.

A borrowing neighbor is one of the calamities that only the "grin and bear it" policy will suit. One cannot be churlish or unneighborly. A man may resolve, every time he loses a tool, never to lend another thing, but when the borrower comes round again, penitent, smiling, and full of good promises, he gets what he came for, and brings it back—perhaps. About the best plan is to burn your name on every tool that has any wood in it, so deeply that it cannot be effaced by time or design, and in such a conspicuous place and such large letters that it will jog the loathery conscience of the borrower every time he picks up the implement.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Tribune has apparently suffered from the thinly-disguised kind of stealing which some folks call "borrowing," till he breaks out thus:—"There is a miserable habit prevalent among farmers which ought to be treated and cured as a disease. Just what remedy might be prescribed, would perhaps be difficult to tell. In some farming districts a dozen or so of the inhabitants are always down sick with this terrible complaint. If they could be cured it would be a blessing to their respective localities. Land would rise in value, and property would be more desirable from the moment it could be said that that class of individuals had been cured or "moved away." To be compelled to borrow a farm tool is embarrassing enough, but to never return it, or, after months have elapsed, return it in a damaged condition, is so aggravating that even a Christian cannot avoid saying something that slightly transcends his sense of Christian ethics. There is no class of people in the world more generous and accommodating than tillers of the soil. They would like to do as they would be done by—that is, the better portion of them. But even the golden rule and its prompting spirit wear out when practised by a certain class of men at their continual expense. I heard an old farmer say once: "I have learned to do as I am done by, and not as I would be done by. Self-protection first, and the golden rule afterward." The old farmer was right, as the world goes, if wrong in any higher sense. Now, cannot this great evil be cured, and society in this respect be reformed? What I ask is, that all borrowed tools be taken home at once, and be returned in as good condition as when they left their owners' hands. If they are cracked or broken, take them to the shop and have them repaired, or buy new ones to return in their stead. If my advice is heeded and a new era ushered in, a grander step will be taken toward the world's regeneration than anything the Suffragists can do by their votes or their conventions. When farmers in their upward progress get so that they return borrowed tools immediately after they have used them, the signs of a better time will have come. Conventions and resolutions are not necessary to bring about this reform. A simple, spontaneous movement is all that is necessary. In a day's time every borrowed tool can be returned to its owner, and the new era ushered in. Farmers of the Empire State, for I speak to you, let us try the new plan.

### The Grange as an Educator.

EDITOR CANADA FARMER:—It is a notorious fact that farmers as a rule devote very little time to mental improvement. They generally spend their time at their daily toil day by day, and when night comes are tired and weary, and anxious to seek repose. The cultivation and improvement of themselves mentally and pecuniarily is something that rarely occupies their attention. To remove this unfortunate state of things is a matter well worthy the attention of those who seek to elevate and ennoble this, one of the most important pursuits in life. Educate the farmers of to-day up to a proper appreciation of the rights and privileges they ought to enjoy, and you are laying broad and deep a foundation of future greatness that will challenge the admiration of the human race in every clime. Just here the Grange steps in and supplies a want long felt. It is a training school where farmers, their sons, their wives and daughters meet for mental culture and moral improvement, as well as to promote their inter-