

respondent refers, is the appointment of salesmen, as in the old countries, for the sale of cattle and sheep in our cities, and market towns.

There is no question that this plan would have many advantages, provided competent and trust-worthy salesmen were appointed. Under the present system, the farmers bringing fat cattle or sheep to market are completely in the power of the buyers, and are obliged to sell for whatever prices may be offered, as they cannot keep over the animals, or remain in town at expense, to sell, perhaps, only a few pounds worth. When there happens to be an over supply in the market for the demand, farmers have to make great sacrifices, rather than bring back their cattle to their own homes. If there was a salesman, who should necessarily have suitable accommodation for stock, any stock that could not be disposed of at reasonable prices, might be kept over until the market would be more favourable for disposing of them. In every other business and trade, parties can hold over their goods until they obtain what they consider fair prices, unless forced by necessity to sell, but the farmer who comes from a distant part of the country has to sell, at whatever price is offered, and there is no chance of fair competition, because if an offer is once made, no higher price will be given by any other party. Farmers near market who may have fat animals to dispose of, seldom take them to market, but have buyers to come to their places and purchase. In this case, a farmer requires no salesman, but can sell for himself, as he is not at the mercy of the purchaser while his animals are safe in their stalls or on their pastures. Every assistance should be afforded to farmers, to enable them to make the most of their produce, and the suggestions of our correspondent, are entitled to obtain due consideration, and action should be taken upon them without delay, if they would be likely to prove beneficial to the agricultural interests. No other parties could complain

of any injustice towards them by the appointment of salesmen. As our Correspondent suggests, ample security should be required from salesmen, before they would be licensed to act in that capacity by the city authorities. The last suggestion of our correspondent for the monthly or quarterly meetings of farmers for the discussion of subjects connected with agricultural improvement would only be following the example of our brother farmers in the British Isles, and could not fail to be advantageous, in many respects. Those meetings are numerous attended in Britain, and if they were not found to be interesting and beneficial, farmers would not attend them. We cannot follow better examples in anything connected with agriculture, than those of the countries where agriculture is brought to greater perfection at this moment, than in any other part of the earth's surface.

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*To the Editor of the Montreal Agricultural Journal.*

SIR.—I embrace the opportunity offered by your columns of bringing before the agriculturists of the district, something I consider for the general good, the result of 20 years experience in Lower Canada.

1. The want of proper regulations in the grain and flour market.

2. The entire want of salesmen for disposing of farm produce, particularly for the *sale of live stock*, by private bargain on payment of a reasonable per centage upon the amount of sales.

3. The want of monthly or quarterly meetings among farmers, as in some part of Upper Canada for mutual improvement in their profession.

The first of these in my opinion might be remedied by the Town council of Montreal, by their adopting the practice followed in Dalkeith (Scotland) market which is an extensive grain market: there no samples or bags are allowed to be shown or opened before the market bell rings, say at 9 A. M., under a fine, and nothing to remain on the market after 12 or 1 P. M. on market days, say 2 days in the week, in which short space of time