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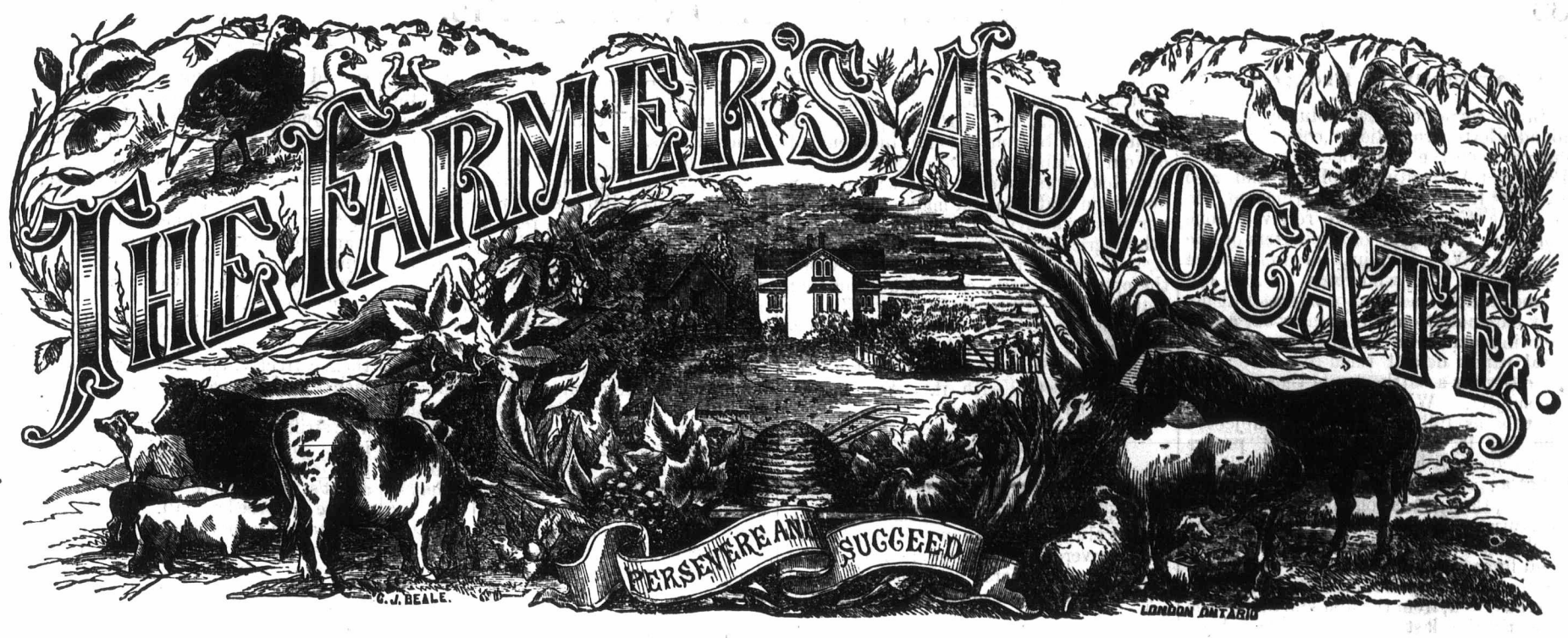
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Loss \$2,500,000.

It is with chagrin and sorrow that we pen this article. This Province sustained a dead and irredeemable loss of \$2,500,000 last year, and may lose more than that this year on the one article of BUTTER, and we have ourselves to blame for it.

Great quantities of Canadian butter were last year sold in European markets for 5 cents per pound, while some American butter has been sold on this side of the water as high as 50 and 75 cents. Is it not a disgrace to us as Canadians, and a loss both now and in future.

Our farmers' wives were pleased to receive 15, 20, 25 and 30 cents a pound for their butter last year, and will be expecting the same this; but what prospect is there of it. The dealers and shippers suffered the loss last year, but they will be very careful in the future. You may rest assured that unless butter is good it will not be bought, and even then the price will be low, at least at the beginning of the season. This is a subject of more importance to Canada than many of the public questions which are agitating the minds of our people. So long as our products can be well spoken of and stand well in foreign markets, so long will we as farmers be able to make money, and find ready and good markets. But as soon as we are looked upon as producing third rate articles, then good bye to our chance of exporting at a profit.

Who is to blame? First, our farmers who are careless about their barn yards and the health of their cattle. You should be particular in keeping your yards, fields, and stables clean and free from any noxious smells. Nothing is more susceptible of injury than milk, even before it is drawn from the cow. Bad water and over heating of the cattle has a very evil effect. The blame next lies with our farmers' wives and daughters; we take up this part of our subject with reluctance; our wives have plenty of work on their hands—perhaps too much—still they are, and must always be responsible for the state of the butter when it leaves for the market. Why is it that if we buy ten lots of butter from ten different parties, nearly each one will be of a different quality. Keep your dairy clean and neat, have nothing in it which is in the slightest degree offensive in smell; wash your butter thoroughly, and cleanse it of milk; then you have done your part. We know that most of our friends do make good butter, it is only to the few who do badly that we address these remarks.

The next parties who are to blame are the buyers and shippers. It is with these that the greatest injury occurs. They have been in the habit of buying good, bad and indifferent butter, and mixing all together

indiscriminately; they then put it down into a cellar, where there is probably a lot of onions or potatoes half rotten, or where dampness or bad odors prevail, and the whole stock is spoiled; or else they let it lie in some hot place, where the butter melts and turns rancid; they are not sufficiently careful in shipping; refrigerator cars are provided by the railways, but an extra price is charged for them, and the dealer will not pay it.

And now, to sum up the whole matter, if we wish to be successful with our dairy farms, we must,

- 1st. Keep neat, clean cattle buildings and yards.
- 2nd. Fresh, pure dairies, and careful working and packing of butter.
- 3rd. Dealers who will not spoil all our good work by their carelessness.
- 4th. Special attention on the part of railways and steamships to this important branch.

We would recommend farmers to make their money and keep it at home until the weather is sufficiently cool to move it, and by no means to move it in hot weather, unless it is sold.

Postage.

On Saturday, the 12th of April, we received 51 letters, and on Monday, the 14th, we received 63; these are the largest numbers ever received on any two days, and show a great increase over any previous year.

Many of these letters contain money, sent for seeds; others contain correspondence. A large number are for Uncle Tom's Department, some asking questions which would puzzle us to answer. We are highly pleased at having so many correspondents, but attending to them all is quite a task, though a pleasant one and sometimes a profitable one; but every rose bush has a thorn. Sometimes the correspondent forgets that the law places a cent tax on all letters containing correspondence for the paper, and the consequence is we may have to pay from 4 to 6 cents for what should only cost one cent, or leave the letter in the office.

Some ask questions entirely on their own business and do not send a stamp for a reply. Many of our little correspondents might use the one cent postal cards instead of what they pay three cents for.

Remember, prepay your postage. We do not always take unpaid matter from the post office; if you want a reply, send a stamp or card.

If there should be any omission or neglect on our part through the pressure of so many letters and many other things to attend to, remind us of it again and we will try to satisfy you all to the best of our ability. Our staff of assistants has been

increased and must be again increased to meet the demands.

A great many of our subscribers make the mistake of sending the name of their township instead of their post office. Now we don't want to know what township you live in; what we want and must have is the name of the post office at which you receive your letters and papers.

Good Company.

We are sorry to have to inform those of our subscribers who have sent in their money as subscriptions to "Good Company," that that paper is no longer published. When we advertised it, we were led to believe that the proprietors were in a position to carry out their promises. We will do all that we can to make up your loss. Wilson & Co. have promised to send out the whole of last year's numbers to all those who subscribed with us, and we will also send a present of a few seeds or refund the money. The whole affair is a dead loss to us, and we will be more careful in future as to whom we associate with.

Barley.

S. E. Todd, in the *American Rural Home*, says:—

I frequently go to the New York Exchange—the great grain market in this city—where I have learned of the buyers and sellers that the barley in greatest demand and which will command the highest price per bushel is the four-rowed Canadian barley. Last week the price of our State barley was easy at ninety-five cents per bushel, while Canada barley was held firmly at \$1.25.

Canada barley is clean, bright and often shiny, all of one variety, and so free from foul seed and other grain that one must search a long time before he can find a single kernel of any seed; whereas most of the State barley offered consists of a mixture of two-rowed, four-rowed and six-rowed grain, much of it having a dark, weather-beaten color, and with the mass mingled more or less oats, wheat, buckwheat and seeds of noxious weeds. All such grain and seeds will make no malt.—Hence they detract greatly from the market value of the grain. Besides this, when a quantity of two-rowed, four-rowed and six-rowed grain is mixed together, one variety will be thoroughly sprouted before the remainder is grown sufficiently to have the germinating process arrested. We want the simon pure hordeum vulgare four-rowed barley, which, when sowed on good land of fair fertility, will produce the genuine hordeum vulgare with the same unerring certainty that a herd of Durham cattle is raised up from thoroughbred animals.