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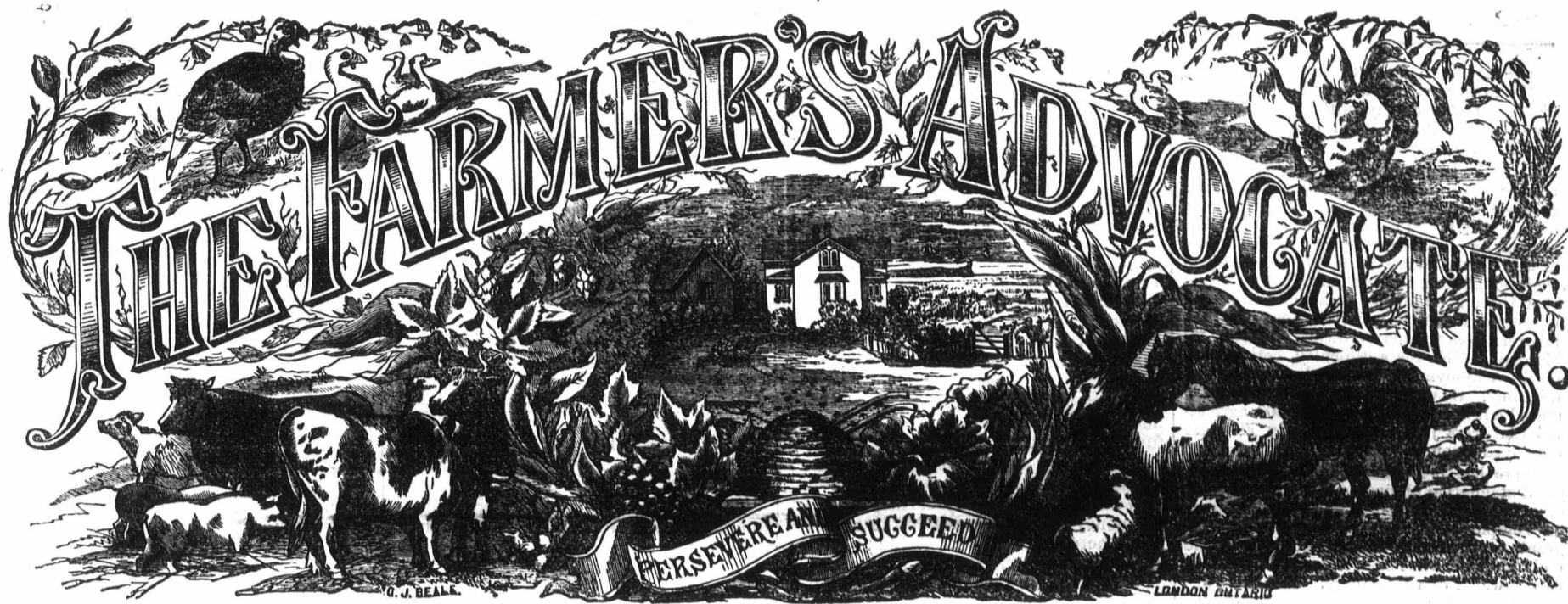
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LONDON, ONT., JUNE, 1874.

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Seed Wheat.

We notice an article written by one of the Government head officials in a Government paper, deprecating a variety of wheat which has in many sections yielded more bushels per acre than any other variety grown by the side of it. The ground of complaint is made in regard to the quality. Because a certain miller objects to it, the Government paid official dissuades persons from sowing it.

We beg to differ with this writer whose bread we farmers have to pay for. We know of many instances where farmers on clay farms have, at a very great loss, continued sowing the Deihl wheat because of its superior quality over the Scott Wheat. Thousands of acres of the beautiful Deihl wheat have been plowed under annually because there has not been sufficient plant life to pay to have it for a crop.

The Scott Wheat has, in many cases that we could refer to, been left and yielded a good crop when the Deihl wheat sown at the same time, in the same field, and with the same cultivation, had to be plowed under.

We believe we are right in commending such wheats as are known to be the most reliable, as bushels and quantity will yield a greater profit than pecks and quality. In commending or condemning any seed or plan, the Government should endeavor to base their principle on what would result in profit to the farmer.

We hope, if we are wrong in these remarks, that the same Government firm employe or any other of the Government agriculturists will at once furnish us with such information as may rectify our impression. If the Government officials are wrong, perhaps they might let this notice pass unheeded, but as we have double the number of subscribers that the Government paper has, perhaps it might be well for some one of the employes of the Government to correct us, if we are wrong.—We will give them a space in this paper if they choose to furnish the authority or the writer's name.

The particular variety condemned is the Farrow or Red-chaffed Spring Wheat; the Government writer advocates quality and price; we say, quantity and profit.

Prospects of the Crops.

Since the last issue of the *ADVOCATE* the prospect of crops for 1874, if at all changed, has been, as we then anticipated, for the better. The weather has been generally very favorable, and the Fall Wheat, wherever it survived the ordeal of the very unusual winter we have passed through, gives good promise of an abundant crop. In some places it was killed, not retaining the least vestige of vitality, so that farmers had in

some places to plow up their fields and sow another crop. But this occurred only on stiff clay soils. Where the soil was not stiff clay, the wheat plants retained a sufficiency of vitality to strike their roots well into the soil, and when the genial spring weather came in its appointed season, it showed the dark hue and broad leaf that gladden the heart of the farmer. On the whole, then, we may say that Fall Wheat, unless on the retentive, tenacious clay, promises well.—For spring crops the season has been very favorable, and we have good grounds for looking forward with hope to a harvest that will remunerate the tiller of the soil for his labor.

This, our own observation, is confirmed by the reports we receive from all parts of the country. The *Packet*, of Orillia, says: "The Fall Wheat, though somewhat thinned, has not been in any case, so far as our informant could learn, plowed up. It looks green and healthy."

Other sections of the country, though less fortunate, as whole fields had to be plowed up or left as a naked fallow, are green and healthy. The *Cowansville Observer*, Province of Quebec, said as early as April that were there to be tolerably copious rains, followed by warm and genial weather, the fields would soon put on a wonderfully revived appearance.

Even clay lands, where well prepared for fall wheat, have withstood the severe trials of the winter without much loss. Farmers should not risk a crop so expensive, and when succeeding, so profitable a crop, without preparing the soil in the very best manner possible. We cannot too often repeat the advice given already more than once—Let the soil designed for fall wheat, above all other crops, be thoroughly cultivated. Deep, good plowing, enriching the soil, and suffering no water to remain in it, are necessary to procure good remunerative crops. —S.

Immigration of Farm Laborers.

If we are to judge from present prospects, we may expect the greatest immigration to Canada this season we have yet known. The dissatisfaction of workingmen with the wages paid to the laborers in Europe for their work, has the effect of inducing many of the least migratory habits to come to this land of promise. And the immigrants will not be, as heretofore, the unemployed mechanics and laborers from the dock-yards and manufacturing districts, whose habits render them unfit for farm labor. Skilled farm laborers are already seeking our shores in large numbers, and they are but the precursors of the far greater numbers that we may expect.

The great question for us is how best to profit by this influx of those who may be the means of conferring on the country the greatest amount of good. They have been the bone and sinew of old England. They have been the instrument of carrying out those improvements in agriculture that have made her agriculture so much superior to

that of other nations; and now, for the first time, except in a few isolated cases, have we the opportunity of having that skilled labor added to the wealth of our young Dominion.

The United States, to which in former years the tide of immigration had been mostly directed, do not offer the same inducement as formerly to emigrants; nor is it probable that they will use the same efforts to induce them to make that land their home. The *New York Bulletin* but gives expression to a wide-spread feeling on the subject: that the labor market there is over-stocked, and the agricultural interest, though it is at present the most prosperous in the country, "is beginning to receive the overflows of other industries, and will this summer be over-stocked with labor." The eyes of Americans are being opened to the fact that as a Government and as a people they have been living too fast. Hence their newly-born caution.

The *Bulletin* thus sounds the note of alarm:—

"We sincerely hope that, for the reasons stated above, the press of Great Britain and Germany will inform the people of those countries of the real condition of the labor market in the United States and advise those who contemplate emigrating to wait until there is a fair opening among us for an increased supply of muscle. Of all things that it is painful to witness in our streets, the sad, forlorn aspect of the starving stranger who can meet with no response to his request to be permitted to work, is the last we wish to see; and we trust that journalists in Europe, when they see our note of warning, will reciprocate this feeling, and use their power to avert such a calamity to their countrymen."

While the exodus from Europe of so many of her best laborers is the cause of great anxiety there to all classes, we look upon it as one of the momentous topics of the day for Canada. Her woods and mines are stores of marvellous wealth, awaiting the hand of labor; and her fertile soil needs but a sufficient supply of skilled labor to make the Dominion be to England what Sicily was of old to Imperial Rome, the granary to supply her super-abundant population with breadstuffs and products of the stall and dairy.

The value of the exports of Canada now gives good promise of what she will be when her resources are more fully developed. The exports for 1873 of the products of the country was \$73,235,600, viz., the contributions from the mine amounted to \$6,471,162; forest, \$28,586,846; agriculture and animals, \$29,238,352; manufactures, &c., \$2,921,802; other articles, \$405,292; ships built at Quebec, \$782,900. If, with our sparse population, our exports amount to the considerable sum of nearly seventy-three and a half millions of dollars, what may not we hope for in another half century?

The *Montreal Witness* speaks of the immigration of farm hands in the following language:

"Canada promises to be the recipient of a goodly number of English agricultural laborers this season. Besides those that arrived last week by the "Sarmatian," the "Prussian," which sailed from Liverpool on the 29th ult., brings 50 Warwickshire farm hands and 120 children, and it is stated the steamer following will bring 150 more agricultural laborers, not counting the children. The emigration of this class is likely to be stimulated not only to Canada but to the United States, owing to the large reduction of fares by transatlantic lines, the price of a steerage passage being reported already to have fallen to \$15, with the prospect of a still further decrease.

"So far as appears, Ontario alone is taking steps to secure the benefit of this tide of immigration, so far as it is setting towards Canada. Being made up of those whose lives have been devoted to agricultural pursuits, these emigrants constitute the most valuable settlers for a new country that could be had, and the result for the Upper Province will doubtless be a further enhancement of the wonderful progress she has already made in the development of her agricultural resources. That Ontario should enjoy a monopoly of this immigration over Quebec appears simply due to the fact that the latter Province does not want any of it. This is not due to want of resources, however, for there are in this Province immense tracts of valuable land eminently adapted for settlement, lying waste, which, if they were placed within the reach of immigrants of the right kind, would soon be able to sustain a very large addition to its present population. What land is settled upon, besides, is largely unprofitable, owing to ignorance of a proper system of agriculture. The Quebec Government, however, in pursuance of its peculiar policy, looks askance on settlers from the British Isles, who are apt to be of the non-tithe paying class, and gladly allows the sister Province to get them all, its organs the meanwhile recounting with various feelings the great development in population and material progress of the latter, and lamenting their own backwardness. The kind of immigrants that they want, there seems no prospect of; and as for improvement in agriculture, there can be none until settlers versed in the science are encouraged to come here and teach by their example.

"Meanwhile, however, it might be well if farmers in this province could by united effort manage to secure for themselves a share of this valuable labor that is going past them to Ontario."

There is one point in connection with the question of emigration that we would impress upon those in authority—it is necessary not only to encourage immigration to the country, but also, and above all, to retain the emigrants in the country. Many who are now emigrated to Canada, have been lured away to make their homes in the United States. Now, when agricultural laborers seek for a home in the country, let us hold out all reasonable inducements, that they may make it their permanent home,—