

and the Dairymen's Association now stand, should be sufficient to induce every legislator to enquire the reason, and what can be done to improve their position and utility, rather than the vain attempt to expend money and time in trying to justify political misdoings.

It is much to be regretted that some people do not duly consider before acting or speaking. Many condemned us because we exposed much of the mismanagement of the old Board of Agriculture and Arts and their management of the Provincial Exhibition. They considered we were writing for its destruction. Our desire was to expose the errors, so that more good might have been done. Some consider that we have written for the destruction of the Model Farm; but such has not been the case. We have written that good might accrue to the farmers from the noble grant given to us for our benefit. Our aim has been and still is to secure more good and less injury by the expenditure, and that the money shall not be misappropriated. We ask for fair, reasonable arguments. We do not approve of those who lavish fulsome praise on everything, and can not or will not look on both sides and try and give fair accounts. Far too many look on the agricultural expenditure as a party movement. We should know no party in our agricultural advancement, except the interest of the farmers.

The fact is this—the whole Government grant to agriculture has been expended more for the benefit of partisans than for farmers, and it will continue to be so until some Member of Parliament comes forth openly and fearlessly and asks for facts and figures, and uses his influence and power to advance the interest of the farmer. We believe Messrs. Mowat, Meredith and Wood all wish to act more justly for the farmers, but that the strong party feelings and urgent demands of unprincipled hangers-on prevent proper steps being taken.

Government Creameries.

The low repute in which Canada butter is held in the British markets has set on foot a plan to permanently establish creameries in different parts of Ontario, to be maintained at Government expense. We cannot look with favor upon such a plan, as we are satisfied that after their first novelty wore away the residents of the particular localities in which they would be situated would take little or no interest in them, and persons residing at a distance would not attend, therefore their usefulness would be gone. What, in our opinion, would be a better plan, would be to utilize the existing dairy building at the Model Farm(?) at Guelph, and have a travelling dairy after the plan of the one under the auspices of Canon Bagot in Ireland, the staff of which is a superintendent, two dairy maids and a laboring man. These could visit all parts of the province during the summer months, at the request of County Councils or Agricultural Societies, and being provided with a sufficient quantity of milk, could give practical instruction in butter-making. These meetings would be attended not only by the farmers but by their wives and families. After the summer season was over the staff could return to headquarters at Guelph, where there ought to be no lack of milk, and give a course of lectures extending over the winter months, which could be attended by those desirous of further instruction or who had not an opportunity to attend the school when in their locality. Such a plan as we submit would be of far greater benefit to the province and at a much less cost than establishing three permanent creameries at different parts of the province. We trust should such a scheme as we propose be adopted,

that the most suitable, practical man will be appointed without reference to his political opinions.

If it is considered advisable to establish a creamery or creameries at the public expense, then we trust that the thing will be thoroughly and impartially discussed before any definite plan is decided upon.

Agricultural Societies.

The annual meeting and election of officers of the Provincial and Township Agricultural Societies takes place during this month. From observations we are fully convinced that the most successful exhibitions are held in the townships, where personal feelings are not allowed to predominate, where all can bury partiality and unite for one grand and good object, that is, to make their exhibition a good one and to act fairly and honorably to all.

We would strongly advise the selection of practical and unbiased men as your officers, men known best for their honorable dealings and their interest in agricultural affairs. All should attend the meetings and not be afraid to express yourselves if you have any improvement to suggest.

Manitoba Letter.

FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.

West Lynne, Dec. 6th, 1882.

Nothing of importance has transpired in the farming community for some time past; farmers have been busy threshing and preparing for winter. Disallowance and election matters are causing some excitement at present, and the political blanket is kept quite warm. The snow which has fallen during the last ten days has made very good sleighing all over the country, causing the volume of trade at this point to increase very rapidly, and large quantities of grain have been marketed. Mr. Long, the energetic buyer for Livingston Bros., of Baden, Ont., bought over 6,000 bushels of flax the past week, paying for the same 80 cents per bushel. The price of wheat has had a downward tendency, No. 1 Fife selling at 75 cents, soft kinds not much wanted, and hard to dispose of at any price. Farmers as a rule are hard to turn from a beaten path, and instead of sowing dark Fife last spring, as requested by the prominent wheat buyers, a good many sowed soft kind, and are now receiving a very expensive lesson as regards the grade of wheat suitable to this country, and no doubt the sowing of dark Fife will be more general this season. It should be the aim of every farmer to sow the kind that is the most in demand and will command the highest market price, providing that the soil he cultivates is adapted for it; and it is a settled fact the soil of this Province is not surpassed for producing wheat of a fine quality for milling purposes.

Threshing is still delayed in some sections, and if the weather does not continue fine a large quantity of grain will have to remain unthreshed until spring, which will be a great loss and inconvenience to many. Farmers have not been able to get threshers to do their work in due season, and a good many that raised large crops have been compelled to buy threshing machines for their own use. Farming the present year that is rapidly drawing to a close is likely to be fairly remunerative to farmers, although a good many are complaining about the low price of wheat compared with the high price of labor, yet on the whole there is no reason to do so, for if the price of wheat is low all other farm produce is bringing good prices, and

those who have not gone exclusively into wheat growing, but have followed a mixed husbandry, are likely to be as well repaid for their labor as in any previous year since the settlement of the Province.

A few car loads of very good horses have arrived lately from Ontario, keeping the supply equal to the demand, and dealers are complaining of slow sales and small profits, although they are asking from \$450 to \$600 a pair. One dealer from the county of Oxford informed me that horses are getting so scarce in Ontario that it took him three months to collect the last car load he shipped to this Province, and thinks it will be difficult to find enough to supply the spring trade.

The General Purpose Horse.

PRIZE ESSAY, BY LEONARD REXOCANN

MR. EDITOR,—In writing this essay we take it for granted that we are expected not only to say what particular class of horses is, in our opinion, best adapted to general purposes, but also to give some hints that might help the Canadian farmer, with his limited means of obtaining well-bred mares, and, with the stallions within his reach, to breed and rear the best class of general purpose horses.

To be successful in any business requires a thorough knowledge of the goods one is handling; and to become a successful horse-breeder one should become a judge of horses; with a natural taste for the work and a good deal of attention given to it, a farmer will soon become educated in horseology.

An old country dealer has said that the American general purpose horse is a "purposeless" horse. We do not agree with him. We know of no finer animal than the model general purpose horse, who has many representatives in Canada, and would have many more were it not for the haphazard, chance breeding of too many of our Canadian farmers.

With his clean, intelligent head, arched neck, sloping shoulders, prominent breast, short back, well sprung ribs, plump barrel, wide, thin legs, and high, hollow feet, of blocky build, from 15½ to 16½ hands high, and weighing all the way from 1,100 to 1,500 pounds—he is a draught horse, a carriage horse, and a roadster combined. He is the horse above all others for moving a load at a rapid rate. In other words he is the farmer's horse. How are we to get him? To begin with, when you get a first-class general purpose mare do not sell her. If she is deficient in any point, select a stallion good in that particular, or better yet, one whose colts are good in that particular. Always in selecting animals for breeding purposes, look more to their offspring than to the animals themselves. Providing they have never produced any, look to their ancestors as well as to themselves.

Avoid choosing a stallion because he is low priced, and never select one simply because he is related to Dexter or Goldsmith's Maid.

Do not be in a hurry to use one whose colt you have not seen.

Use a stallion if possible a little out of his season, as he is not then over worked or over fed.

Avoid long-legged, slim-bodied stock, no matter how rangy, stylish or speedy they may be.

Some of the highest priced carriage horses in our cities are of this stamp, and if deprived of their fat they would be very inferior looking horses, and as regards their being useful, it is out of the question.

I would much sooner own the Dutchman's horse, who, when he laid down, "the shtall vosh full."

The first point in a No. 1 general purpose horse is durability; he is a good feeder, has a plump barrel, and, of course, is easily kept in condition.