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Persecution.

James Johnston's recent futile attempt to injure the Farmer's Advocate, and the Canadian Agricultural Emporium, have been of such a public nature as to excite a little commotion among some leading politicians and strong party men in this locality, and the desire now is by Johnston and his supporters, to be as quiet as possible about the matter, in order to divert attention from his recent acts, and to spread a report that we are opposed to the Western Fair, that we are injuring the interests of local manufacturers, and that our paper is a political engine. We deem it our duty to inform you that our words or acts are in no wise bribed by either party, that we are only acting in such a way as our judgment directs for the best interest of farmers. We have as yet allowed no promised aid to control us, and have received none from either party. Our support has been entirely from farmers, and we hope to be able to maintain our independent and untrammelled course. But the numerous acts of Johnston, Carling & Co., have been such that we cannot endorse them all, and are almost driven into the opposition ranks. However, we still follow the non-political course, as we believe that agriculture should be the main ruling power. We quote the resolution that Johnston got passed at the Western Fair Board: "Mr. J. B. Lane moved, seconded by Mr. John Stewart, that this Board regrets to notice that there are from time to time articles in the Farmer's Advocate, vilifying the officers of the Western Fair Association, and especially touching the character of the ex-President. This Board deems it its duty to protest against the articles in question as being false and utterly without foundation; and calculated to lead the mind astray; and we deem it our duty to the public that this resolution be sent to the press for publication, and that we refuse to take the Farmer's Advocate any longer." Carried.

The effects have not been very injurious so far—as the Board only took six copies for six months, and have not paid for them yet; this is not much support for an agricultural paper of six years' standing, published in their own county. One member of the Board, and one dealer in spirituous liquors, have stopped their papers, but to counteract this loss we have had the pleasure of entering more new names on our list than ever before during the month of July. The object of the resolution was, we believe, to cause a doubt of our verac-

ity, as some very important evidence depends on our testimony in regard to the public management of our agricultural affairs, we sent the following challenge to the Secretary of the Western Fair Association:

TO THE BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE WESTERN FAIR.
London, 26th June, 1871.

GENTLEMEN,—
"I hereby challenge the President, ex-President, or any of the Directors of the Western Fair, to a public discussion, to be held at any place out of London, when I will be prepared to prove the correctness of the statements made in the Farmer's Advocate in regard to their official acts, the judges in the discussion to consist of three wardens, selected by ballot from the twelve nearest counties to this, and for the payment of their expenses I will deposit \$50 against \$50 to be deposited by either of the parties accepting this challenge, the victor to have his money refunded, and the vanquished to pay all expenses of the said debate. The questions for debate to be selected from the Farmer's Advocate by the judges, and all other matters connected with the discussion to be arranged by them.

W. WELD.

P. S.—Being desirous to have the question put right with the public, as your late accusations are calculated to mislead them, an answer is respectfully requested within ten days from date.

W. W."

The first part of the challenge appeared in the two leading local dailies, but it has not been accepted, they have not dared an open and fair discussion. Had they done so it would have weakened Johnston's power in the Board to such an extent that he would not dare attempt any further opposition to the Provincial Board of Agriculture or to the Farmer's Advocate. But deep, dark, cunning intrigue appears to be preferred, and anything and everything must be cunningly brought out and agitated that can possibly injure us.

The great cry now made is, that we are opposed to the Western Fair.

We have continually advocated Agricultural Fairs and Agricultural Exhibitions, but we wish them to be conducted in such a manner as to be of advantage to the farmers. If so conducted they would be of more real value to the citizens than if the interest of the citizens is first looked after. We also say that political or sectarian influence should in no way interfere with agriculture. We contend that an Agricultural Fair should be for the sale of Stock. We have long since advocated the establishment of a Stock Fair here, and at other places, either monthly or quar-

terly; but the Western Fair does not afford a general market for Stock such as farmers can patronise for such a purpose.—The great charge for entrance fee for stock, or for dealers, prevents this, and the compulsory regulation of making farmers keep their stock on the ground four days would not answer for such a purpose. These things must be altered before the Western Fair can attain the right position of what we think a fair should be.

We should be sorry to see the Provincial Exhibition discontinued; it has done and is doing a great good to the country; and because we write in favor of it, and do not condemn it, we are said to be injuring the Western Fair; and for that reason we must be obliterated.

Board of Agriculture.

Is the Provincial Board of Agriculture to be maintained or not?

We all know that mismanagement crept into the old Board. It was exposed and checked. Notwithstanding all the mismanagement of the old Board we must admit that it did a vast amount of good, and has been worth to the country all that it cost. The new Board appears to be doing everything their united wisdom and power can do to advance the interest of agriculture, and we think they should be maintained. There are many practical men in the Board who know the requirements of the country. We consider that the new Board did right in refusing to dispose of their present building, and to remove their establishment into the Parliament building, as they were requested to do. We do not think that the new Act, which the Minister of Agriculture has made law, compelling the members to be elected every year, is a judicious step. It involves the members in a great deal more expense and trouble, and new men are not so well prepared to conduct the business as those that have had some experience. We fear the new Act has been brought in on purpose to endeavor to get a particular friend of the Minister of Agriculture into office in the Board, and in other positions. We have too great reason to believe that attempts are made in several ways to make agricultural expenditure a strong political scheme; and

we consider that by making it a political engine a great injury would be done to the agricultural interests of the country.

An Example Worth Following.

We were favored with a call from Mr. and Mrs. George Alway, of Komoka, on the 14th of last month, and were pleased to learn that having got their hoeing and haying over and a good start ahead of their work, through taking time by the forelock and good management, were just returning home to commence harvesting the following Monday, after enjoying a week's holiday, going back to the labors of the farm with renewed vigor and pleasure. How many of our farmers deprive themselves of a little recreation between haying and harvesting, and have to plod all the hot summer through in consequence of always being behind one day with the work, instead of being one or two days ahead of it. Let such be taught by the above fact, when they will have more pleasure in their work and it will be better done at the same time. Perhaps Mr. and Mrs. Alway may be inclined to broom-stick us for the liberty we have taken, but we willingly run the risk, hoping that by their example many may be induced to adopt a similar course, and thus be enabled to give themselves and wives a holiday in midsummer.

The Potato Bug.

These pests are gradually extending their way eastward, and are increasing in their destruction. The majority of the farmers here and to the west of us, in Canada, have, by patience, perseverance and watchfulness, been able, so far, to save their potatoes. But every here and there some ignorant, careless or negligent person has allowed the beetle to destroy his crop, and propagate enough of the pests to stock a county. Such careless farmers ought to be more severely punished than by merely losing their crop of potatoes, because they cause, by their neglect, the increase of the pest.

On the 13th of July, 1871, we received the Government Report concerning the potato beetle, and found therein very little more information than we gave a month ago, and some that we gave last year. The most remarkable thing about the Report