

**On the Wing.***Continued from Page 158.*

That part of the motion that treats of reducing the Board is very desirable, and might be beneficially entertained, but while making a slight reduction, it also makes a change, and that change a very dangerous one, and perhaps not honorable. Professor Buckland was the gentleman who devoted his own time and money to establish the first Provincial Exhibition. He was an active member so long as it was carried on satisfactorily, but although a member still he has done but little for it for many years. The facts are that he has been overworked, and is now a very old gentleman and deserves better treatment than he is receiving. Yet this honorable gentleman is to be ignominiously kicked out without thanks or reward, and if any one in Canada deserves consideration it is the old Professor. Next Mr. Brown's motion provides for the appointment of two additional stock breeders. We are willing to give every just credit to the breeders, but why they should be placed above all others is a query to us. The fact is that the stock raisers are perfectly capable of looking after themselves without special powers. Especially at this time is their presence on the Board unnecessary. The Shorthorn men are now about to form an association, and take control of the Herd Book, and other classes of stock must have their respective records conducted by the breeders before they will be of any value.

The Association should be composed of men who have broad and generous views, men of honor and stability. Such men, if elected, would not unduly favor Shorthorn or other expenditures to favor any special breed, although they might be extensive breeder.

**The Future of Our Public Agricultural Expenditures.**

We deem it our duty again to inform you from good authority that there existed a very strong desire among the members of our Local Legislature at its last session, to abandon many of the grants intended for the encouragement of agriculture. So strong has this feeling grown that we are again informed of the fact. It appears to us that the great and sweeping changes that have previously taken place have been too hurriedly enacted, and that it would serve the interests of this Dominion if discussions on contemplated changes should take place previous to the assembling of Parliament, and reasons for and against should be ventilated. Often party or personal influences are brought to bear too strongly when dealing with these subjects. In reality, all party interests should and must be buried on such occasions if the best results are to be obtained. A very slight examination into the past would tend to aid the maturing of improvements in future arrangements.

There are many who contemplate the withholding of the grant to the Model Farm or School of Agriculture; also many who contemplate the withholding of the grant to the Provincial Association. A desire is evinced by some to suppress Township Exhibitions, and some talk of cutting off the grants to special objects, such as the Fruit Growers' Association, Dairymen's Association, Veterinary College, etc., etc.

And yet there is a desire among many to advance the interests of agriculture if any improved plans can be shown. There are many among our readers who can look on the present state of affairs from an unprejudiced standpoint. We have previously treated on many important subjects, but there is such a very strong party feeling existing that some condemn us as a Grit, and others as

a Tory, this has existed for the past fifteen years. We now wish to enlist others to discuss this important question, and purpose to offer a prize of \$20 for the best essay on the subject of "Our Future Public Agricultural Expenditure," the article to be in this office by the 15th August. As the subject is an important one, it may require more space than has been usually allowed, therefore we will limit it to two pages. The writer's name to appear, or otherwise, as he may request.

**Opposition is the Life of Trade.**

This old quaint remark appears to be verified in a novel form. Many interested in and near Toronto, have for some time past used their influence to centre the expenditure of public agricultural money in Toronto, or rather to fix the permanency of the Provincial Exhibition in that city. The Grange influence at the Provincial has passed a resolution intending to encourage the assembly of Grangers from all parts in London during the holding of the Provincial Exhibition the coming autumn. The Industrial Exhibition of Toronto surpasses the bare resolution of the Provincial Board by actually allowing a commission to the Grangers for all they can induce to attend there on a certain day. If the Provincial Association do not think they give a plain farmer full value for his 25c. they might reduce the price of the tickets to 22½c. or 20c. to those applying for reduction; and why should not citizens be as much entitled to a reduction as farmers.

**Quebec Legislative Grants to Encourage Agriculture.**

The Board of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures of the Province of Quebec was granted \$10,000; \$50,000 were granted to Agricultural Societies; \$2,450 for Agricultural Colleges; \$7,000 for the publishing of agricultural information; \$1,500 were granted for the encouragement of dairying. A competent instructor is to be engaged to furnish information on the means of improving the quality of the butter and cheese now manufactured. \$10,000 were also granted toward the establishment of permanent exhibition buildings in Montreal, making a total of \$80,950 granted for the encouragement of agriculture in the Province of Quebec.

The Government has imported and distributed among the Agricultural Societies 500 tons of phosphates, each Society getting two tons, for which they were charged \$26 per ton. This being the first attempt to introduce fertilizers among the farmers, it was thought by some that it should have been given free of cost by the Government. Many of the Societies, thinking they are compelled to take it whether they wish to or not, do not receive it with favor. Such, however, is not the case. No Society need accept it unless they desire it; but it is very desirable that all Societies which are convenient to any railway station or harbor should experiment with it. But there are some Societies so situated that the accepting of it would be a loss to them. Being situated upwards of sixty miles from any station, the first cost and the cost of hauling such a distance would make it far too costly an article to be of any profit. It appears, too, that this article has been otherwise mismanaged, not having been distributed until too late in the season to be of much if any value. The Council of the Board of Agriculture, Arts and Manufactures seems to be a cause of complaint in Quebec as well as in Ontario. It is complained that they are principally theorists, and although some good men are among them, they are all Government nominees. This is, in our opinion, a decided objection. Greater advances would be

made by the agriculturists if they were allowed to elect the members of this Board. The ordinary farmers would take a greater interest in the exhibitions and the doings of the Board if they were allowed a voice in the government of it, but as it now exists many look on it as they do on the Government—a thing not to be meddled with, and beyond their ability to comprehend; therefore they do not take the interest in it they otherwise would, and of course receive a corresponding benefit. We find the Agricultural Colleges are also in disfavor. The Hon. Messrs. Langelier and Chapleau said "they regretted there were so little results to be seen from these schools; the habitants seem to think them of no value, but say they are an injury." The amount of money granted to them is very small, but should produce some good results.

When the item of \$1,500 was granted for the encouragement of the dairy interests of the Province, Hon. Messrs. Ross and Irving ridiculed the idea of there being any necessity for instructing the people of Quebec in the art of dairying. In the Province of Ontario there are \$3,000 expended for this purpose yearly. There are two regularly established Dairymen's Associations, each of which receive \$1,500, which is expended partly in prizes, partly in publishing their yearly report, and in engaging a number of skilled professors and instructors to lecture to and instruct the Ontario farmers in this very important art. And we have been assured by prominent and very reliable authorities on the subject that all the money expended has returned 200 per cent. for all outlay, and that the dairy products of this Province have improved in quality to a truly wonderful extent. The experience of European countries is similar to ours, and though they produce a better article than the American product, they find it profitable to engage skilled professors as instructors, and they even establish dairy schools. Either the above members are ignorant of the importance of the subject, or else they are very reckless of the farmers' and their country's interests in thus opposing this important grant, and should, when opportunity offers, be brought severely to task for the same.

Hon. Mr. Chapleau said there were 1,000,000 milch cows in the Province, which produced 33,000,000 pounds of butter annually; and from market quotations it was shown that this was sold at 12 to 18 cents per pound less than that produced by several European countries, and on the product sold there was a loss to the Province of at least \$100,000.

**Potato Starch Factories.**

The subject of potato starch manufacturing in Canada has led to a volume of enquiries and correspondence on the subject, and will, we hope, lead to the development of another of the hitherto neglected resources of our country. From our correspondent at Woodstock, N. B., we have had several letters of enquiry on the subject, and from Mr. Eastwood, of Manchester, England, we have received some very valuable information—analyses of potatoes, and statistics pertaining thereto.

A starch factory in N. B. would be a great acquisition to farmers, giving them a ready market for all their surplus potatoes that they have been glad to get purchasers for at 20 cents per bushel. A Maine correspondent of Mr. Eastwood says a bushel of potatoes will make 9 lbs of starch; three cents per lb. value by the cask, which would be about 600 lbs. The water from which the starch has been obtained is used for the purpose of irrigation, and the pulp from which half of the water has been compressed is used for food for cows and