

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN CHILDREN.
To the Minister and Board of Agriculture:

GENTLEMEN.—We see by exchange papers that the Foot and Mouth Disease is rather on the increase in Europe. One of our subscribers called at our office last week and informed us that he had purchased a Durham Heifer to bring with him to our shores, but fortunately for Canadians, the animal died of the above disease before it came here. We do not know which would be our best means to prevent its introduction—to prohibit importation altogether, or to have a species of known time formed for cattle to be kept before they are allowed to travel in our cars or intermingle with our stock. We believe it is not confined to cattle alone, but sheep, pigs, and poultry are even affected by it, and still worse—we quote the following from *More's Rural New Yorker*—

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE IN CHILDREN.—In view of the prevalence of this disease among the live stock of Great Britain, and of the fact that it has already prevailed in this country, it is important that it should be understood here that its presence is not confined to the dumb animals—that children who drink the milk of cows in this diseased condition are afflicted with Epizootic Aphthae. Mr. WYMAN, Chairman of the Herts Chamber of Agriculture, so asserts; so does Prof. HARTWIG, of Berlin, and Prof. GAMBER of Edinburgh, well known in this country. Facts are the foundation of this assertion. As long ago as 1862 Mr. WATSON of Kelso, found several children so affected; and the editor of the Edinburgh Veterinary Review confirms the statements. Mr. DUNCAN, a skilful veterinary surgeon of Collingburgh, Fife, Scotland, states that he had seen a boy suffer severely with all the symptoms of Epizootic Aphthae, his mouth being so sore as to prevent food from being taken for several days. The lad was ill nearly a fortnight. How many eruptions about the mouth, and body of infants reared, as they sometimes must be, on cow's milk, may be due to such a cause. We commend these facts to American importers and to American Health authorities.

POSTAGE AGAIN.

In the advertising columns of this paper you may notice a small, neatly engraved cut, with the following words: "Vick's Flora Guide," the size of which is not one inch in width or two inches in length, and weighing less than three ounces. Mr. Vick had placed on it no less than 13 cents worth of postage stamps. These are of course obliterated and of no value. On the arrival of this small cut at this city Post Office, we were compelled to pay 60 cents as postage. The regular rate of parcel postage would be but three cents. We are continually receiving American letters, on which the United States postage has been prepaid, yet we are compelled to pay 10 cents for every one, and very often 25, 30 and 40 cents, which has frequently caused us an outlay of \$1 or \$2 per day. We do not know what becomes of this money so collected. Surely the Americans are too honorable to ask double payment for what they already have had payment for. This might not be of much consequence to a Government institution, as they have every way of controlling the money, but it is oppressive to private enterprise. Where is there a farmer in Canada but has been benefitted by the American varieties of wheat and potatoes, and our ladies are delighted with the American flower seeds. And besides, we use many of the American improved implements. What would our markets for horses, cattle, sheep and grain be were we entirely shut out from them? Then why should this unaccountable postage extortion be enforced?

INSURANCE.

No, sir! our insurance advertisement shall not appear in this paper, until I am driven harder than I am at present for a bite of bread, as a consideration, and only by the means of drawing money from

our readers. We see the *Prairie Farmer* denounces about twenty insurance companies as highway robbers. The plausible and talkative agents are wolves in sheep's clothing, persons of good appearance and address, who, farmers would think, were talking for the real interest of themselves and families. These agents would swarm our country to a greater extent than they do now if we should insert the advertisement. We have little faith in some companies. Other papers may insert it, but at present we decline. (To the mail applicant.)

We have not confidence in every insurance trap. We would not advise every one to go into the life insurance business, not even in holding a policy, but we would advise farmers to insure in the Agricultural Mutual Fire Insurance Company, which is safe and reliable, unless the councilmen of each township or county levy a general tax for such a purpose, which is the cheapest and best way it can be done. There may be much said in favor of life insurance, and about as much against it.

POLITICS.

You will have to record your vote in a few weeks for a member of the House of Commons. Many will tell you that a farmer is not fit to go there, and the country will be swarming with loquacious citizens to represent your interests. Money, in some instances, will flow as free as water for the purpose of unseating some or electing others. You farmers should be above selling your privilege of voting for a few dollars. If you cannot find a farmer fit to represent you as well as you would wish, select the best you can. The agricultural class, above all, should be faithfully represented in both Houses. Ask your would-be representative if he will use his influence towards allowing agricultural papers to pass through the Post Office as cheaply as political papers, and seeds to be sent per mail as cheaply as papers. Both of these would be of benefit to the farmers. Our rates of postage on seeds are double the rates charged in the States. If a sufficient number of farmers are elected, the farmers' interest will be better looked after. Do not be led away with great accounts of what has been done for agriculture. Some things may appear all very fine from stump orators, but you weigh well in your mind whether the large public expenditures are made to advance the farmers' interest, or for creating fat offices for a few, or for trampling down private enterprise. Vote for farmers!

This number closes the 6th volume of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE. We have endeavored to make it a useful, profitable, and welcome visitor to the farmer's home. We have sacrificed opportunities of gain to keep it independent, and to advocate the farmer's interest. We have had much to contend against, but hundreds of our readers have ably supported us from the commencement, and have aided us to obtain a circulation of many thousands. We have improved and increased the size of your paper, as increased support has arrived. We hope to make the 7th volume more useful, more instructive, and in every way better than the last has been. Each of you must admit that your paper has been improved since its commencement, and we hope each well-wisher to the farmers' interests will aid us in doubling our subscription list this year. Your paper is now admitted to be the leading agricultural paper, and your editor has spoken freely, perhaps too freely for his own good, his unbiased and untrammelled opinions on agricultural affairs in general. Our greatest desire has been and still is to unite all parties and sects for the advancement of our general agricultural interest, and we ask each of you that desire a united and harmonious working of our agricultural interests, to aid the enterprise by either side we do not have to thank our supporters, because we have not devoted our pages entirely to

either. If we are right, please to use your influence in increasing the circulation of a useful and valuable paper. If we are wrong in any of our views, we should be most happy to insert an article from any that may differ with us.

TO THE BOYS.

Your father has taken the ADVOCATE, perhaps for years, and he may have procured good seeds through information furnished. He may not have time to get up a club for the paper, and we want one of you in each family to act as an aid to the Emporium, and become the leading man in your section. To do this, obtain all the information you can in your business—agriculture; get up a club for the paper, and procure some seeds. Plant them, and you will soon have some to sell your father, who will give you a piece of ground to sow them in. Your neighbors will come to you from many miles to procure them; you will raise larger crops and will sell them at much higher rates. You can take the extra money you receive and purchase agricultural books. You will be able to carry off the first prizes at Exhibitions. Then get a little good stock, and in a few years you may be able to purchase a farm, and advance above those boys who think they know enough. We make the following special prize list for you, and we can commend the varieties named; they will be wanted by your neighbors. We make them small, so that every one of you may get something of use, and that you will make money from them. You have the great accounts of the enormous yields and of the excellent quality of these seeds testified to by many really reliable farmers, whose experiences have been published in this paper, so that you need not think they are untrue. We would not insert them unless we had tried them, and know that one bushel of potatoes can be raised from one pound.

- 4 ounces McCarding Wheat, the best spring wheat known..... 50 cts.
- 4 ounces Peerless Potatoes..... 25 "
- 4 " Chimax Potatoes..... 25 "
- 4 " Breeze's Prolific..... 25 "
- 4 " Willard Seedling..... 25 "
- 4 " King of Eagles..... 10 "
- 4 " Calicoes..... 6 "
- 4 " Early Rose..... 6 "

The above varieties are superior to the Pink-eyes, Mechenocks, Myles, Gannet Chicks, Flukes, Flounders, Australians, Beck Diamonds, Bruce Seedlings, Californians, Cups, and 40 other varieties of less note. We have tried them.

- 4 ounces New Brunswick Oats..... 20 cts.
- 4 " Marshal—white..... 25 "
- 4 " Westwell—black..... 10 "
- 4 " Emporium, best pure white..... 10 "
- 4 " Norway and Black..... 6 "
- 4 " Crown Peas..... 6 "

For any new subscriber at one dollar, we will send you per mail and post-paid, a 25-cent package of any of the above-named plants or seeds. Two old subscribers count as one new one. This Club List is for new beginners; the older hands can select their prizes from the larger list, or we will increase the quantity of seeds and charge at bushel rates, and send by rail. Be sure and get a prize.

TO THE CITY AUTHORITIES.

We have heard several complaints from farmers living within twenty miles of this city, who say purchasers have gone to their farms and purchased hogs. The hogs have to be driven to the city scales and weighed. They do not complain about paying for weighing, but they consider that they are robbed when they are compelled to pay an additional market fee for every hog. They say that they could sell them at various other places just as well, and have no such fee to pay. They consider that the sale of their produce being effected before coming to the city, does not entitle the collection of fees from them. This imposition, they say, will make them keep clear of London as much as possible. Perhaps it would be to the advantage of citizens not to enact such laws as to draw farmers from this to another market.

The sheep is in the habit of recognizing and retaining the services conferred on it by its master. If he gives it a vote, it gives him a coat in return.

CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.

We are always pleased to notice any valuable enterprise, particularly among our own countrymen. An exchange now before us shows that Mr. H. Sells, of Vienna, Elgin Co., has carried off two first prizes and one second prize at the International Exhibition held in Buffalo. This is another feather in the cap of Canadian inventors and manufacturers. Mr. Sells carries off the first prize for a Corn Shelter, which is no small honour, when he has to compete against all the inventive genius of the greatest corn-growing country of the world, and a country unrivalled for the invention of labor-saving implements. He also carried off the first prize for his Cider Mill, and his Chaff Cutter took the second prize. Whether the air of invention is wanted across Lake Erie and strikes first in the County of Elgin, you must judge for yourselves, but certain it is that Elgin is ahead of all other counties in inventive genius. The Ditching Machine, the King of Canadian inventions, was originated there. The Cider Press and the Corn Shelter are both useful implements. If these remarks fall too heavily on other counties, correct us. We admire Mr. Sells's independent spirit, as he does not hawk "patent right" over the country, but invents and manufactures himself.

AN APPELLING SUGGESTION.

The London "Pall Mall Gazette" fears that the city of Chicago has the power to ruin the Dominion of Canada. All that is needful is for Chicago to cut a canal thirteen feet deep through the belt of limestone which girds the southern bay of Lake Michigan, and then the waters that flow north into the gulf of St. Lawrence will have, instead, to flow south into the Mississippi and gulf of Mexico. The opinion which the "Gazette" thus gives it states to be also that of the British Geographical Society. They say the variation of the height of the lakes above tide level is, until we come to the great fall of Niagara, but trivial; Lake Superior being 600 feet in height, Lake Huron and Michigan 575 feet, and Lake Erie 565, while Lake Ontario, into which the other Lakes flow, via Niagara, is but 232 feet. Therefore, if Chicago people would cut a short canal, with a fall of thirteen feet, into the Illinois river, the flow of the Lakes would go that way instead of toward Niagara; the St. Lawrence, the great river of Canada, would become very much smaller, and the great American river would become correspondingly deeper, and an easy navigable channel be had from Lake Superior to the Gulf of Mexico; Niagara river would nearly dry up, and the grain and other products of the west would go to Europe via New Orleans, instead of by the St. Lawrence.

WARM STABLE.—A warm stable is equal to a large bin of grain or many tons of hay. Every stock feeder should try to make his stable frost-proof. This can be done in a cheap way by taking one-by-four inch strips and nailing edgewise up and down on the inside of the stable, and then boarding up on the inner edge of these strips with any refuse stuff, leaving a space between walls of four inches to be filled with saw dust or tan bark, or for want of these, straw, well rammed in. Then, by making the doors tight, you have a stable so warm that milking is comfortably done in winter and your cows will not require to eat a double portion to keep them warm. It costs much less to make a warm stable than to warm up the animals with extra food.

An exchange says that a fire proof fence can be made by following these directions:—Make a wash of one part fine sand, and one part wood ashes, well sifted, and three parts lime ground up with oil, and mix them well together. Apply this to the fence with a brush—the first coat thin, the second thick. This adheres to the boards or planks so strongly as to resist either iron tools or fire, and is, besides, impenetrable by water.