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VOL. IX. {WILLIAM WELD,
Editor & Proprietor.}

LONDON, ONT., APRIL, 1874.

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NO. 4

Prize Essays.

We offer this month one of the chromos as a prize for the best article on Pruning Apple Trees, the article to treat on young and old trees and to show the proper time that the work should be done; the article to be in this office by the 15th of the present month.

To Our Subscribers.

We have promised to improve your paper as fast as we could afford to do so. We thank each one of you that has helped to add one name to our list, for your exertion; by your aid we have received a large addition to our list of subscribers. It is numbers that give us strength and money.

We have now made arrangements with the Hon. X. A. Willard and L. B. Arnold, the best writers and speakers on the dairy interest known in America, and we believe the best in the world. They have both now arranged to write for your paper. One article will appear from each in alternate numbers.

Of course these gentlemen cannot be expected to devote their great abilities to your interests unless we give them remuneration. This is one of the ways in which we expend the money we receive from you, to give you the best information on any agricultural subject. Read carefully the article by the Hon. X. A. Willard, in this issue; show it to any of your friends interested in the important business of dairying. If the suggestions thrown out in this article alone were followed by our dairymen, it might tend to the increase of our wealth hundreds of thousands of dollars. Read also Mr. Arnold's useful article again, in the last issue.

Go to your friends and show them what we are doing, and send one more name in. Those who have never yet added a name to our list we hope will now do so.

The Granges.

Quite a commotion has been caused by the publication of our article on Granges and the arrival of Mr. Eben Thompson, the Deputy of the National Grange, into our country.

Several prominent members of the non-producing class have done their best to write down the great farmers' movement, holding forth on its imaginary evils, dangers of annexation, injury to traders, and every other evil they can devise, possible or impossible.

On the other hand, editors and writers who wish the farmers' success and the good of the country, have shown the subject in a fair, clear and truthful manner to their readers. Nearly every farmer we

have spoken to approves of the movement, and many are agitating the subject in their several localities. It has now such a hold on the farmers that its opponents cannot stay its progress. Already the Granges are being established in our midst, and many more are now organizing. We have spoken to several members of Parliament of both shades of politics, regarding this matter. We ascertained from those we spoke to that some on each side were in favor of the movement, and about an equal number were not quite as favorable to it.

The political position of either did not appear to be the cause of their opposing or favoring it. It was not on political points, but merely self stand points. One M. P. spoke of the probability of our being taken up for high treason for favoring such a movement, and said farmers should stay on their farms and should not assemble together! One Senator advised his friends to have nothing to do with the movement.

These members could not become members of the Granges, because their main interest is not allied in any way with agriculture. The members who are farmers are all in favor of the movement. We would advise our friends and the friends of the farmer to be on the alert, and be the first to organize the Granges in their localities, as advantages accrue to the charter members that others cannot so easily obtain.

We have become a member and can speak from experience to both ladies and gentlemen. Rally and join the farmers' movement; do not be among the driven cattle; be up and among the foremost. We shall have our Dominion institution as soon as 15 or 20 Granges are organized. There is no more fear of its leading on to annexation than the formation of temperance or masonic lodges.

All the ladies and gentleman that have joined the organizations are quite satisfied on this point, and all we have seen are well pleased that they have joined. There is nothing in this organization in any way objectionable to the ladies, but there are many pleasing, enlightening and advancing features in it that they will be pleased with.

Parties desiring information regarding the formation of Granges will address Eben Thompson, Deputy of the National Grange, Patrons of Husbandry, care of this office.

Markham Farmer's Club.

The monthly meeting of the Markham Farmer's Club was held on Saturday, the 7th inst. The Hon. D. Reesor gave an address on fruit—the prospects, market, &c. He considered the fruit business of

Canada was destined to be second only to the dairy interest in importance. He clearly explained the adaptability of our climate and soil to the growth of the apple; only a small portion of the States was found to be better adapted to the growth of this fruit than a very large extent of territory in Canada. The profits on raising it were large, and our apples were better for keeping than those grown further south, while the quality was of the best description. One fruit raiser near Montreal realized ten dollars per barrel for the Fameuse variety.

He thought it would be a good plan to form a company and plant 200 acres of an apple orchard in Markham, to show the profits. The object should be to plant such kinds only as would be most suitable for shipping to foreign markets, and open up and develop more fully this valuable branch of our resources.

A person should be employed to attend to the cultivation and marketing. Farmers in general could not devote the attention to orchards that they required; insects must be exterminated at a proper time. The pruning was too often neglected or improperly done by farmers who have many other labors calling their attention. The gathering, packing and keeping of fruit required special attention.

A specialty should be made of the business of fruit growing to make it most remunerative. The dairy interest was now developed because those engaged in it devoted their particular attention to it.

Your humble servant being present, made a few remarks approving of Mr. Reesor's suggestions.

We were asked what time we thought the most suitable to prune trees. We replied that November was the best time for taking off large limbs, and whenever the knife was sharp for small ones. A question was also put to us regarding the Government pruning of trees at Guelph; also, whether we considered the Government had possession of the farm or the cattle.

Considerable discussion arose regarding pruning. This is a question on which some pomologists differ. Mr. Crosby gave his experience in pruning. We hope to draw forth an article on this subject.

Mr. Thompson, better known as "Jimuel Briggs," editor of the *National*, delivered an address on Protection vs. Free Trade.

We were called on to explain the object, working and intentions of the Order of the Patrons of Husbandry, after which some discussions arose. The real farmers were in favor of the movement.

Some persons that do not obtain their living from farming will be found to raise objections, and have some scare-crow to

show farmers who are well known to be tardy in looking after their interests, if a cent is wanted. However, the movement is set in fact, and nothing that middlemen can do will stop its progress.

Provincial Farm.

REPORT OF COMMISSIONERS—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AT WASHINGTON—AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE OF IOWA.

The report of the Provincial Farm Commission has already been read by many of our readers; we therefore, instead of occupying some pages of our paper by reprinting it in full, review the subject very briefly. We need hardly refer to our declared disapproval of the project of the Agricultural College and Farm from the first broaching of the idea by the Government. We need not, to prevent our action from being misunderstood, say that we have at all times had and evinced a great desire for the increase of agricultural knowledge and the improvement of agriculture. That our opposition to it was not without some effect we have reason to believe, though the project is still to be carried out, though with as specious an appearance as may be. We believe, and not without good grounds for our belief, that the project was designed and carried out, not for the benefit of the farmers, on whom would fall the burden of its support, or for the improvement of agriculture, which its advocates professed to be the motive for its conception, but as a political engine, affording a other store from which to reward political partisans, and in unjustifiable opposition to individual enterprise. The report before us, with even greater skill than the pleas of those who with ready pens and oily tongues, had been, on every opportunity, supporting the measure, professes the great object of the Institution to be, to conduce to the greatest possible benefit of the agricultural interests of the Province. Despite all this specious theory, however, the report itself confirms our objection to it as a political machine. The appointments to office will be in the hands of the Government, and the Honorary Council consisting of eight members appointed by Government.

One argument brought forward in favor of the project was the example of similar institutions in the United States. Now, we would ask has their working under the management of officials appointed by the party in power for the time, as a reward for their personal service, been such as to beget a confidence in the working of this institution, whose officials are to be appointed in like manner? Let us enquire still further into the working of similar institutions under similar powers of appointment, adding to the testimony heretofore given of their entire failure to carry out their professed designs. In the postscript to this article we give from high authority, the *New England Farmer*, proofs of the inefficiency of the Washington Department of Agriculture, such a Board as that to which our agricultural interests are to be entrusted. So many and great have been the complaints against the Agricultural College of Iowa for unauthorized and improper expenditure of the public money and for other malfeasances that a Legislative Committee of Enquiry was appointed, whose report is also before us. We make some extracts:—"It is abundantly proved that the