

**Public Agricultural Affairs.**

We have continually advocated the necessity of sending more agricultural men to our Legislature. The greatest difficulty is,—1st, to find sufficient gentlemen of ability devoting their attention to that business; 2nd, the expense that an election will cost, not only in money, but in the time taken from their business. The first is the greatest drawback. We farmers should waive a great many objections that will always be used against a farmer, and endeavor to return more to either of the Houses of Parliament. The public agricultural affairs of the country must be managed by some one. If suitable men are not to be found, all that the Government can do is to select such as they deem the most suitable. We do not doubt but in the selection of our present minister of agriculture various things were represented. The Hon. John Carling owns land, and has it cultivated, and it may be said he is a farmer. But he has never paid any attention to agriculture, and really knows less about seeds, plants, stock, weeds or cultivation than any farmer we ever met. His attention or faculties have never been devoted to it, and the great absorbing power of gold has engrossed his attention. Gold from the brewery, and brewery regulations and contracts; Gold from land and city improvements; Gold from railway influences; and gold from public improvements. These things have been, and who can say but they would be the first consideration with any one. We do not blame him for looking after his own interests, but we believe he has been led astray and misdirected by those persons who have fawned on and misled him in the discharge of his duties as minister of agriculture; and by that means has been led away from the real interests of agriculture, to the building up of party power.

Agriculture should in no way be troubled by religious or party lines. It should be the aim of the minister of Agriculture to enhance the products of the soil, to improve and protect our markets, to encourage the spread of agricultural information, and to guard the farmers as much as possible against losses of crops or stock. The voices of county councils, agricultural societies, and practical farmers, should have as much attention as one or two private individuals. Where Mr. Carling has failed has been in allowing himself to be directed by a body guard of office-seekers, who are never wanting in attendance on those who attain influence. Evil communications are apt to corrupt good manners. Had Mr. Carling lent an ear to agriculturists, and been directed by such counsel, he might have done, and may yet do good to the Dominion in which he holds such an exalted position. The mere compulsion of paying heavy taxes to support institutions that may not be of use to the tillers of the soil, does not constitute the sole duty of a minister.

Mr. Carling should know what has been of value to the country, and endeavor to make such still more useful. We believe the Provincial Exhibition has been of great benefit to the country, worth far more, in fact, than it cost, despite all the mismanagement complained of. It has been the main institution from which all the minor ones have sprung. Now, the question

may arise, and should be considered, how far these exhibitions that have emanated from the Provincial are doing good to the country. Men are like sheep,—they follow. We live in a time of advancement. Intellectual information should rule, and must rule. If some of the energy now displayed in imitating the useful labors of the past generation was expended in establishing really good agricultural clubs, for the discussion of agricultural subjects, agricultural management, and things generally in connection with agriculture—would it not be of more value to the country than the great flaring bills, the intense excitement on a fast horse, or a fat bull, or a varnished ditching machine. Will not the loss on the importation of slop-fed American pork do us more harm than the cost of a hundred Provincial exhibitions? Will not the Colorado potato bug do more damage than all the smaller exhibitions will do good? Are there not scores of subjects which we should discuss rather with the mind than with the eye?

We should have a minister of agriculture that would lead and not be led; one that would drive and not be driven.

**To Ottawa or Not.**

Is the Provincial Exhibition to go to Ottawa or not? This has been the main question to be decided at the annual meeting, and we presume it will be brought up again this year. The fact of the Provincial Exhibition being perambulatory has been of much benefit to the country. It has been worth all it cost.—It has given a stimulant to improvement, and an opportunity to learn, in every section where it has been. It has awakened London, Hamilton, York and Peel to have their exhibitions; it has caused Guelph to make extra exertion, and they will have a fair, as good as any in Canada, when they establish it.

There is a very large tract of country north of Kingston, and if the Exhibition went to Ottawa it would no doubt be of very great advantage to thousands that have never had an opportunity of seeing what Canada can produce. It would certainly be expensive for western men to attend, the majority could not afford it.—There are comparatively few farmers that go beyond a distance of 30 miles to attend the exhibition.

The farmers around Ottawa have been taxed for years to support our exhibitions, and we think they are fairly entitled to it now. We can hold exhibitions in Guelph, Hamilton, Toronto and London, and wait our turn for the Provincial Exhibition.—The only reason we would have for opposing it is, that perhaps when they got it once they might keep it. Such a catastrophe might happen. Quebec might join Ontario, and have the annual exhibition a permanent thing in Ottawa: and from the splits and contentions that have arisen about the exhibition in the western section there may be danger of such a proceeding, and some might argue that it would be a good thing to establish it there.

We believe it would be better for us in London to have it permanently established in Ottawa, in preference to Toronto (even this is talked of). Ottawa has ample buildings for the accommodation of stock and implements, and we believe they can

afford much more and better accommodation for visitors than can be obtained at Kingston—but arrangements should be made that farmers should be accommodated at no advance on usual rates. There is too great an inclination to charge enormously for everything at such times as the Provincial Exhibition goes to any city.—We have heard of 50 cents being charged for a night's rest on a bare floor, without covering. And Ottawa has already a noted name for high charges.

**The Myat Wine Plant.**

Much has been said in years gone by of this plant, especially when it was first introduced, and pedlars swarmed the country selling the roots. The majority of people looked on it as a humbug. Many hundreds went into the speculation who knew nothing about it; and had neither the patience, spirit, perseverance nor the means to properly carry out the wine-making process. Others were too careless in cleaning the casks, and many were too parsimonious to use sufficient sugar. A great deal of the vilest trash was sold under the name of Myat Wine, that was no better than the mixture of molasses and logwood that is to be found in the majority of hotels under the name of port or sherry.—The public mind became set against it, and the cultivation of the plant has almost ceased.

It happens that a gentleman named Webb, a few doors from our office, became impressed with the value of this plant, and went into its cultivation with a determination to succeed. He has now large cellars filled with the wine, varying from one to seven years of age. We tasted several vintages, and believe it to be of superior quality to nine-tenths of the liquid that is sold under the name of wine in Canada. Last evening (June 22,) we walked over one of his plantations with Mr. Webb, and obtained more information about the cultivation and management of the Myat Wine Plant than we ever knew before. The plants stand in rows,  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4$  feet, and the ground is completely covered, some of the stalks being over three feet in length. We never knew anything about the ripening of rhubarb until Mr. Webb explained it,—as we always thought that when it was large enough to use it was as good as at any other time. Mr. Webb showed us the difference. The main crop will not be ripe until about the 1st of July. The edges of the leaves then begin to turn a reddish brown, and the stalks should be red. When the harvest season commences all good stalks will be cut, and the small ones left to make a second or fall crop.—A large quantity of the under leaves are worthless.

There is a great prejudice now existing with regard to the wine, and we are much pleased to be able to state that Mr. Webb is fast conquering this prejudice—not by advertising, or by agencies, but by making an article that when once tried by wine-drinkers is sure to give satisfaction. We were informed by Mr. Klitching, when we visited his vineyards and wine vaults, that preference was given to Myat wine over pure grape wine. It is our impression that for wine making in Canada the Myat Wine Plant will be found superior to the grape. Why should we expend in importing an article no better than we can produce.

**An Awful Calamity.**

A special meeting of the Western Fair Association was called on Saturday, the 24th of June, the sole purpose of which appeared to be the annihilation of the Farmer's Advocate and its editor. Law appeared to be the desire of some, but finally they succeeded in carrying a vote to discontinue taking the Farmer's Advocate, and to have said vote published in the papers. *This is a terrible stroke!* The support withdrawn by the above resolution must be ruinous to this institution; for the past six years they have not had one year's papers, and never paid one cent even for six single copies they have received. A sufficient number were found to carry the resolution, but not without opposition. Words were rather high. The editor was threatened, and some talked of hurling him down stairs. One of the directors said he would leave the meeting if the editor was allowed in the room again. His writings were condemned as false; and he was called a liar by the ex-president.

The fact is, the editor has been rather too free with his pen to suit a certain combined party that he considered was acting rather against the agricultural interests of the country, and endeavoring to enchain agriculture to politics. One of the members of the board threatened the editor with a horse-whipping if he published his name, or anything concerning him. A second member made a similar threat. Woe betide the poor editor that dare use an untrammelled pen. Oh, Canada, Canada, is darkness to reign!

This circumstance forcibly reminds us of the conclave formed by the three Tooley Street Tailors, who represented themselves as "we, the people of Great Britain;" and also of an incident in the life of the late millionaire, Mr. Hoby, of old London—who, having made to order a pair of boots for a certain ensign who we will call Snubs, was called upon by that celebrity, in consequence of the boots not suiting his fancy, and received the crushing announcement that the ensign would withdraw his patronage. Mr. Hoby, still retaining his senses under the dire calamity, called on his manager and told him to put up the shutters, as Ensign Snubs had withdrawn his patronage. The ensign did not wait to see Mr. Hoby's order carried out.

**Our office is still open.**

We have heard no convincing argument to show that the Western Fair has not been organized as a powerful political party engine, to enchain and enslave the farmers. As indications exhibit themselves to us, the effect must tend greatly to check the independence of farmers of the Dominion. The main question for Canadian farmers to decide is this:—Is Agriculture to be made entirely subservient to party political power, and the present Provincial Board of Agriculture made subservient to the wire-pullers of the Western Fair, or not?

—An Ohio paper publishes its social announcement under the heads of "Hatched," "Matched," "Patched," "Snatched," "Detached," and "Dispatched," as an improvement on "Pom," "Betrayed," "Married," "Eloped," "Divorced," and "Died."

BARN WEEVIL.—Lime, sprinkled over the grain and on the barn floor, will cause the weevils to "emigrate to a more congenial climate."

**Agric**

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