

EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT.

OUR SYSTEM.

OUR system of making a good, practical and reliable agricultural and horticultural paper, is not as some editors do, to refuse to publish anything, unless it comes to them *original*.

The poorest agricultural paper, in our opinion, in this country, as regards *practical* value, is one in which little or nothing appears, but what is written by its *editors*. Editors of rural papers are out of their proper sphere, when they attempt to fill their papers entirely with their own ideas, however good they may be, because it is not *possible* for any editor, or corps of editors, to supply the farmers of this country with information from their own pens wholly, which is as valuable as that which comes through correspondents in part, and in part selections from other similar publications, with a sprinkling of editorial matter.

Take, for instance, the best farmer and writer in the Province, and give him a paper to edit, and require him to fill it entirely, from week to week, or month to month, with his own ideas, and what would it be worth to farmers, *after the first year*? He would have told all he knew in a few months, and then his paper would be merely a rehash of what he had previously written. Our system, therefore, is to select a portion of the best matter that is published in the agricultural and horticultural publications of this country; and with what our able correspondents, and what we write, we claim that we publish a paper for farmers, fruit growers, &c., on the *best possible plan that can be adopted*. Is it not reasonable, that our views are correct? We have about twenty agricultural and horticultural papers in the United States, in all of which some very good, practical information may be found, the *cream* of which we seek out, frequently among much that is worthless, and insert it in our paper what every farmer in the whole land may read with profit; and we contend that we publish in a year what is worth *ten times as much*, at least, to the working farmer as what is found in any similar paper that discards all matter but what is written especially for it.

FARMERS OUT OF DEBT.

HERE must be something radically wrong with the farmer that does not now free himself from debt. Never in the lifetime of the present generation will such another opportunity present itself. Every cultivated product of the temperate latitude bears a highly remunerative price. Every fruit of our trees finds ready market.—Every domestic animal that roams over our fields or feeds on the contents of our granaries, finds a ready purchaser. Animals, vegetables and fruits alike are in demand.

It matters not for the purpose of paying debts, whether the money received for farm products be fifty, sixty, ninety or more cents below par; a dollar cancels a dollar's worth of debt, contracted even in the good old days of specie for which men sigh. A few years ago it took, in many parts of the West, ten bushels of corn to bring a dollar. Everything else that the farmer produced by his toil and care was equally low in price. Then, indeed, were hard times, and a crushing load of debt settled down upon the shoulders of all—for the great mass of western farmers came here, poor in money; rich only in faith and hope.

If a man's crops and stock last year brought him \$1,000 and his expenses were \$500, this year his receipts will be \$2,000, while his expenditures, even allowing them to have doubled—which they will not have done in one case in ten, will allow of a profit double that of last year.

And what is a year or two of economy now—economy of the most rigid kind, that shall cut off all the luxuries of life, compared with the years of happiness that shall follow when the homestead is free from encumbrance; when all the stock and machinery are the property of the landholders; when there is no account at the grocer's nor the dry goods merchants, nor the blacksmiths?

It will be a glorious epoch when the people of these prairies own their own farms, and this we believe may at once be, if proper advantage be taken of the times in which we now live.—*Prairie Farmer*.

Three feet is the most economical depth for drains.