

The Government Sale at the Model Farm, Guelph.

SIR,—As you seem desirous that both sides should be heard on questions relating to the interests of farmers, would you kindly insert the following in the ADVOCATE for November:—

In the ADVOCATE for October, under the above heading, I noticed with considerable surprise your observations relative to that institution. Now, sir, in this communication I shall only dwell upon one, viz:—*The sooner this Model Farm is abandoned the better it will be for the farmers of Ontario.* A proposition from which I entirely dissent; believing as I do that the farmers of this Province, on account of the importance and magnitude of the interests they represent, are entitled to higher educational institutions, peculiar to their calling,—educational institutions that should stand in the same relation to the agricultural class as the universities and colleges do to professional men, and Normal Schools to teachers.

From observations extending over a period of seventeen years, during all of which time I have been engaged in practical farming and nothing else, I have learned that farmers as a class do not exercise or possess that influence in the councils of the nation and the management of public affairs generally to which they are justly entitled from their numerical strength and the importance of their calling. The principal reason is not that they have less brains, but an inferior education. Their minds have not been trained in youth so as to enable them to hold their own when brought into contact with gentlemen of the learned professions. Why, sir, in the present Provincial Cabinet can you point out a single representative farmer. I am credibly informed (I hope I may be mistaken) that they are all lawyers but one, and he is not a farmer—no, not even the Commissioner of Agriculture is a farmer. What a reflection upon the intelligence of the great agricultural community of this fair Province of Ontario!

You and others may say—Let the farmers use the high schools and colleges to give their sons a better education if that is what is needed, for they are open to all. True; but allow me to point out one or two of the many serious objections: In the first place they cannot secure at the university or colleges knowledge peculiar to their occupation, and which would be of service to them in the management of their farms. Secondly—it makes a farmer hesitate who is desirous that his sons should follow in his footsteps, and who wishes to give them as good an education as the country can afford, when he finds from the experience of others that nine-tenths of the farmers' sons thus educated are weaned from their calling during the process, lose all relish for farming, and ultimately turn their attention to other avocations by which they can earn their living without soiling their hands.

In order to avoid this deplorable result, in my humble opinion, it is necessary in the interests of farmers, and I may say of the community at large, that there should be higher educational institutions for farmers' sons and other people's sons who wish to become farmers, where physical labor and mental study are judiciously blended, where their relish for the honorable pursuit of agriculture is not destroyed, but rather increased and intelligently developed. Of such a character (with all due respect for your opinion to the contrary) I believe the Ontario School of Agriculture to be, where the students are required to labor with hands half of each working day, either at the workshop, among the stock, in the garden, or on the farm; thereby stimulating their physical development, which is of much consequence to farmers as well as to most of other people; and securing information from competent instructors which they would never get at home, and which will be worth much to them when they come to try the realities of a farmer's life.

I will candidly admit that the Ontario School of Agriculture is not a perfect institution, and that there can be many improvements made. The course is not long enough to give students a thorough education, and now that there are so many applicants who cannot be admitted, the standard for entrance should be elevated, so as to do no work in the school room that could be attended to at the common schools. We must remember that it is comparatively a new institution, and give it time to develop its usefulness, which you apparently think is gone already. You would evidently decapitate such institutions without further ceremony. The college has, in my opinion, under the able management of the late Principal, Mr. Johnston, made great strides

towards efficiency and popularity, which is readily perceived by a discerning public. No better evidence of this can be supplied than the fact that to fill 40 vacancies at the beginning of last term there were over 160 applications, mostly from farmers' sons.

"Knowledge is power," says Lord Bacon. Give the farmers' sons knowledge without destroying their taste for their occupation, and a good work will be accomplished; even suppose the cost be considerable for apparatuses, such as land, the different breeds of cattle, sheep, swine, &c.; these are indispensable to impart the necessary practical information at a school of such a character.

With regard to your remarks as to the sale of surplus stock at the farm seriously interfering with the business of old established breeders, I consider them "too ridiculous altogether," when the annual output, according to the summing up in your own columns, does not amount to more than \$2,344.55, all told—not more than is often realized by many ordinary farmers, let alone professional breeders.

Now, Mr. Editor, my humble and candid opinion is that you would be better serving the interests of the great agricultural community of this Province by endeavoring to elevate the character and reputation of the Ontario School of Agriculture, instead of endeavoring to prejudice it in the eyes of the farmers, with a view to its entire abolition. I trust that you will see the error of your ways, and assist in lifting the Ontario School of Agriculture above the arena of party politics, where all educational institutions should rest.

J. P. P. Hespeler, Ont.

[Wishing that both sides be heard, we publish "J. P. P.'s" communication, which, we trust, will "open the ball." We hope some of our other readers will reply in time for the next issue.]

Prize Essays.

To Farmers' Clubs, Grangers, officers or students of the Ontario School of Agriculture, or private individuals, we will offer a prize of \$5.00 each month for the most useful and practical articles on different subjects pertaining to the agricultural interests and prosperity of our farmers. The first is offered for the best reply to the following letter. The article must not exceed one and a half columns of THE ADVOCATE, and must be in this office by the 25th of November. The other subjects for which the awards will be given will be announced in subsequent issues of THE ADVOCATE.

SIR,—It is with great pleasure I now write to you to ask through your paper for advice on a few things in farming. The first subject will be the use of lime, when and how to put it on. I will give my opinion of it, and should like to hear the opinions of others. I was thinking of putting it on the land just before I sowed my wheat, and cultivating all in together. In fixing the lime for sowing, as it will be unslaked, I suppose I shall have to slake it before sowing? How much lime should I put on my land per acre? Some parts of the farm are clay, but the most of it is clay loam. I think ten bushels per acre would be plenty. Will salt and ashes do to mix with the lime before sowing? Should it be sowed after the grain is up? Should salt be sowed on barley land when you sow the barley or when the barley is up? I have a field for barley next spring, but I intend to seed it down; will the salt hurt the young clover? I should like to know if it will pay to seed down every field each year? I intend to do so with all except the land plowed up from sod. I shall plow up in the fall the land I seed in the spring—will it pay to do so? You will find my questions somewhat mixed in my letter, but you must excuse it this time, as it is the first letter I have written on any subject like this.

H. M., Newcastle, Ont.

SIR,—I have a 3-year-old heifer that is very hard to milk. Can anything be done to make her easier milked? I have heard of putting plugs in the teats. Is it a good plan, and what size ought they to be?

T. J. T.

[A good milker will moderate the complaint. Probing the teats with a knitting-needle will also tend to cause the flow of milk. The insertion of tubes or anything in the teats tend to a permanent injury.]

Lightning Rods Again.

SIR,—We had some swindlers down here from Hamilton, Ontario—agents of a company that manufactures lightning rods. They sold orders and promised insurance policies to insure buildings for ten years against lightning. The policy never came. If you know the name of the company, please let me know, and oblige.

E. READ, Barronsfield, Nova Scotia.

[We do not know of such a company. If any of our Hamilton subscribers know this company they might inform Mr. Read by post card. There are many patent right men and many agents, or pretended agents, travelling the country, who are dead beats. They live on fraud and deceit, and swindle the farmers out of vast sums. Could not some of our M. P. P.'s bring in a bill to abate this nuisance?]

SIR,—I would like to hear through the ADVOCATE from disinterested parties, or persons not raising Italian queens for sale, whether the Italian bee is superior to the black? I have had both, but have only the black bee at present.

F. C. B., Sussex.

SCARCITY OF CARS.—An important feature connected with the successful handling of grain is the facility with which shipments can be made, but, on account of the immense amount purchased at the present time, buyers are cramped, owing to the great scarcity of cars that exists at present. The production of grain in the Western States is enormous, and the multiplication of railway facilities has enabled it to be poured into the centres in such quantities as to tax their storage capacity to the utmost, and all the lines to the seaboard are offered more through freight than they can carry. In the storehouses a very large quantity of grain has accumulated, notwithstanding the fact that more has been shipped this fall than in the same period of any preceding year. The railway companies seem to be doing their best under the circumstances, but even this is very unsatisfactory to those holding grain, and wishing to realize on it.

Fresh Air Without Drafts.

A secret in plant-case management is the prevention of drafts of cold air inward through the foliage. It is easy to see how fatal this must be in any plant-house, no matter how completely provided. But it is not so very obvious at first, though, how such dangerous drafts are to be prevented. Here are the results of some second and third thoughts, and of a good deal of experience: Drafts are caused by the demand made by the stove to keep the fire going and to carry off the smoke. As the rarified air pours out at the top of the flue and so reduces the pressure there, the weight of the cool air presses with preponderating power to take its place. It enters at every crevice. To avoid drafts, then, we must either have no crevices, or we must have a special opening by which air can freely reach the fire without rushing and cutting through such crannies.

When a room, or a mere case for plants, is attached to a kitchen or sitting-room, as a projection in the nature of a glazed porch or bay-window, it is well to use both precautions, that of using putty or paint or paper-lining to stop all possible fissures, and to admit air to the room by a special tube which should bring air from without the building under the floor and rise in or against a warm partition, so as to discharge its cold air against the ceiling, to be warmed before it reaches any of the occupants of the room. This is a perfect and complete mode of ventilation; although so simple. It nearly equalizes temperature throughout the room and the attached plant case; while the plants and the stove, between them, consume or carry off the carbonic acid. It is not necessary that such a plant-case should have a door, but it is a convenience when sweeping to be able to prevent dust from settling upon the plants, and sometimes to inclose them in a more humid atmosphere than is agreeable in a sitting-room. A kitchen atmosphere is better for plants than that of a sitting-room, but as sitting-rooms are usually much too dry, the presence of plants is beneficial to them, both by consuming carbon and giving off oxygen, and by supplying the air with vapor.—[Tribune.]

A very good position for beds of tulips, or hyacinths, even, is around the trunk of some large old tree.