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The Canadian Farmer.

The Only Weekly Agricultural Paper in Canada.

Is published every Wednesday morning by the Welland Printing and Publishing Co. at their offices, Welland, N. B. Colcock, General Manager.

To insure prompt attention send ALL remittances by registered letter or Post-office order, and ALL communications etc., to

CANADIAN FARMER,
 Drawer A, Welland, Ont.

Parties living or visiting in Toronto, will find it convenient in advertising, etc., to address our editor, Mr. W. Pemberton Page. His office is at No. 57, King St. West, Toronto.

W. P. PAGE } Editors.
 S. W. HILL }

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 8, 1882.

EDITORIAL.

COUNTRY OR CITY LIFE AND HOLIDAYS.

Do farmers or country people in general work harder than the dwellers in cities and towns. Business men of the cities tell us that country people know nothing about hard work, that they are often so hurried they have not time to take their meals, and are at work especially at certain seasons of the year late and early. True it is that the farmers work has less of care and anxiety, that after the day's work is over, though it be laborious, yet it brings health and strength, and induces sweet nights of rest, free from the cares of business, the anxiety of maturing bank notes, besides other claims to be met, and perhaps not knowing where the money is to come from to meet them. Business men do more brain work, and have more brain worry and more anxiety of mind, while with farmers their labor is labor of muscle with less cares. Men can, however, make their business whatever they chose—laborious or otherwise, and oftentimes the cares that seem the most oppressive and imaginary. Life is about as we make it, and there are pleasures, and also hardships found in all branches of business, but we claim the farmer's life to be the happiest and pleasantest of all, if rightly managed, but too often made a life of hardship by unceasing toil. Were there more holidays put into farmer's lives, it would be better, more time taken for amusement and recreation. It has been thoroughly proven that human beings can accomplish more with occasional intervals of rest and recreation than by constant toil, and the application of their utmost energies. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." It has the same effect on Jack's father and mother, his uncles and aunts, and all the rest of his relations. Esop's fable of the unstrung bow embodies an important lesson, and that the bow always bent loses its spring. There is proof enough to this in the tired and spiritless way many go about their work. Health, strength and good spirits are the essentials to vigorous toil. It is a pleasure to work when as

people say, "you feel like it," and a punishment when you don't. There is need then of keeping up the spirits by recreation, holiday-keeping, &c. The overwrought farmer who refuses to rest and recreate when he can best afford to, may have to turn in with a fit of illness, and lose time when he can least afford it.

The farmer, it is true, cannot so well as others take a week or two and go off for a holiday trip, especially in the summer, when it is needed, but we have serious doubts about this manner of recreation. It is better to mix play with work, to weave the bright holiday threads into the texture and fabric of our ordinary life. This kind of holiday keeping is practicable for the farmer. There are short respites from pressing work when a day can be spent for a picnic, or a pleasant drive, and a team and conveyance is always at hand. In the winter there is more leisure time, and should be taken advantage of in social gatherings, literary meetings, &c. Something to amuse and also instruct. More holidays and more amusements would serve to attach people to farm life and country homes. Were a little more enlightenment put into the dull existence of farmer's lives, there would be a more cheerful contentment among them and less desire for city life.

"C. F.," London, will find his question answered this week in our Horticultural department.

THE California Patron comes out this week much enlarged and otherwise improved. We are much pleased to note these signs of improvement in our sprightly and excellent contemporary.

VENNER'S ALMANAC.—We have just received Venner's Weather Almanac for 1883, published by A. Vogeler & Co., of Baltimore and Toronto. It is a readable publication and is of considerable interest to the public. Besides the weather predictions there is a large amount of useful information in regard to matters meteorological, so that its price, 10 cents, is not by any means too much.

IT IS SO PLEASANT.—It is so certain and easy in its action. It invigorates the nerve, brain, and muscle. ZOPESA does these things simply by giving active Digestion, and regulating the Stomach and Liver.

CO-OPERATION.

It is urged that the farmers can become their own physicians, lawyers, traders, bankers, editors and manufacturers, and thus abolish many (as some contend) useless excrescences on the body politic. The avenues to all these professions are open to farmers as well as to others, and we often see the farmer's son taking rank second to none in some profession congenial to his taste. There is one good reason why there should always be varied professions in the fact that no one, in this short life, can hardly master a single profession. When the science of agriculture has been fully mastered, the varieties of soils understood, the requirements of each made known,

and the plants suitable for each soil and climate selected with unflinching skill, when life is extended to the antediluvian ages, then may we hope to be able to qualify ourselves for the work of the shop, the office and the pulpit, and still maintain our position as agriculturists.

There seems to be no business but agriculture in which the farmer can engage with advantage except that of co-operative trade. Here the farmer is cultivating the faculties of the mind that come into constant use in his daily avocation. He must sell his surplus products; he must purchase many articles that he cannot produce, and while honesty and fair dealing should govern all his actions, an intimate knowledge of prices, products, freights and transportation, may be of immense benefit, and may teach him when to sell and when to withhold for a better market. By joining in a co-operative association, and taking an interest in its business, a farmer may learn much that is beneficial without encroaching too much upon his time. He may learn that a cash trade is better than long credits, that short payments keep the sheriff from the farm, and that it is wise to purchase only what can be easily paid for. He may also learn the current prices of such articles as he must purchase, and the probable prices of his surplus products. The idea has ever been prevalent that the profits of trade should be taken mainly by the capitalists, and that the producer should have no voice in fixing prices. While the farmer is ignorant of current rates he may be easily imposed upon, but with a full knowledge of such matters he may also share in the responsibility of fixing remunerative prices for his surplus products.—D. T. Chase, of New Hampshire.

From South Australia.

TIDINGS FROM THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD.

An Interesting Letter.

(We have just received the following letter from a friend, W. E. Ash, formerly a resident of Thorold Tp., this county. Mr. Ash gives some interesting information regarding the fine country in which he is now living, and which can be relied on as being true to life.)

ED. CANADIAN FARMER.—I am in regular receipt of your valuable papers, they are welcome visitors in this far-off land.

It is now past mid-winter here, and all nature looks gayest. On the clear days the climate is unsurpassably beautiful, the air is pure, balmy, and cool—such as one might imagine would blow over the plains of Heaven. On such days mere existence is enjoyment.

During June and July, occasional frosts may be expected, and in some cases, hard enough to kill a potato vine; also a few squalls of hail or sleet by way of stimulus. I shall endeavor to give you a few observations on some of the industries of this grand young colony, (only 46 years old,) commencing with the back-bone, agriculture, the laws of which have been so utterly violated by the majority of the South Australian "teasers of the soil," and this is not so much to be wondered at when it is considered that at the commencement, most of them knew practically nothing about farming, and those who did could not apply their old system to the new country. The time was when the farmers in this colony had only to "tickle the soil," and it "laughed the golden