

probably the most practical and ablest writer on floriculture, and the most extensive florist in the States, continually wrote condemning the Government seed distribution. D. M. Ferry, one of the largest of seed growers, considered the practice as most fraudulent and injurious.

The most independent stock men we met at the Fat Stock Exhibition in Chicago considered that the only good it was doing was to make it more difficult to turn the existing powers out of office. (*The last election proved the inutility of it for that purpose.*)

Mr. Powell, of Smiths, Powell & Lamb, the most extensive Holstein breeders in the U.S., is loud in his condemnation of the grants for agriculture, and considers that much is actually expended to the injury of the farmer, and the good that should or might be done in stamping out disease is willfully perverted from the cause desired to be accomplished by the farmers.

Mr. Landreth, of Landreth Bros., the proprietors of the oldest established nursery and seed business on this continent, proprietors of about 6,000 acres, considers that favors may be shown in the distribution of products and expenditures.

These and any amount of other testimonies convince us that we were right in our opinions, despite the false position that some here desired to place us in. Whether it has been right to expose what we believed to be wrong is a debatable question, which we must leave many of you to argue. Our opinion is that where evils exist, as they have undoubtedly done here in many of our agricultural affairs, the only hope of remedying them is by exposing them to the light, and those that condemn that course are very apt to be aiders and abettors, or perhaps participants in improper acts. The present Commissioner of Agriculture of the United States we hear highly spoken of, and one cannot make radical changes or improvements, even should they desire to do so, in haste.

SEED WHEAT.

We have made enquiries and examined some of the varieties of wheat, but this year we can find nothing that we can commend to you with confidence as better for general sowing than those varieties we have already introduced or spoken about. Sow the varieties that are thriving best in your localities. The Scott and Democrat wheats we consider are as good as any for heavy clay lands. The Michigan Amber or Fultz is grown largely in the States we have just been in. The Clawson is still a favorite in some localities; in others the Mediterranean. Mr. Carman, of New Jersey, has been experimenting and hybridizing wheats. He is much pleased with a variety he has procured from a cross with wheat and rye. These trials and experiments are commendable, but it takes some years to firmly establish any variety and ascertain its merits. The Landreth Brothers, of Philadelphia, will introduce a new wheat this year.

The wheat crops we saw in the above-mentioned States are not to be compared to those we see in Ontario; in fact, all our crops look much better in Canada. They have suffered from drouth, while we have had plenty of rain. This makes a great difference, but the soil in many parts of New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland and Columbia, is not to be compared with our soil in fertility. The heat we found much more oppressive there than with us.

BUTTER.

We paid a visit to some of the noted butter-makers. Probably the Messrs. Darlington stand at the head of the list on this continent. There are three brothers, and have 600 acres of land, much of which consists of rich flat land, with a running stream of pure water passing through it. They keep from 225 to 275 common cows. The cows, in addition to their excellent pasture, get about a peck of bran every night and morning. The cream is taken from the milk when fresh from the cow; this is done by three of the DeLaval Separators. The cans containing the cream are set in cold water for three days. Then the cream is churned in two barrel churns, and the butter is placed in a cold room to harden. It is made into $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. patts. When hard and firm, each package is wrapped in a white cloth packed into upright zinc cans, capable of holding 4 lbs. The lid is then placed on the can and the can placed in wooden packages about the size of a pail; ice is then placed around the zinc can, and an air and water-tight lid is then fastened on the pail by means of a very handy screw handle. It is then shipped to Philadelphia, then the packages that have to be re-shipped are re-iced and sent to the customers, whether they be in Florida or Maine. For this butter they receive 95c. per lb. from the 1st of August to the last of June; in July and August they sell at 60c., as many of their customers leave for Europe and other places during the hot weather. In the winter they feed the best clover hay, bran and corn meal to their cows. Mr. D. has tried making skim milk cheese and *schmier kase*, but he has abandoned both; he says he wants nothing around the place that will cause a smell of any kind. He feeds the skimmed milk to hogs.

In travelling from New York to Washington we were rather surprised to see so many Guernsey, Jersey and Alderney cattle: one scarcely sees the sign of the Angus, Hereford and Devon, and comparatively but little of the Shorthorn.

High vs. Low Prices.

The ever increasing influence of farmers makes economic studies of growing importance to them. Political economy effects all the avenues of life, and every man's success largely depends upon his adoption, at the outset of his career, of sound economic principles. Farming is constantly becoming more of a business, and this fact enhances the necessity for a higher economic education. It is said economists do not agree in their reasonings, but this is more apparent than real; the aims and occupations of the individual writers must be taken into consideration. The differences amongst those whose sole object is the investigation of truth are mere matters of detail, the grand truths being impregnable; but there is a class of writers whose motives are mercenary, who play upon the passions of the people, instead of appealing to their intelligence.

One of the most familiar illustrations of unsound calculation in the minds of many farmers is the oft-repeated assertion that wheat never pays when it falls below a dollar a bushel. This error arises from the custom of regarding values from a money standpoint. In times like the present, when depression exists in all articles of commerce, caused by a full supply of commodities or a lack of desire to purchase,

there may be more profit in wheat at 75 cents a bushel than at \$1.25 during a period of inflated values. It is not the market price of the article that produces gain; it is the margin of profit.

If we could for a moment banish the notion of money from our minds we would see the question in its true light. Money is a mere medium of exchange; in itself it satisfies no human want, and in the shape of money it is not even a luxury. It is merely a something by means of which a real want can be supplied. To make the question plainer, we will give our reasons for asserting that a good farmer never hoards up money. He has been successful because he has made a higher percentage on his investments than the ordinary rate of interest, and as his knowledge and experience grow with his wealth, he is able to calculate more and more closely, thereby ascertaining which branches of his business produce the highest dividends. He can now reason with tolerable accuracy that a certain investment will pay 10 or perhaps 20 per cent., and if he can procure money at 6 per cent., we find him a borrower instead of a hoarder. But perhaps it would be more natural to suppose that his knowledge merely keeps pace with his means, and that he only invests as fast as he accumulates. To suppose him to do less is to confess that he has more means than knowledge of his business, thus not being able to make profitable investments, and he cannot, therefore, be regarded as a first-class farmer. In this view of the question the borrower is more to be lauded than the lender; but the prejudice against farmers who mortgage their property, arises from the fact that they make the investments either for speculative purposes, or in branches of their business of which they have no adequate knowledge.

We have now shown that the model farmer is the man who can invest his earnings most profitably in his own business; he does not compete in cheap money with men of wealth who possess no knowledge as to what business their incomes can be most profitably and safely invested in. He loses all conception of money; to him his bushels represent so many rods of drainage, so much increased fertility in his soil, so many acres of clean fields and of luxuriant pastures, so many home comforts and beautified surroundings, so much education for his family, etc. To him it is a matter of social indifference whether these objects have been attained by virtue of high or low prices.

And yet the question may be asked whether high or low prices are the more desirable. When wages are said to be high the increased incentive to spend is counteracted by the relatively high prices of commodities; and when wages are low the incentive to economize is overpowered by the low prices of articles of consumption. Theoretically, then, there is no difference between high and low prices, although in practice the state of the human mind falsifies the soundest principles. The tax we pay on our folly is a heavier sum than all our other disbursements combined. We insist that inflation is the source of prosperity and wealth. The greater the extremes of inflations and depressions, the greater are the fortunes of some men and the downfalls of others—a state of the community which is most deeply to be deplored, being a fruitful source of ignorance, fraud and vice. Moderation is the only panacea for all our woes.