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Agents wanted in every village, town, and township, to make a thorough canvass for the RURAL CANADIAN. Liberal inducements. Work to commence at once. For full particulars address

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,
Jordan Street, Toronto. Publisher.

The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, DECEMBER, 1883.

THE RURAL CANADIAN FOR 1884.

THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

THE RURAL CANADIAN will shortly enter on its third year, and, we are pleased to be able to say, with very encouraging prospects for the future. It is unnecessary to specify the features of the paper for the coming year. No efforts will be spared to make its visits interesting and useful to those who farm, to those who grow fruit, to those who raise poultry, to those who breed stock, to those who make butter and cheese, and to those who keep house. The young ladies of the household will find in each issue, a piece of music which, during the year will be worth a good deal more than the subscription: while "Young Canada," a favourite department in the past, will be continued. Illustrations will only be inserted as found necessary to add value to the letter press. Single copy one year, \$1. The publisher offers the following

INDUCEMENTS TO CLUBS:

Clubs of five with free copy to get up of club, \$4.
" seven " " " \$5.
" ten " " " \$7.

In every case the paper will be furnished from this out till the end of 1884, on above terms. Money must accompany order; registered letters at our risk.

May we ask our friends to commence work at once? An hour's canvassing now will give better results than a whole day later on. Begin with your neighbours. In many cases they only require to be asked in order to secure their names.

Specimen numbers sent free on application.

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5 Jordan Street, Toronto. Publisher.

A SHORT CROP OF CLOVER SEED.

Two or three causes have combined to produce a short crop of clover seed in Ontario this year. First, the wet weather in July hindered haying operations, and the second crop made a late start. Secondly, the midge has been very destructive in nearly all parts of the Province, and especially in the districts where the bulk of our clover seed is grown. Thirdly, the early frosts did much harm to all late crops, destroying every field that escaped the ravages of the midge. And it is no doubt true, also, that the clover crop matured more slowly than usual this year, partly on account of rank growth and partly on account of low temperature. The loss is a very serious one, and all the more so for following the one of last year. Our readers will remember that by the severity of winter and spring frosts last year the clover was either killed or rooted out, and consequently that there was no seed crop worth mentioning. Farmers who sowed this year were obliged to go to the market for seed, and as the price was high and the clover came out of winter quarters, looking healthy and vigorous, it may be doubted if an average area has been sown. It is at all events reasonable to suppose that many would be encouraged to trust appearances, and take the risk of losing a season's

crop. We say losing one season's crop, for, as every farmer knows, the clover is a biennial plant and dies after ripening the second year's seed. Whoever, therefore, has taken the risk this year, confiding in the prospect of an abundant harvest of seed, must either make up his mind to sow next year or to abide the result. In any case seed must rule high in the market for some time, even assuming that there is not a recurrence of injury by frost or of destruction by the ravages of the midge. The value of clover, both for forage and fertilization, can hardly be over-estimated in the system of farm culture which prevails in Ontario, and any useful suggestions that may be offered on the subject now cannot fail to prove of great value. There is little doubt but that the midge has come to stay for a few years, unless human ingenuity can cheat it out of existence. What can be done? We know this much of its natural history—that two broods are brought forth each season, the eggs of which are deposited in the flower of the clover in the months of June and August. It is the second brood that works havoc to clover seed, and the only way to escape its ravages is to bring the clover into flower either too early or too late to suit the purpose of a hatchery for the midge. A plan that has worked very satisfactorily this year is to pasture the clover up to the 10th or 15th of June; then, taking off the cattle, leave it to mature a crop of seed. Those who tried this method have found that the seed was so far advanced before the eggs of the August brood were laid that little or no harm was done. The fact that the clover midge has this year extended to nearly all parts of the Province makes it imperative that every farmer should know its habits and take intelligent means to minimize the loss which it causes.

A COURSE OF READING.

It is quite possible for a man to be a successful farmer without the knowledge of "book-learning," as it is called. But all other things being equal, the most successful farmer will be found to be the man possessing the highest average of intelligence. Experience is worth a great deal in tilling the soil, growing field crops, producing fruits, or breeding and feeding live stock. But experience is a dear schoolmaster, and the greater the number of useful ideas we get from other men the better we are equipped for fighting the battle of life, whatever our pursuit or occupation may be. It is not possible that every farmer's son can take a course at our Agricultural College; perhaps it is not even desirable. We would not, if we could, have all our farmers trained to follow one system, for it is largely by independent enquiry that new methods and results are obtained. The professors know a good deal, but they don't know all that is worth knowing; and we would back the aggregate of common-sense intelligence on the farm against all the schools. The individual, whoever he may be, has a great deal to learn before he can presume to reach that aggregate, but the nearer he comes to it the better fitted he will be to fill his sphere. A judicious course of reading, covering the general field of agriculture and giving sound information based on a wide range of experience, would be invaluable to every young man who intend to make his living out of the farm. The Council of the Agricultural Association, we think, have shown much wisdom in proposing such a course, including a regular yearly examination thereon, conducted at the same time and on the same plan as the High School Intermediate Examinations. The prizes and the standing which may be obtained by the sons of farmers who take

the course of reading recommended and go up for examination will be of certain worth; but far greater will be the benefit from the knowledge thus acquired. The long winter evenings on which we have now entered cannot be better spent than in the study of the standard text-books named in the Council's circular. An educated yeomanry will make for Ontario an enduring place in the agricultural annals of the world, and if the Council but succeed with its scheme it will have established for itself a new and valuable claim to public gratitude. Whether it succeed or fail depends on the resolve of farmers' sons.

Information as to the course will be found in the circular on Agricultural Education which appears in another column.

ASHAMED OF THIR R IDENTITY.

PICTURESQUE CANADA.—Mr. Belden, agent for "Picturesque Canada," has had an interview with the Customs Department with respect to the printed material for the book brought into Canada. He desires a lower valuation for duty than the regular one, on the ground that the expensive plates were manufactured in Canada, though the printing has been done in New York. The Department will meet his views to a considerable extent.

The above extract from a recent batch of the Mail's Ottawa correspondence, contains more absolute untruth (though chiefly by inference) than any press paragraph which has ever come under our notice. It may have been published in good faith, but either the Customs Department or the correspondent, or both, have been "stuffed" by the precious Mr. Belden—the Agent (as he wishes to make himself appear) of "Picturesque Canada." (1) Mr. Belden is the owner of the work and is the same Belden so notorious in the Atlas business; hence his desire to appear to the public only as agent. (2) The present, a recent valuation was enforced by the Minister of Customs some months since, after examining into and confirming statements of fraud, smuggling, and false entries by the Beldens, in bringing in their stuff. (3) Every particle of work on the plates is and has always been done in New York, as has everything else in connection with the book, except the drawing of a few pictures by Mr. O'Brien, and some half-dozen pictures by as many other Canadian artists. Even many of the drawings (which were guaranteed by the prospectus to be "original and prepared expressly for the work") are sketches of scenery in Connecticut, or the Adirondacks, bought, "ready made," from the collections of some American artists, palmed off on subscribers as Canadian scenes.

No wonder the Beldens wish to retain their *incognita* in connection with "Picturesque Canada."

THE GRAPES OF A SEASON.

BY ANNIE L. JACK.

"Only one bunch left of our three thousand pounds," I say, as we are talking of grapes when near Christmas. "And what kind may that be?" inquires a friend. I answer "Duchess," and add, that I wish instead of one vine I had a hundred in fruitage, for it well repaid my faith in purchase and planting.

The fruit keeps well, is free from fox-vines, and the clusters, long and large, close on the stem, and of a bright-yellowish green, clear and fair. It was ripe before the Concord in this Province of Quebec. Among fifteen varieties that fruited with us, it stood first for white, while Brighton for red, and Moore's Early for black, took first rank. We also fruited the new white grape, "Niagara," and with us it proved all that was represented. But the flavour of Duchess was found superior. Several of Charles Arnold's seedlings, that have fruited with us for years, al-