

Have you nor your Secretary no laudatory or condemnatory remarks to make on any subject? Have you no plans or suggestions for improvement? Has there been no test or trial of anything in your township worth recording. Our pages are always open for such communications.

FARMER'S CLUBS.

We have in previous issues advocated the establishment of Farmers' Clubs. We do not think there are six in Canada, in fact we only know of one, and cannot find out as much about its management and progress as we should like. If we had time we would attend at one of its meetings and report on it. Our Exhibitions, whether township, county, or provincial, are all doing good and are worth all they cost; they really are the results of practice. We think we should go farther than these. Thoughts, plans, suggestions, and a unity of action among farmers would tend much to their profit and to the prosperity of the country. By establishing Clubs and uniting more together, larger crops would be raised, greater improvements would be carried out, farms would be enriched, higher prices might be rendered for our productions, and implements, seeds and stock of the best kinds would be procured by farmers at cheaper rates.

The great difficulty in establishing them is the long time it would require to reap the benefits. At the Exhibitions a person may hand-pick a bag of grain, and get his honor and money at once; or he may purchase and show an animal, but plans of operation require years to be brought to perfection. Our Government has now granted a good sum of money for mechanics' institutions in cities, and we think that still greater good might be done by encouraging farmers to establish clubs. County and township councils might also advantageously aid such institutions. The results of information and improvement, which a few of the most enterprising might devote their time and attention to, would eventually be of benefit to each farmer in the township or county. We, as farmers, are not masters of our profession unless we can tell the cost of a lb. of beef, pork, mutton, wool, butter, cheese, or the cost of a bushel of wheat, oats, barley, peas, or hops. We should be able to tell what is the difference between the crops of a drained acre and an undrained acre, and also what is the value of different kinds of manure per load or ton. We should be able to show that farming pays. Remember farming now must be a different business to what it was when you or your fathers got land for little or nothing, and drew your living from the natural forest, which in many farms now is totally destroyed. The virgin soil was strong, but is in too many cases now becoming impoverished. The value of land increased in the hands of our forefathers until they became wealthy. They had a different art, in some ways, an easier task before them than we have now to increase the value of our farms and keep up their progress. The progress of the old settlers was owing to mere close-fisted, hard-handed bodily labor, suffering and privations that you would not be willing to undergo. Our labor must be done more with our heads. We must learn our business. Our young farmers of the present day that drive the fastest horses in their elegantly finished carriages and make the greatest noise at the bar-room counters, do not always consider at what expense their position has been bought for them. They may live to see their descendants, perhaps themselves, descend from the carriage they now drive and gladly seek a humbler position. Fathers, if you can encourage your sons to establish farmers' clubs, go with them and listen if you cannot take part, and give them encouragement. Knowledge is power and you know it. The mind is the better part of man. Improve it and let us know our business. Many members of Parliament will also see them, and if one reads them and

sets a plan in operation that will establish one good farmers' club, we shall not have written this in vain. Every one of you farmers have a vote, and come in contact with your representative in the Legislature; try if you can get some member to devote a little attention to the subject of farmers' clubs.

THE AGRICULTURAL PRESS OF CANADA.

It is a matter to be much regretted that the agricultural press of Canada is in such a low condition, and has not been keeping pace with the times, but has degenerated. Formerly, the leading agricultural paper in this Province was the *Canada Farmer*, published in Toronto. It was doing good service, and its circulation, we believe, was three times what it is now. It was published semi-monthly, but from the effects of new laws and heavy oppressions in the Postal Department, it was compelled to curtail expenses and issue once a month. Another agricultural paper was established under the auspices of the Government, and has been continually bolstered up by Government writers and the public money, but its name is scarcely known to one farmer in a hundred, and no farmer that we have yet seen cares to take it after a year's trial. Its circulation in Canada was scarcely ever known outside of the Parliament Buildings. The paper you are now reading, with the other two, makes but three agricultural papers published in Ontario, and the three put together would not be equal to one of the American agricultural publications. They have nearly a hundred published there, the majority of which are such that our Canadian papers have no chance with them, even on our own ground. At the present time, we believe, there are more American Agricultural papers circulating in Canada than Canadian ones. Among the most numerous of the American publications are the *Country Gentleman*, *Michigan Farmer*, *Moore's Rural*, *Prairie Farmer*, *Rural Gentleman*, *Small Fruit Culturist*, *Horticulturist*, *Mechan's Gardener*, *Agriculturist*, *Hearth and Home*, *Carolina Farmer*, *Western Stock Journal*, *American Stock Journal*, *Kansas Farmer*, *Gardener's Monthly*, and a host of others of smaller calibre. We must admit that the American papers are doing good, and we commend the judgement of farmers for taking them. At the same time, we think our Government is hardly acting fair towards Canadian publishers of agricultural papers in taxing them twice as heavily as publishers of political papers. We think that Canadians should have ability sufficient to publish as good agricultural papers as the Americans, and thus stop the necessity of having so many American papers. We believe these American publications affect emigration, and are the means of taking out of our country many of our best and most energetic farmers and farmers' sons, one of which is a far greater loss to our country than can be made up by a dozen raw, green, ignorant, poverty-stricken emigrants that are brought out and thrown on us for support. We think the Legislature should reconsider its management in regard to agriculture and agricultural publications, and remove all obstacles to fair, honorable, and useful private undertakings. If the Government Agricultural College is no better managed than the agricultural paper, which has been a source of taxation on the farmers and of not much use, taxation for such a purpose should cease.

To the Hon. J. S. Macdonald and Members of the Legislature of Ontario:—

GENTLEMEN,—It is now seven years since I first endeavored to establish an Agricultural Emporium for the purpose of importing, testing and disseminating seeds, stock, and implements, giving information about them, and affording a place where farmers and farmers' sons might see the different crops, modes of cultivation, and different tests carried on. We gave our plans to the public as far as we were able

to do so, through the agricultural press at that time; we also gave agricultural addresses in various parts of the country to show our views and the necessity and utility of such an establishment. We addressed meetings in Toronto, Yorkville, Hamilton, St. Catharines, Grimsby, Brantford, Preston, London, Delaware, etc., and at each place the plans were commended, and nearly all said that the undertaking was one that the Government should aid. His Excellency the Governor General, when examining our seeds in London, said our undertaking should be continued; the Honorable J. A. Macdonald, Premier of Canada, said, on examining them, that Carling should attend to it, and the Minister of Agriculture, the Hon. John Carling, said he would do anything that lay in his power to assist us. The following are a few of the resolutions passed by different leading bodies of practical agriculturists, at the Dairymen's Convention in Ingersoll:—

"Resolved, That W. Weld, Esq., Editor of the *Farmer's Advocate*, has the prosperity of the agriculturist in view, and we consider his paper is doing a great deal of good in the country; we commend the circulation of the same to our patrons and the farmers generally."

The Provincial Board of Agriculture passed the following resolution at London, in September, 1869:—

"Resolved, That the exertions made by Mr. Weld, in improving and testing various kinds of farm cereals and in diffusing a knowledge thereof through the medium of the press, are deserving the encouragement and support of the farmers of this Province, and that this Council will give to the object of improving and testing seeds, its best consideration. Certified."

The following resolutions were passed unanimously by the County Council of Middlesex, on December 14th, 1867:—

"We earnestly recommend the usefulness of the *Agricultural Emporium*, established by Mr. Wm. Weld, of London, for the dissemination of superior stock, seeds, and implements among the farmers of the Dominion, more especially at this time, when from the ravages of the mildew, and other causes, our wheat crops are diminishing yearly. The exertions of Mr. Weld to procure new kinds of Seed are praiseworthy."

"We also recommend his paper, the *Farmer's Advocate*, to the support of all persons interested in the success of agriculture."

"And your Committee would also recommend Mr. Weld to the favorable consideration of the Legislature of Ontario, praying that honorable body not to overlook the claims of Mr. Weld to encouragement in the efforts he is making for the advancement of our agricultural interests."

In open Council of the County of Middlesex, 29th January, 1870:—

It was moved by Wm. Murdock, seconded by John Nixon, That this Council again recommend Wm. Weld to the Legislature of the Dominion for his exertions in the advancement of Agriculture, and would also recommend him to the patronage of the public generally, for his arduous and unflinching labors in this most worthy enterprise. Carried unanimously."

We purchased and retained in our county the most useful and valuable stock-producing horse in America, which would have been taken from us. We also purchased some of the best Durham and Ayrshire cattle that we could procure, together with the best Cotswold and Leicester sheep, and Berkshire and Essex swine. We had previously imported the French Blow potatoes many years before, and we also procured and gave information about the Midge Proof Wheat, and as soon as practicable we imported and spread the Treatwell and Deihl Wheats. We are now spreading and giving information respecting the Scott and McCarling varieties. Procuring information, importing, and testing has been a labor of time and expense, as in one season we procured and tested twenty-seven varieties of

Fall Wheat, most of which we found unsuitable. We also imported and disseminated oats, peas and potatoes that have greatly benefited farmers. We have established an agricultural paper. We have given due caution in times of danger of infectious diseases. We published the first and fullest account of the Potato Bug and the best means of preventing its depredations. Even in this number we throw out a caution that may save the country the loss of immense sums. (See "Foot and Mouth Disease—to the Hon. John Carling," &c.) We have been pronounced crazy by our bitterest opponents, still, for the advantage of our bitterest opponents, our "crazy plans" have been taken up by the Legislature of our country, and what might have been made a useful, profitable and beneficial undertaking, if left in the hands of private individuals, may be a source of taxation to the farmers and a means of trampling down and checking private enterprise. We refer to the public expenditure at Mimico, where \$150,000 are now being expended, and where an inestimable sum may be required yearly. Many farmers say that it is the best agricultural paper in the Dominion, and has done more good by furnishing information about implements, seeds and stock, and exposing such things as are injurious to our property, upholding such as are of utility, etc., than any other. We claim to have checked the introduction of races at our Agricultural Exhibitions; we also claim the exposure of the mismanagement of the old Board of Agriculture, and the political attempt to overthrow the new Board by the directors and managers of the Western Fair; if necessary, we can show it up to a much fuller extent than we have done. We did not deem it necessary to expose all we knew about the management of the old Board of Agriculture, nor have we exposed half of what we are able to about this political or Western Fair rumpus, but we can, if necessary, convince any one that may yet have the slightest doubt remaining. Although we condemned the old Board for such things as they deserved condemnation in, we do not think, because of an error or two, that the Provincial Board should be disbanded, but that every means should be used to elect suitable men to the Board.

We have endeavored to conduct our paper unbiassed by party politics, and some strong and powerful politicians belonging to either side have been highly incensed at important articles that may have appeared, not coinciding with their views, although they know they have been written for the benefit of the class we represent. We have also had great inducements from strong political representatives of both sides to use our paper and power for political purposes. Temptations have been great, but we have preferred poverty and an independent spirit to a bound, chained, grovelling, subservient spirit, which should have compelled us to act contrary to the dictates of conscience and against the welfare of the farmers of Canada. We have undertaken a task to bring forward these plans and to put them into operation, even in an inefficient manner, which has been at a cost of years of the closest application, privation, and expenditure. One experiment alone cost us over \$2,000, and many other things have caused us losses, but, on the other hand, from some there has been a gain. We have had trials and difficulties to overcome, but our craft still floats and our banner still flutters in the breeze amidst the thousands of balls that the most cunning and deceitful magistrate, lawyer, judge or politician has yet assailed us with. Gentlemen of the Legislature of Ontario, and farmers of Canada, the fate of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE* and the Canadian Agricultural Emporium, is in your hands.

Remaining your obedient and humble servant,
W. WELD,
Founder of the Canadian Agricultural Emporium, and editor of the *FARMER'S ADVOCATE*.

FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE.

To the Hon. J. S. Macdonald and Members of the Legislature of Ontario:—

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