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 Editor & Proprietor.

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SEED WHEAT.

Farmers! we are paying a direct tax of between \$100,000 and \$200,000 per annum annually, and double that sum indirectly for agricultural purposes. We have been losing millions of dollars annually for the lack of proper seed and proper knowledge about them. Every one of you are convinced that each kind of wheat that we have had, in a few years degenerates and becomes a loss to those that attempt to raise it. The lack of information about the different kinds of wheat, their acclimation, their advancement and their degeneracy, has not been sufficiently furnished to us.

We have for years past been attempting to ascertain and give information about this valuable cereal. We know that good yielding varieties of wheat have been procureable in some sections that have not been known of or procured in other sections for the lack of knowledge about them. Thousands of bushels of the midge proof varieties of wheat were ground for export in some sections, while thousands of acres were annually destroyed by midge in other sections, because the farmers knew not about it. Even this year, one extensive farmer has informed me that he has this Spring lost a large field of wheat by wrong information given in an agricultural paper published in Toronto, the editor of which he says knows nothing about farming. You must admit that a reliable place to obtain seed grain and information about it, gained from experience, practice, observation, and from trials of various imported kinds

sown along with our own varieties, and reported on must be of advantage to the country. You would also think it the duty of an editor, of what professed to be the only agricultural paper in this Province, to furnish accounts about such an undertaking, especially when he takes upon himself the public duties of a minister of God. Ah! vain hypocrisy. Yes, and that very journal in receipt of immense sums of money, raised by taxation besides the hired government correspondent, for what else can we call it, to furnish its columns with reading matter.

Farmers! we say we need a place to import and test seed, to give information about them, and to select and disseminate the best procureable. All require a change of seed—some need that raised from sandy soils, some from clay soils. All require them purer, cleaner, and better than we are apt to have them. Such an establishment we have now in working order, called the Agricultural Emporium where tests are made and the best kinds disseminated, not only of wheat but of other grains, roots, seeds, machinery, and stock. We have already disseminated seed grain over a greater extent of country than any other individual in Canada, and the reports of our labors and the increase of yield in the country, by our exertions, cannot be estimated. Still despite this heavy taxation, which has, we regret to state been too often used to oppose such an undertaking, they have had these plans worked out with their knowledge, without ever attempting to aid us in word or deed, but contrarywise.

Farmers! has it not been a heavy un-

dertaking to bring forward such plans and establish a free agricultural paper, despite the heavy opposition against us. We feel thankful that an alteration is to take place and we have reason to believe that the present Minister of Agriculture will look into the expenditure of the Department, and if public monies are to be expended for agricultural purposes, to have them expended in such a manner as may be of real and permanent benefit to the farmers. And in what way is there of expending money to do a greater good to the country than by aiding the dissemination of proper seeds in the country. It is too true that the majority of our farmers will purchase an inferior quality of grain for seed, if they can get it a few cents cheaper than a good article. Some few of them begin to see the folly of this parsimony, but very few of them recover the difference in the yield of their grain by proper change of seed. True there has been no facility offered to them to do so, except just by exchanging from neighbors only a few miles away, or more often on the next lot. Now, the most enterprising can write a letter to the Emporium office, and have their seed sent from the best procureable in the country, either from sandy soil or clay soil, and receive it in a few hours, or three or four days, at any railroad station in this Dominion, and this often at a less cost than they would have to pay for inferior samples in their respective neighborhoods. Where are you likely to get the best—where you only have one or two samples to take from, or where we make our selection from samples sent from various