

poverished by mismanagement. Many owners of extensive tracts now live "from hand to mouth," owing to improper tillage. This ignorance could not exist did farmers freely communicate their observations to each other. Thousands of dollars are annually invested in worthless machinery by incompetent judges. Speculators fatten on the credulity of farmers, owing to lack of interchange of thought. The cure for this state of things is in your own hands, and you alone are to blame if you do not use it. Establish clubs in every neighborhood, and attend them punctually. Rise above the idea of too many farmers, that their vocation demands physical exertion alone. Learn to think, and be not above receiving the opinion of the humblest beginner. We believe these institutions would be productive of a great amount of good to agriculture and earnestly advocate their formation. The long winter nights are upon us, and there is no excuse for postponement.

#### The New Board.

We are to have a new Board of Agriculture, and the important question arises, is it our duty to make a change of the parties who have so long administered the provisions of the old law? While we do not advocate a general or radical change in the *personnel*, we sincerely urge the necessity of infusing considerable new blood. For years we have possessed the shadow of an Agricultural Board, without any material contribution to the progress of farmers interests. What have we to show for the expensive working of this branch of government? Comparatively nothing. It was only when the hue and cry of their short-comings became so loud that it was not safe for them to sleep longer, that they roused themselves, and gave signs of life. The Agricultural Board, properly managed, would be a mighty engine for good, but in the past it has been a mere brake on advancement. Few counties depending on agricultural wealth, are so deficient in information or means to gain it as we are. There is no system. Our statistical knowledge is meagre. The proportion of land sown in different seeds, is seldom sought for. The average yield throughout the province is unknown. Why are "these things thus?" The fault lies at the door of those who have claimed to represent the farming community. The Minister of Agriculture is endeavoring to do all in his power, but what can result from unaided effort. Surround the representative of power with a staff of real, working, practical farmers, and the present unsightly system would be revolutionized in a month, and order arise from confusion. We require not "fancy farmers," who glove the hand that grasps a hoe, but men who follow agriculture in order to live; men whose interest is our interest. Let like represent

like. But this cannot be done without effort. Farmers know who the men are that have fought their battles and labored for agricultural prosperity. Select those who have labored faithfully in your township or county fairs, to represent your division. This result cannot be attained without a united effort. The present officials are strongly entrenched in power, and unison of action is necessary to oust them. Then there is the crowd of hangeron that are ever willing to pick up the financial crumbs that fall from official tables. These must be driven away. We should rise above all such considerations as mere friendship for particular individuals, and be governed by the one question—are the candidates qualified for the position sought? Scorn the glare of wealth, or the so-called influence of mere social position, and vote for those who will be trusty watchmen over your interests; men whose souls are not breathed into them by fear; men who possess a mind of their own and are not afraid to speak it. The question of fitness is a vital one. It concerns not alone the future agricultural prosperity of the country. You are to be taxed for the maintenance of this Board, and as rational men it becomes your duty to see that the funds are properly applied. Is it to be given to keep officials rolling in luxury, or to further your interests? Ponder over these few thoughts, and act dispassionately, and for the welfare of the country. In view of the magnitude of the interests involved, devote a few hours to the success of the right. Attend the annual meetings, and have fair discussions, and if your candidate has been of the party that have not acted fairly do not support him, but select one that is untrammelled.

#### ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

W. E., Cobourg—"Is there jealousy between you and the *Canada Farmer*?" None on our part. We labor in the interests of Agriculture, and hail with pleasure co-workers in the same noble cause. We would not raise our hand to pull down from their positions one who may have at heart the welfare of farmers. The field is broad enough. The workmen are few, and we would greet with joy the day when farmers would support ten times the present number of papers, devoted to agricultural progress. The views advocated by the *Farmer's Advocate* are not circumscribed by the horizon of self-interest. Envy is the guest of little minds.

G. D.—"Why do you not advertise a greater variety of seeds?" Because we have not proved their worth. It is an easy matter to say a thing is excellent, but it takes time to prove it to be so. We desire to win a name for reliability. Unless we are deceived, no one can use the *Farmer's Advocate* to puff a worthless article. When we are satisfied we commend it. When we are doubtful we maintain a cautious silence. We hope to be able to advertise, before long, a list of seeds that will be well adapted for this section of Canada.

This number is mailed before the 1st of January, when the new postage law comes in force, therefore it goes free.

Messrs. Teale & Wilkens who presents the handsome Marble Center table top are artisans of no small skill. They surpassed all others in Canada at the late Provincial Exhibition, gaining more prizes. We noticed in their shop the other day a bust of Archdeacon Hellmuth in the course of completion by them, the cost of which is to be \$300. Their shop is on Dundas Street, in this city.

#### FARM MACHINERY.

This is an age of invention. Our infant lips are saluted with "patent food," and we are buried in "patent Burial Caskets." Patent boots cover our feet and patent "tiles" thatch our heads. Our ancestors had a work to do and they did it. We have a work to do and are doing—our best to invent a machine to perform it. Muscles of iron, to a great extent, have replaced those of flesh. Presuming on this fact, men have looked into the future and prophesied a millennium of rest. When you would go out and throw a few bushels of coal into the stomach of your iron man, and go in the house and read the morning paper while it went and fed the stock and split the firewood. When the good housewife would take a few coals out of the stove and give them as a dainty lunch to a metal toy, whispering in its ear, bid it go and shear the sheep and bring back a pair of socks, while she made her morning toilet. These dreams have never been realized and we fear never will; but it has not been from lack of effort. Lunacy assumes various forms in different ages. Sometimes it is a mania for suicide; oftimes a rage for speculation, and whole nations become more or less infected. The weakness of this age, and to a great extent the curse of it, is the insane longing after novelty. We believe in progress as a principle, but have no sympathy for spasmodic effort without aim. Hundreds of patents are taken out yearly for inventions of no practical utility. We will confine our remarks, however, to those that concern the farming interest. The whole country is flooded with so-called labor-saving implements. The majority of them are of very little practical use, and will prove of no benefit to the purchaser unless he stores them away in some back shed as a monument of his lack of judgment. When a farmer is accosted by one of the smooth-tongued agents that canvass the country for victims, let him think seriously whether he has use for it, and whether the amount asked is not excessive. Agents cannot afford to travel for nothing, and in the majority of cases, you pay more than you could purchase them for elsewhere. If the machine is an expensive one, calculate whether the labor saved will repay you. Examine it and see if it is intricate in its construction. Simplicity is the beauty of machinery. A complex invention may work successfully in the hands of an experienced machinist, but may be worthless in yours.