

to say that thousands who read the *Agriculturist* do not know whether he goes with the government or the opposition. At all events, they have not learned the fact from these pages. So much for our political assailants.

To return to the "weevil" question. We are told by some of the journals alluded to, that it is *our* business to find out the remedies for the wheat insects, and not the Minister's. We beg to demur to this statement. We have from time to time published such information as came within our reach, and those who have read the *Agriculturist* attentively will not, probably, be much enlightened by the essays when they appear, if they ever do. It was just because no individual farmer or journalist could spare the time or means necessary to observe the habits of all these insect depredators, test the various remedies proposed, and discover new ones, that we recommended the Minister of Agriculture to take adequate measures for the purpose as a public officer, and at the public cost. We suggested the appointment of competent men in various parts of the country to make observations, try experiments, and carefully record results. Unless some such plan be adopted, we feel satisfied that but little will be added to the present fund of knowledge on the subject; mistaken views, confusion as to facts, and foolish attempts to find remedies will continue, and the mischief will go on increasing until wheat-growing will have to be abandoned. A great deal has been lost in allowing the present season to go by without making any effort to ascertain the extent of the evil, or the possibility of preventing its progress. For this omission or neglect we hold the Minister of Agriculture and his advisers, as well as the Board of Agriculture, responsible. If they can render no assistance in a case like this, then indeed the hopes excited by the establishment of these departments are doomed to a sad disappointment. Our duty as a journalist is to make suggestions; to discuss the comparative merits of different propositions; to urge the adoption of those that may, upon examination, appear best; to observe the acts of those holding places of trust, and condemn or approve without fear or partiality, as justice may point out. In the discharge of this duty we have been careful to avoid hasty conclusions, and have forbore to censure when facts and public opinion would have warranted very plain speaking. Our desire has been to secure harmony and zealous co-operation among all those, who as public officers, managers of societies, or private individuals, are engaged in the noble work of improving the agriculture of our country. The time is coming, however, when silence in regard to the mismanagement of some of our agricultural institutions will not be just to the public. There must be reform, even if some unpleasant episodes should occur in the efforts to bring it about.

POSITION OF POSTS.—Posts set in earth particularly in loose, sandy soil, which allows the air to penetrate, are apt to decay very rapidly. Inverting the position, so that they stand "the other side up with care," has long been known as inducing a considerably increased endurance, and has been often published, but never yet sufficiently introduced into practice. This will be found worthy of trial by those planting fence or other posts.

A "magic corn-husker" has been invented by a resident of Seneca Falls village in N. York. The *Reveille* of that place, thinks it one of the most useful inventions of the kind that has ever been constructed. It is said to husk corn with quickness and certainty, and will remove wet corn as well as dry. Its movement is exceedingly rapid. The "husker" is simple, and may be worked by hand.