

Music for Farmers.

Perhaps some thousands of our readers may again condemn us for advocating things that are beyond their reach, or such things as will not return an immediate equivalent in cash to them, but if farming is to be made attractive to your sons and daughters, and you wish them to be attached to their home, you must give them attractions that will keep them there. After the necessities of life are secured, the comforts and luxuries of civilization must also be secured in the farm house, or the young will assuredly turn their minds and attention from the farm to where they can find amusement.

What is more endearing, charming, and amusing than music? Your toil may be such through the week that you have no time to devote to it during the seed or harvest season, except on Sunday, but the long winter evenings may be made more cheerful by the use of music. We by no means advise any of you that have but 50 or 100 acres of land in a remote situation, and that so badly managed or of such inferior quality that you cannot pay your debts, to buy an expensive instrument, but there should be a medium in all things. We know of farmers that own hundreds of acres of land, are wealthy as far as cash and property are concerned, but when one enters their gate, crosses their threshold, or converses with the family, they may or may not be found to be a shade above the animals in their out-buildings. No lawn, shrub or flower may be found about some such places.

Now, farmers, we speak as one of you. We have a family; we know that the labor exacted from them is often more, in proportion, than it is from any animal we keep. The pay they receive for their labor is inadequate. Why should we so strive to add wealth to our store to distribute to them in future? The greatest gift we can bestow on them is a refined and educated mind. Have not thousands of farmers now sons and daughters grown up that ought to be able to fill higher situations? Should not our young men be fit to enter the Legislative halls and control the agricultural affairs of the Dominion? But where are they?

To you farmers whom Providence has blessed with such wealth, we would say, instead of still hoarding it, and adding to your tracts of land, expend a little of your wealth on your descendants for their comfort, refinement and enlightenment, while you have the control. Do good with it in this your day. Perhaps you may be committing an actual sin in withholding that which is in your possession; you may be saving a rich feed for lawyers, or saving property to be yelped into a ditch or wasted at a gambling board. Have music in your homes, and flowers in your gardens, and your family will be more attached to you and to the farm, and less likely to seek the race course, bar rooms, and worse places.

While advocating expenditure in musical instruments, we would by all means caution you not to incur debt. Purchase and pay, or do without. There are comparatively very few who can afford a piano, but all may have a flute or concertina. But by far the greater majority of well-to-do farmers can afford a melodeon. While speaking of music, it brings to mind Messrs. Bell & Co's establishment, in Guelph. They have a large four-story stone building, 100 feet of front, and one wing 100 feet deep; the building is used exclusively for the construction of melodeons. We were much surprised on noticing the building when we were in Guelph at the time of the Agricultural Exhibition, and we believe it is by far the largest establishment of the kind in Canada. The instruments turned out by them are equal to any manufactured in Europe or the States. They stand at the head of the list as prize-takers in Canada; their reputation as reliable gentlemen is unsurpassed. We wish all such enterprises success. This magnificent building, and the thousands of instru-

ments they are sending all over the Dominion, speaks highly of the advances made in our country. On our first visit to Guelph we did not dream of such a progress, and we should judge this melodeon manufactory alone would be worth as much as all the buildings Guelph contained at that time. Perhaps we are wandering, but we will say briefly what we mean by this long rigmarole, as you may call it. Give the girls a musical instrument.

To the Hon. Archibald McKeellar, Minister of Agriculture.

SIR,—On behalf of the readers of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, we have great pleasure in congratulating you on your appointment to the office you hold. We consider you well qualified to fill that position, and your appointment is looked on by us as the greatest encouragement we have ever had, as you are the only farmer that has ever attained to such an office in Canada. As you have from your youth up labored with us, you well know our requirements. You are the only member of Parliament that we have heard of who has put the Ditching Machine to work on his farm, and this is sufficient to show us that you go to the very foundation of successful and profitable farming. We have long regretted that the interests of agriculturists have been overlooked, and we are highly pleased at now having a farmer at the head of our agricultural affairs. We believe that you will guard, protect, and foster our interests to the best of your ability; that you will endeavor to remove oppressions that now exist, restrictions that are now enforced, and will regard the voice of farmers and act with justice to all. We hope and trust that your colleagues in power will aid you in carrying out your suggestions, and that the voice of the Agricultural Board will not be disregarded by you. At the same time we wish to return our thanks to the Prime Minister who has placed you in your position. We await patiently the maturing and working of the systems you may adopt. We shall be ready and willing to aid you in every good measure, and, as fault-finding is always easier than carrying out improvements, we trust you will not take it amiss should the farmers' journal differ from you on any measure you may adopt, that its managers may deem injurious to our interests, or notice any neglect on your part to guard and protect the farmers' interests. We look at your appointment in the Cabinet as a precursory step to the better protection of the interests of agriculturists.

We view the acts of the Legislature for many years past as extremely oppressive and unjust towards the cultivators of the soil. Their interests have been totally sacrificed for city and other interests. The first and the only permanent source of the real prosperity of our Dominion must be derived from our agricultural resources, and, as this is a new country, and the majority of our farmers have not the opportunity that citizens have of acquiring information, we trust you will not discourage the spread of agricultural knowledge among them. As this journal has been established solely for the farmer's interest, its editor hopes that you will in no way attempt to trammel the voice of the farmers, or enchain it to any political course, as we consider agricultural interests should in no way be entangled or baffled by political parties, but that both Conservatives and Reformers should unite on this platform and endeavor to build up the interests of the country on the surest foundation—agriculture. Yours respectfully,
THE FARMER'S EDITOR.

Humbugs.

We have cautioned you about heeding the very plausible tales of those smart-talking agents that would make you believe black is white. We still continue to hear about the hay fork, hay car, and

note swindles, and there are plenty of green-horns yet that will be swindled by these provlers while we are writing this article. Look out for Patent Churn and Washing Machine men; ninety-nine out of a hundred are mere delusions. Have nothing to do with those gift sales or lottery humbugs. We have been humbugged perhaps as much as any one we may be cautioning, but fortunately for some of you, we were not led away by the great humbug of Judson's Branching Corn, which was attempted to be palmed on us last year, and with which many farmers in Canada were humbugged, and for whom all the pity we have is that it served them right. We have not noticed any commendation of it in either of the Canadian agricultural papers. As far as we can hear, it has been the farmers who have not taken agricultural papers that have had their fingers burned with it. We do not say that editors of agricultural papers are infallible, as we are often deceived, despite the desire on our part to bring before the notice of our readers only such things as may be of use to them. We have often to reject advertisements and notices. We know every really good thing we introduce to our readers is of advantage to our reputation, and every bad thing or humbug that is introduced by our agency would do our reputation more harm than the introduction of ten good things would do us good. We have the eyes of all on us, and our business would be run into the ground if we attempted to introduce such implements, seeds, or plans as would tend to the injury of our patrons. We clip the following from the *Prairie Farmer*:—

"Last spring Judson operated largely in and about New York. Seeing his flaming notices, I sent to a friend to purchase for me a few packets of his Branching corn at the different seed stores where it was sold in the city. They came in due time; all of them the original thing in Judson's own packets. These I planted, took excellent care of, and there was not a stalk in the whole lot that had over two ears on, and that very inferior and poor, while the more common varieties, planted at the same time, produced well."

"I also know of a farmer here that planted the same, and he gives me the same story. "But our adverse testimony is not from this gentleman alone. At a late meeting of the New York Farmers' Club, the following letter from Albert Brewster, Esq., Stirling, Conn., was read:—"I don't know as you ever expose humbugs, but if you do I have something to say for the benefit of others. E. O. Judson, of Cuba, N. Y., advertised a new branching field corn, said to be the result of careful hybridization, each stalk averaging from three to five well-formed ears, some stalks bearing eight. I obtained two small papers of seed at a cost of fifty cents per package of a few kernels. I planted and tended it with care, and the result was that not one stalk in twenty had over one ear on it, and none but two. So I have put it down as a swindle, and I wish to warn all farmers and others against patronizing this E. O. Judson or his agents, unless they wish to be taken in."

"Mr. Curtis, a member of the club, remarked: 'I am glad of this statement. The whole country has been overrun by Judson's agents, who told their story with gusto, and made their employer rich by cheating the farmers. A few more such persons may teach the farmers that it is best to be cautious in touching new things.'"

"In the light of this testimony, we advise our readers to invest sparingly, if at all, in 'branching' corn at present."

We could mention some advertisers of stock and seeds in the States who are not just up to the mark.

Seeds.

We well know that many of our readers are anxiously looking for our account of spring seeds. We cannot furnish you with as full and complete an account of the cereals as we would wish. It is strange that in no city in which we have ever been, or in any ware-house that we know of either in Europe or America, the main cereals can be obtained in varieties or quantities. We believe the attempt has often been made, and the Agricultural Hall in Toronto was erected and finally leased at a low rent for the purpose of introducing good varieties of cereals, but

with cereals as with gold, it does not pay to have them long in hand. Heavy stocks have to be laid in, some at very high prices, and all may not be sold. A heavy loss ensues, not only on the stock left over, but in the waste and use of money.

Mr. Fleming, the lessee of the Agricultural Hall, and all other seedsmen have found it profitable to deal in flower seeds and small garden seeds, and have found cereals a heavy and dangerous article to handle; consequently, the cereal business, unless in cases of the introduction of new varieties, in which a much higher price can be maintained, is left entirely in the hands of the farmers themselves, or a few ware house men who may happen to purchase a few loads at market prices and such as they can readily sell at mill or feed prices. There is no business to be done in them with sufficient profit, or establishments would be found devoted to them. No one can doubt that there is a difference in the nature, quality, and productiveness of cereals; some are better adapted to one kind of soil than others. We, as farmers, are not sufficiently acquainted with the nature of the different kinds of cereals, and such, all who have any pretensions to education will readily admit. Still we will endeavor to give you a little information on some kinds that may be of use to some of you.

SPRING WHEAT.

We cannot say as much as we should wish on this important cereal. From reports received, the spring wheat was a much better crop last year than it has been for many years. The Midge did not commit as much depredation as it has for years past. Most of the common varieties are procurable in each section, and in some places are doing well. The only new variety we have is the McCarling Wheat, which we introduced last year to our readers. From the results on our own farm, we should have been inclined to condemn it, as our boys did not like it. It was sown late, and on account of its having been recently turned from a winter to a spring grain, it should be sown early to give it full time to mature. Some consider it not of much advantage, but, on the other hand, we have heard of about fifty that are highly pleased with it, and consider it the best spring wheat they know of. As it was disseminated last year in very small quantities, and sent over a very wide extent of country, we have a good many reports about it, and in a few instances, especially when sown late, the reports have not been favorable; but we have about five times as many reports showing that many are well satisfied with it, some of which we have given through the paper. The grain is large; it resembles the Rio Grande more than any other wheat. Where it has been sown early this grain has turned out satisfactory, so much so, that we can hardly procure any of it to send out this year. One farmer sold the last he had to spare at his barn for \$3 per bushel, and could not supply the demand. We should like to have had the lot. We shall only be able to supply it in very small quantities.

PEAS.

We suppose Crown Peas are now pretty well disseminated in many places; they can be procured as cheap as any other kind, but really clean, pure seed, free from bugs, is not very easily secured in some parts. The Dan O'Rourke's are gaining favor as a field pea in some parts. The Californian peas are not so well liked as some varieties on account of their being late in ripening.

The Excelsior Peas are admirably adapted to light soils, and to land that is somewhat reduced in strength. The pods have quite a hook to them, like a pruning knife, and they contain from 7 to 11 peas. They are long in the straw and yield a heavy crop. Try them if your land is not as fertile as it should be to raise Crown Peas.

BARLEY.

The Chevalier barley appears to give satisfaction to many growers; the great-

est trouble with the know yet common

There raised about other cereals. Surprise a a run, and they have manent a they are n the Maine wick oats mand. We are i White Po

Perhaps that have more good varieties have unde just at the varieties quality an rieties qui cured the varieties have been less is a rapidly ge the high we know Willard S some; th red in col The Clim speak hig rietly also potatoe. In some r we find t great \$50 the Earlie able as m certainly growth, p with us t not been large. C and know ties. Y varieties them.

Thank

We th in which tions to such real before; isfactory ortion in lieve we paper th we inter well as o by the a respon many m paper no using to cessity and one part aud

There compari We give dresses lington quest fr any rea that arc hundred the men ensure put one copy."