

GOOD PAY TO AGENTS.

Agents wanted in every village, town and city, to make a thorough canvass for the RURAL CANADIAN. Liberal inducements. Work to commence at once. For full particulars address

C. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

Jordan Street, Toronto.

Publisher.

The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, JANUARY, 1884.

THE RURAL CANADIAN FOR 1884.

THIRD YEAR OF PUBLICATION

THE RURAL CANADIAN has now entered on its third year, and, we are pleased to be able to say, with very encouraging prospects for the future. It is unnecessary to specify the features of the paper for the coming year. No efforts will be spared to make its visits interesting and useful to those who farm, to those who grow fruit, to those who raise poultry, to those who breed stock, to those who make butter and cheese, and to those who keep house. The young ladies of the household will find in each issue, a piece of music which, during the year will be worth a good deal more than the subscription; while "Young Canada," a favourite department in the past, will be continued. Illustrations will only be inserted as found necessary to add value to the letter press. Single copy one year, \$1. The publisher offers the following

INDUCEMENTS TO CLUBS:

| | |
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| Clubs of five with free copy to getter-up of club, | \$4. |
| " seven " " " | \$5. |
| " ten " " " | \$7. |

In every case the paper will be furnished from this out till the end of 1884, on above terms. Money must accompany order; registered letters at our risk.

May we ask our friends to commence work at once? An hour's canvassing now will give better results than a whole day later on. Begin with your neighbours. In many cases they only require to be asked in order to secure their names.

Specimen numbers sent free on application.

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WINTER WORK ON THE FARM.

Winter time is usually looked upon as the farmer's resting season; but to the thrifty farmer there comes no season of rest, that is, of absolute idleness. He may not be so driven as in the seasons of sowing and reaping, but there will always be enough to do if he but have the will to do it. The care of live stock will be, of course, his chief employment. To see that they are given food and water at regular intervals, that they are comfortably stabled or sheltered, that their stalls are cleaned out and liberally supplied with bedding, and that there is a free use of the curry-comb and brush—these are matters of great consequence, for the value of live stock largely depends on the character of their winter keeping. Then there are the dairy cows and breeding ewes. These demand much looking after, especially as their time of parturition approaches. The life of many a valuable animal is lost, or its usefulness impaired, through want of attention at this critical period. Cows, if possible, should be shut up singly in box-stalls, and ewes separated from the rest of the flock. That the young calves and lambs are made snug and warm, and their dams supplied with nutritious food, will be the thrifty farmer's particular care. And so also with respect to breeding sows; the supply of

pigs, as well as of all other young stock of the farm, depends much on the attention given by the farmer to his breeding animals throughout the winter season. Then there is what we call, "taking time by the forelock." The thrifty farmer will see that everything which can be done in winter; and which, if neglected, would delay the operations of summer, is done as far and well as it can be. The year's supply of fuel will be got ready; drawn up, cut, spit, and put under cover. Ploughs, harrows, drills, reapers, etc., will be refitted if they require it, and if a fresh coat of paint is needed, it will be given. Seed grain will be got ready, or a supply of it purchased. Fences will be repaired, if the weather allows such work. In a word, the whole farm, and everything upon it, will get from the thrifty farmer wholesome care in winter as well as in summer; and it is only such a farm that realizes to us the ideal of the farming that pays.

A SHOW OF FAT CATTLE.

The cattle-feeders of Ontario had an opportunity offered them last month, in this city, to show what they are able to do in the way of producing fat stock. The Provincial and Industrial Exhibition Associations joined together to institute a Fat Stock show, and prizes amounting to nearly \$1,000 were offered for competition. Shows of this sort are an established institution in Chicago, and their good influences are generally acknowledged. This is especially the case in affording a comparison of the merits of the different breeds of cattle, and also in showing what can be accomplished by intelligent feeding. In Chicago the competition between Shorthorns, Herefords, and polled Aberdeens, has always been very close, and it yet remains an open question which breed is most valuable to the farmer—which one gives the largest margin of profit upon being turned out from the feeding-stall. It is, no doubt, a good thing that this question remains undecided, for we do not believe that on this continent the best results are to be obtained by favouring one breed exclusively, no matter how superior its qualities may be; and in this particular we may express a regret that at the Toronto show the entire field was left to Shorthorns and their grades. We have breeders of Galloways, Herefords, and Aberdeens in Ontario who enjoy a continental reputation. How did they fail to put in an appearance? It was an opportunity that they ought not to have lost, and all who take an interest in the subject of beef production must regret that it has been lost. Let us hope that at the next show of the kind, they will prove that they are not afraid to enter the lists. Of the show itself, we need not say much. The animals were nearly all magnificent ones; large, shapely, and weighted down with flesh. The Messrs. Groff, of Waterloo, deserve great praise for the fine exhibit made by them, and, as prize-winners they are, no doubt, well satisfied with the measure of success they attained. But we think that the animal, which above all others taught a valuable lesson to cattle-feeders, was the Shorthorn steer, White Duke, shown by Richard Gibson, of Middlesex. Although only two years and seven months old, he weighed 2,110 pounds, and has a record of nearly two and one-fourth pounds average daily increase from the day he was dropt. This is not only evidence of early maturity but, as Mr. George Frankland has so well expressed it, it abundantly proves that millions of money can be saved to Canada by judicious feeding—producing at half the cost, younger, tenderer, and juicier meats by a study of all appliances to make early maturity a success. Looked at from this point of view alone, the Fat Stock show cannot fail to be of great service to the whole country.

ASHAMED OF THEIR IDENTITY.

PICTURESQUE CANADA.—Mr. Belden, agent for "Picturesque Canada," has had an interview with the Customs Department with respect to the printed material for the book brought into Canada. He desires a lower valuation for duty than the regular one, on the ground that the expensive plates were manufactured in Canada, though the printing has been done in New York. The Department will meet his views to a considerable extent.

The above extract from a recent batch of the *Mail's* Ottawa correspondence, contains more absolute untruth (though chiefly by inference) than any press paragraph which has ever come under our notice. It may have been published in good faith, but either the Customs Department or the correspondent, or both, have been "stuffed" by the precious Mr. Belden—the *Agent* (as he wishes to make himself appear) of "Picturesque Canada." (1) Mr. Belden is the owner of the work and is the same Belden so notorious in the Atlas swindle; hence his desire to appear to the public only as *agent*; (2) The present, a recent valuation, was enforced by the Minister of Customs some months since, after examining into and confirming charges of fraud, smuggling, and false entries by the Beldens, in bringing in their stuff. (3) Every particle of work on the plates is and has always been done in New York, as has everything else in connection with the book, except the drawing of a few pictures by Mr. O'Brien, and some half-dozen subjects by as many other Canadian artists. Even many of the drawings (which were guaranteed by the prospectus to be "original and prepared expressly for the work") are sketches of scenery in Connecticut, or the Adirondacks, bought "ready made," from the collections of some American artists, and palmed off on subscribers as Canadian scenes. (4) The Beldens are now using letters of recommendation obtained from prominent personages, under false pretences; and farmers should not be deceived by them. It is a part of their stock-in-trade to use forged documents. In their Atlas career, they have been beaten in court trying to collect forged notes—and all their order books for the first three years they were engaged on "Picturesque Canada" contained forged autographs of Senators, Cabinet Ministers, and Supreme Court Judges—men who never saw or heard of their work at the time—stolen by the Beldens from the autograph book of other publishers.

It is scarcely to be expected that such persons will draw the line at perjury, if they can see a chance of saving any customs' duties by so doing. No wonder they wish to retain their *incognito* in connection with "Picturesque Canada." Farmers will do well to give their agents a wide berth.

"PICTURESQUE CANADA" AGAIN.

CAUTION TO THE PUBLIC.

(From the Rural Canadian, for November.)

We, the undersigned farmers of the county of Peterboro', Ontario, take this means of warning our brother farmers throughout the Dominion of a cunning swindle which is being perpetrated throughout the rural sections, of which we, as well as others within our knowledge, were victims.

The fraud is conducted in the following manner: The agent of Belden Brothers of the Art Publishing Co., of Toronto, came to our county and employed an old resident to ride around and introduce him to the farmers. He showed us a sample of an illustrated part-book, containing about twenty-four pages, called "Picturesque Canada," bound in a paper cover, price sixty cents per part, to be delivered to our residences, one part every two months. The delivery was to begin January 1st, 1884. He represented the work to be "purely Canadian—all manufactured in Toronto," where he asserted the "Art Publishing Company" (the