

cils. It is not my object to discuss the principle in question here, but a question naturally arises—what are our farmers about? They are so careless of and manifest such apathy for their real interests, that they cannot, like other parts of the body politic, act in unison, but are floating on the tide of time like so many particles or units, having no affinity to one another. Union is strength, and the want of it is weakness. This explains the position of Canadian farmers at present; having no combination in action, they have no particular aim, and are, in consequence, unable to exert that influence and power on many questions of vital interest to them, but instead, are helpless in the hands of those who use them for their own purposes. I am, sir, A READER OF THE ADVOCATE, BUT NOT A FARMER.

Editor Farmers' Advocate.

SIR,—In your last issue, as in many former ones, you invite discussion, and you say all you ask is that your correspondents will give their name and address. Now, sir, in my opinion, that is not fair, for there are many really good farmers that cannot write a letter correctly—your humble servant, for instance; for, although many a good farmer can get up and make a tolerably good speech, or express his views to others while sitting over a sociable glass or at other times, yet he does not feel like writing articles for an agricultural journal. So I think if you only give the initials in your paper and keep the name and address to yourself, you will have a great many more correspondents than you have at present. You admit you are not perfect yourself, and that is just my opinion of you, for you often blow the Government up, particularly John Carling, because he does not have your views or you his. I am an advocate for improvement in everything, not only in cattle, sheep, pigs, horses, &c., but in the manners of a great many of our Canadian farmers, for many of them, because they have done well in Canada themselves, are very uncharitable to others who do not happen to do so well, and they look upon them as so many fools. Now, I dare say you know that man is the creature of circumstances, and that if circumstances are in his favor, he gets along much faster than a man who has circumstances against him. For instance, if a man comes to this country from a large city or town in the United Kingdom (as I did) he knows very little or nothing of farming. Then if he has four or five young children under eight years of age, I say circumstances are against him, and still he may be a sharp, shrewd man for all that.

Now, I believe if you were to go into the Muskoka District and see the improvements that the Government are making there, you would have rather a different opinion of John Carling. But you must understand there are a great many people going into Muskoka that really might do much better in other parts of Canada. But that is not the fault of the Government, if strangers that know nothing about bush life will go into the bush; they are sure to meet with troubles and disappointments they never calculated on. The old saying is "every man to his trade," and so it is there, for while some strangers go in there from the Old Country and chop their fingers and toes off, others that are used to Canada go in and do well. I consider Bracebridge to be one of the most thriving places in Ontario, and when the railway reaches that far, I have no doubt it will improve much faster, for the land around and beyond Bracebridge is good farming land, better than around London. They grow good crops in Muskoka. Sun-flowers will grow as high as hop poles and have forty or fifty flowers on one stalk. They have good crops of clover and timothy, wheat, peas, barley, rye, oats, potatoes, and all kinds of roots, but this year they are short of turnips as the season was so extremely dry. Hubbard, currant-bushes and so forth all do well. And yet in your paper you have never said a word about Muskoka, only once when you referred to it as the "Rocky Region," and recommended people to go to Kansas in preference. You appear to be a man fond of travelling about and having a glass of beer with your acquaintances. I would recommend you to take a trip to Muskoka, and then you will know more about it than if I were to write to you for a week. If you will say in your next issue when you will be there, I have no doubt there will be a young man to meet you at the wharf, who will make you welcome to the best his father's house affords.

I am, Sir, your subscriber,

G. S. Y.  
Bramley, 4th Nov., 1871.  
We are pleased to insert any communications in which useful information is given or suggestions for improvement. A writer may either sign by letters, initials or figures, or any such name as "Timid," "Progress," or "No-Nothing." We re-

quire the right name and address in our office, but the public know nothing about who the writer is or where he resides. We object to no communication because it may condemn us or differ with us in our views. The paper is for the farmers. We seek for discussions, and any one may write for it. It is only a public servant. We do not profess to be always right, even in our editorial remarks, and are only thankful to those that will correct us.

We are not acting as agent for a Kansas or any other Land Company. The Americans may give information through our paper by communications, or can use our advertising columns if they choose, and provided the communications are of interest to our readers. Mr. Carling and the Government have expended large sums in different ways to persons travelling for information, but we have not seen a cent for such or any other purpose, and further, we have desired to give you information that has cost our country large sums to procure, but it has been refused to us.

We should be most happy to accept your kind invitation, but as it would cost us perhaps two weeks' time and \$40 or \$50, we can neither spare the time or "tin" just now. Perhaps if we were there you would rather have our room than our company. Nevertheless, we sincerely thank you both for your communication, and invitation. We shall have pleasure in accepting the latter at some future time, if circumstances permit. We have long since desired to go there and see for ourselves. We have to be guided by the most reliable information received, and next to personal inspection, we rely upon information from those whom we know to be reliable. Now you have broken the ice, we hope you will make progress and send more accounts from your part of the country. We wish as much as possible to be furnished with the unvarnished truth about your country, and any other we write about.

#### TO BEE-KEEPERS.

The equalizing of stocks before going into winter quarters is a very important operation. If the stocks have been attended to in the working season, the weak ones put in the place of the strong ones, and the strong ones in their place, there will be but little difficulty at this season of the year. Before winter really sets in, all stocks should be examined to ascertain what condition they are in. Sometimes the moth may attack them and get a lodging for a time; several cases of this kind have come under my observation of late, where the bees had completely rid themselves of the moth, but had become weakened and the cards of comb very much injured. By the use of movable frames, the operator can strengthen up weak stocks with strong ones without any difficulty. If you have none of the bee-smokers, take a pan of burning chips or rotten wood, and blow the smoke into each hive for two or three minutes, then open up and smoke from above until the bees are quiet, then take a card or two from the outside of your weak stock and the same number from the strong stock and change them, there being very little danger of the queen being on the outside frames. Look over each before introducing, to see that the queens are not on them. The operation can be performed in cold weather without smoke. Sometimes there will be plenty of honey and but few bees, in which case add bees by brushing them into the hive from some strong stock. Young stocks have not young bees enough after the old ones die off, to keep up the animal heat. I have frequently saved such stocks by adding bees, a little timely feeding, and shifting frames to bring the honey in store near them. Weak stocks intended to be wintered, should be fed early, in order to save their sealed honey for winter supplies. Feeding may be done on the honey board with the cap of the hive over it, either with honey in comb or feed made of refined sugar—three parts to one part of

water, boiled and skimmed. Harrison's bee-feeder is convenient, but I use one better adapted to the purpose, the former being too far away for the cold weather, and a conductor of cold. I use a very simple feeder in winter, which brings the feed down to the combs, and on moderate days the bees are enabled to get at it; it feeds only small quantities at once. This feeder also serves as a perfect ventilator. In keeping my bees on their summer stands, I am able at all times to ascertain their condition. Many may object to keeping bees out of doors, but I take great pleasure in keeping my bees in the open air. They seem to enjoy the winter sun as well as I do myself. I may at some future time give my reasons for wintering bees out of doors, and my objections to wintering bees in doors.

B. LOSEE.  
Cobourg, Nov. 10, 1871.

Editor Farmers' Advocate.

#### EMIGRATION.

SIR,—I have observed that the census lately taken has brought to the surface the amount of emigration from this Dominion to the States. The Government journals and others give several reasons for the exodus, and seek for more, as none seem satisfied that those produced are sufficient to account for so many of our people preferring to go across the line to living in free and fair Canada. I would suggest one very important element which must of necessity induce a large quota to leave this country for the States, namely, the large number of American agricultural papers that are circulated among our farmers, and no doubt read with much pleasure by both old and young, to the exclusion of those published in Canada. These papers cannot fail to influence the most of those who steadily peruse them, and, as a natural consequence, must create a desire for change of country. It is impossible to prevent this result, as the one follows the other as naturally as night succeeds day. Now, why should the American papers gain an ascendancy over those published in Canada? The answer is at hand. Because they are better provided in point of talent to manage them, and in capital to provide for their management and general get-up in appearance of matter and illustrations. Now do not imagine that it is the want of either of these that affects our own agricultural press. They subsist under a government which has done justice to agricultural interests, and which realizes the grand fact that it is from agricultural enterprise and success that the prosperity of their wide dominion must flow, if it flows at all. But our government has not yet opened its eyes to the above fact, and instead of encouraging native agricultural literature, have laid an embargo on it, by heavy imposts in the way of postage and other obstructions double those of other papers, thus cramping both the energy and capital of such as yourself. By the above means they also prevent the spread of native ideas and teachings, and create a great void which must be filled up by journals from the other side.

So long as such is the case, so long will the stream of emigration continue to flow, and in equal ratio to one another, such is and must be the result. Our government may spend any amount of the people's money in building Agricultural Colleges, purchasing and getting up model farms, appointing Ministers of Agriculture and many other minor officers, &c., and make it appear to the country that they are fostering agricultural interests, in consequence of the large sums expended. But they are counteracting all their labour by throttling the agricultural press, an engine, which if left to itself and having free scope, would do more to further agriculture and keep our sturdy and industrious population at home than all the united efforts of grants of money, Ministers, and other appointments, which are merely a burden upon the shoulders of those in whose favor they are made. Let our Government do

justice to our agricultural press, and through it to the farmers, by removing the imposts placed upon it, and native talent will soon overrun the country in sheets of literature, and an impetus will be given to home enterprise and skill. It will check the evil complained of. If such be not the results, then the press must have lost its power and become *effete*. And who will say that such is the case?

OBSERVER.

Stony Creek, Nov. 23, 1871.

#### DANGER OF RAISING FAST HORSES.

The *Rural New Yorker* states the following case, to enforce some sensible advice to farmers, suggested, we presume, by the "disparity of horses," which is perhaps the most attractive feature of agricultural shows:—

A well-to-do farmer of our acquaintance had the misfortune to rear a really fine horse. The action of the animal gave him great delight, and nothing would do but an exhibition of him among the professionals. He put up his money and won. This gave a brighter flight to his ambition and induced a bolder operation. Success awarded his ventures. He neglected his farm, imprecipitously acquired habits to which he had before been a stranger, and spurred on his past success and the machinations of the crafty, whose aim it is to fleece the green and unwary, raised his farm in jeopardy for the purpose of raising money to stake on the result of a race in which his pet horse was to contend for the prize and mastery. The professionals had now got the over-confident farmer in the precise position desired, and the result was, what they intended it should be, the defeat of the farmer's horse, and the ruin of its owner. The animal changed hands, and so did the farm. It was always down hill with the farmer after this. His family was broken up and dispersed, while he, reckless and maddened by disappointment and remorse, found a premature grave.

Many of our subscribers think we have said too much against racing and fast horses. Our columns have been open to any one to condemn us, or to any that may hold opposite views. As our Exhibitions are conducted, there has not been much harm done as yet, but the desire for speed is too often over-balanced by the admission of defective, inefficient and light, small animals. Utility should take the pre-eminence over perfection in agricultural purposes, and it should be maintained and every means used to perpetuate it. We do not advocate, as strongly as many would wish, the necessity of pure bred blooded horses for farmers. We want utility. By far the majority of horses have more of the blooded or race-horse strain in them than is profitable to agriculture. Let them who wish for race horses, by all means raise them, but do not insist on lending them too much among the farmers. We might as well advocate the necessity of going back to a pure bred bison to raise the best cattle from, as to advocate going back to the pure bred race-horse to raise an agricultural horse from.

#### CANADIAN SUCCESS AT THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR.

On Swine, large breed, one first and three second prizes were awarded to Clark & Green, Belleville. Two first prizes to McLean & Mather, Belleville. Three first and one second to Brodie, Son & Converse, Rural Hill and Woodville. On Ayrshire—to Brodie, Son & Converse were awarded four first prizes: two second and one third prize. And last, though not least, the herd prize on Ayrshires, with the strongest competition ever known in the State, six herds competing for the prize, the Society's grand gold medal, valued at \$75. The receipts of the Society reached nearly \$32,000, which indicates more correctly the number in attendance than any overdrawn estimate. Brodie, Son & Converse have an establishment in Belleville, and took seven prizes on stock exhibited at the late Provincial Show, at Kingston.—*Ext.*

A NEW POTATO INSECT COMING.—A California paper says olive-green bugs, about as large as a grain of flax seed, has completely ruined several fields of potatoes in Petaluma Valley. They appeared suddenly in great numbers, and in a day or two ate the vines to such an extent they could not live.

#### THE MONTHLY FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

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Is the Leading Agricultural Paper of Canada. It gives accounts of the Canadian Agricultural Exposition, of the different trials and tests of seeds and implements. The Canadian Stock Breeder's Directory is found in its columns. Terms, \$1 per annum. Address W. WELLS, London, Ont., D. C.