



VOL. VI. { WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor. }

LONDON, ONT., MAY, 1871.

{ \$1 Per Annum, Postage Prepaid. } No. 5.
{ Office—Dundas St., opp. City Hotel. }

The Farmer's Advocate

Politics.

TO THE FARMERS OF CANADA.

We have brought before you in your paper two very important subjects for your consideration. The first is the Canadian Agricultural Emporium, which, with the plans that were first suggested, and if properly carried out, must have been of great advantage to you, as it embraced everything that the legislature of our country is about to carry out. The second plan was to establish an Agricultural paper, entirely free from politics. As both of these plans have received every check it has been possible to throw in the way by the government and its numerous hangers-on—not because we have been opposed to them—no sound man who has read the Farmer's Advocate from its commencement, could possibly say that we had favored either party. It is true that we have time and again been asked to advocate and support plans which we have thought would be injurious to the farmers, but we could not conscientiously endorse the plans, and have not done so. Had we allowed ourselves to be subservient to party we have no doubt but the Emporium plans would have been left for us to bring out, and even aided; and that the postage on Agricultural papers would not have been doubled, nor would the government Agricultural paper have been established. We have deemed it proper to express our views publicly, and have given every opponent, or any one holding different opinions, an opportunity to condemn us, even in our own paper, and have not rejected any open discussion when the writers gave their names.

Some persons are trying to make it appear from our last paper that we are political. We maintain that our politics are independent, although we have had far more to urge us to act politically than any of you know of; and it is our duty to write against any measure that we believe would be injurious to the farmers, from whatever side of politics it may emanate. We gave Currie, Carling & Co. credit for investigating the pecuniary transactions of

the old Board of Agriculture, but we condemn the attempts made to check or deprive the new Board from controlling the public agricultural affairs of this Province. If we saw that the new Board were inclined to act to the injury of the farmers, we would at once denounce their acts, just as much as we did the acts of the old Board. And as most important steps are about to be taken, either to enchain and burden farmers or to be of benefit to them, we have touched on the agricultural politics of the country, as we believe this to be our duty. We never have been attached to either party, and have believed and still believe, that the agricultural business of the country should not be affected by party, but should be for the general and common good.

NON-POLITICAL.

In our advertisements we have claimed to be non-political. Since the issue of our last paper many enemies (and who ever started a new enterprise but had plenty of croakers about?) have tried to give this fact the lie. Can any honest, unbiased man among our subscribers say that we have favored either political party throughout our course of publication? We say an agricultural paper should expose any act or scheme that may tend to the injury of the farmer; and at the same time it is the duty of an agricultural paper to aid every good measure that may be brought forward, and which is likely to be of real benefit to the cultivators of the soil. Were we not to touch on such subjects, we should be shirking our duty. We have not voted for either one party or the other since our commencement of establishing the Emporium. We have never touched on any of the political questions of the day, excepting those affecting agriculture. We may condemn measures that are about to be put in operation under the disguise of fostering the agricultural interest, and when we are fully convinced that such plans would only be a heavy tax and a source of enchainment to farmers, and a check to private enterprise. We are in duty bound, under the very name of non-political, to condemn such a course, and to do our utmost to prevent an injury being done to the farmers.

We also claim as our duty to suggest any measures that we deem might be beneficial, even if they are not taken up by the controllers of our agricultural affairs.—We are strongly condemned by some in this city for our remarks in regard to the Western Fair, as being a political scheme. We have no reason to change our opinions about it, but any one of its promoters, directors, managers or presidents, who will send in an article showing the public that we are wrong, we will insert it, and care not how much it may condemn our views or our acts. Open and free discussion on any agricultural subject, whether it be a seed humbug, an implement swindle, a patent right benefit, or a large public agricultural expenditure, are subjects that we contend are fair grounds to treat on; and on these grounds we have started and intend to stand, until our last leg is knocked from under us. And as we have been able to withstand the many blasts that have been hurled against us, we fear not but we shall continue to exist, despite the great din that is raised about our ears, although the very persons that have done their utmost to trample us out of existence are placed in power.

Petition.

We have sent a petition to the Legislature of the Dominion, now in session in Ottawa, asking that Seeds may be sent through the Post Office to any part of the Dominion, as cheaply as printed matter may be sent, which is at the rate of 4 cts. per lb. Seeds are now charged four times that price, namely, 16 cts per lb. We think the post office revenue would be increased thereby, with no additional expense, and that the farmers of the Dominion would be able to procure the best varieties of Seeds at their own doors, and thus raise better crops, which would be of great advantage to the country; and we know not of any individual in the country that could in any way be injured by it.—We hope that every legislator, and every editor that is in any way interested in the prosperity of the farmer will aid it.

At the present time we send seeds to all parts of the Dominion in four ounce or one pound packages, but we could send much more if the rate was not so high.

Look over our list or send for the catalogue. We have many kinds that you all require.

Remember, we pay the postage; but you have more seeds for the same money than when they are sent by rail or express. But we do not pay the carriage by rail or express.

Our Present Position.

When we undertook to establish the Canadian Agricultural Emporium, we had not the slightest idea of publishing, in connection with it, a paper, but we found it necessary to use printer's ink by publishing our plans:—first, by small circulars; afterwards on a little sheet to which we gave the name "FARMER'S ADVOCATE," at fifty cents a year. But we gradually found an increased demand for our writings, and consequently, enlarged the size, and improved the appearance of the paper, and gradually extended the topics of information discussed. We had not the remotest idea of making it a political engine for either party. Our whole ideas were concentrated on agricultural subjects. It is true we wrote for or against any plan or act just as we thought such would affect the interests of farmers. No person who has carefully read the ADVOCATE from its commencement can say that we have not fully acted on the principle laid down by us for the last four years, and placed before you, non-political writings. No doubt our several condemnations, etc., are selected by wily men of either party to suit their purpose, and we are well aware that many such writings have been "stored up," to be produced against us by some strong political men of either side. When the proper time arrives, they will no doubt produce a long array of quotations as arguments against the opposing party. Which ever party you may meet with may be prepared with some "stored" remarks to "prove" their argument. But do not be led by such clap-traps. You who have read the paper regularly must be aware that such selections are not a fair criterion. Some of you may think from reading our last paper that we have changed. We ourselves know that politics is a touching point with many.

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