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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—
Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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The Month.

February has been unusually mild, and the sleigh bells have been very little heard. Mud, frost and bad roads have prevailed. January having also been so unusually mild, one would almost think that Ontario had run off the track, especially so when we compare it with the reports from the North-west Territory, where the cold has been unusually severe, and the snow and piercing winds have caused much suffering and inconvenience.

THE CROPS.

This open weather has been injurious to the clover, and has been especially so to all newly sown clover and timothy. The constant freezing and thawing has almost thrown some of the wheat plant out of the ground already, especially the late sown and that on undrained clay soils. The unusually rank growth made by the wheat last autumn proves to be the greatest protection, as there has been no snow to smother the blade. Thus we see the evils we often fear, and extra growths that we think injurious, are frequently in the long run found most beneficial. This is sometimes the course pursued by nature—man's judgment not always being correct.

DAIRYMEN'S ASSOCIATION.

At the annual meeting of the Western Ontario Dairymen's Association, which was held in this city, a very important battle was fought. The contest was whether Professor Arnold had discovered a new way of making cheese from sweet curd or not, and whether the process was superior to the old plan.

Many of the most powerful orators and writers on dairy matters were there from the States and Canada. The battle was well fought on both

sides, both parties believing they were correct. At the outset a cheese of inferior quality was exhibited that was made on Arnold's sweet curd process, and many of the opponents of the new process felt sure they had the field. But the following day Arnold's friends exhibited a cheese made on the sweet curd plan, and brought such an array of facts from scientific experiments and explanations from the Professor and numerous leading dairymen that had put his plan into practice, and found that they had better cheese and sold at better prices than that made on the old process, called the Acid or Cheddar process, that the opinion of the meeting was decidedly in favor of the sweet curd process. There were some who retained their opinion in regard to developing the acid, but the result will be that all will endeavor to make their cheese with as sweet a curd as possible, although they may not like to admit of Arnold's superior knowledge on the subject.

This we think a very important subject, as Mr. Arnold plainly shows that cheese made from sweet curd is more palatable and more digestible than that made from sour or acid curd, and that home and foreign consumption will be increased by it, and that better prices will be obtained on account of the superior quality and increased demand. T. Ballantyne, M.P.P., the President of the Association, was absent through sickness, but he endorses Prof. Arnold's process. Hon. H. Lewis, President of the N. Y. Dairymen's Association, also endorses Prof. Arnold's views.

We strongly advise our readers to read Mr. Arnold's addresses. One will appear in this issue, and one in our next issue, and when you have read them endeavor to put his closely studied and tested plans into operation, and you will be amply repaid. In our reports we shall publish the principal speech made in opposition to Mr. Arnold's plan.

On the question of salt another very important decision was arrived at. Cheeses were tested that had been salted with different brands of Canadian and Liverpool salt, and despite the puffs and advertisements that had been heralded over the land about Higgins' and Ashton's salts, the cheese that was made from Canadian salt was pronounced by the judges to be the best. This will stimulate the owners of our salt works to produce the quality required, and save our dairymen the unnecessary expense of using imported salt. This will add more wealth to our coffers, as it will enable us to retain the large sums that have been annually expended for foreign salt.

PRICKLY COMFREY.

An article from the pen of A. P., inserted in the January issue, on prickly comfrey, drew out a host of correspondence from the eastern portion of the Dominion—far too much to be inserted in one issue. By reading the discussion on this subject you may be able to draw correct inferences.

THE DUTY ON CORN AND GRANGE QUESTIONS.

An opening for discussion was given by inserting remarks about the duty on corn and a communication about the Grange. We have been flooded with communications on these two subjects, every one expecting their letters to appear, even if repeating what others have said. We do not wish this journal to take either side, but will leave them to those directly interested, as people will see things in the light in which they expect to get the most money. We can not allow the space of this paper to be too much occupied by these subjects; therefore only a half-column more on each side of these two vexed questions will be allowed, which must stop the controversy. If some of the numerous ready writers on the above subjects would devote their time and paper to giving information on other good subjects pertaining to farm and household, and its improvement in the thousands of ways open for such, they will always find a welcome corner in this journal. We much regret that many really good articles furnished by writers for prize essays cannot be inserted, as the frequent repetition of a similar subject becomes distasteful to our readers.

CLOVER.

The astonishing activity evinced by speculators in clover in Ontario caused many farmers to hold for higher prices. Some farmers whom we have heard of that were offered \$5.75 to \$6 for their crop as soon as threshed are now regretting their lot, as clover is now a heavy drug, and the prospects are that there is not much of a chance of any great advance until after another harvest. Considerable has been recently sold at \$3.25. The fall is a great one, and bears out our oft-repeated advice to sell as soon as you get ready, whether beef, fruit, roots or cereals.

SEED WHEAT.

Many continue to enquire which kind of spring wheat is the best to sow. There is no variety that we can commend as superior to all others. The Red Fern, Odessa, Gordon, White Fife and White Russian have each surpassed any other varieties in different localities, and each have been surpassed by each in other localities. There are some farmers who laud the Red Chaff, the Egyptian and the Chi'ian, or Arnecta, but from the reports of millers we think it right to discourage their cultivation, although some of them may have yielded good returns. The quality of the flour is weak and inferior, which tends to injure the reputation of Canadian flour, and this in turn tends to lower the price we should obtain for first-class flour. We should aim to have the best, and discourage the raisers of any inferior product. It is from the best that money is made. Do not regard any man that comes to your door with a sleek tongue and some new and wonderful tree, plant, seed wheat or patent right, or anything to which your name is to be attached. The swindling, the false swearing and the gross deception under which many farmers have been ruined should cause some of our legislators to endeavor to check deception and discourage falsehood and fraud in whatever garb it may appear, and aim to encourage a higher standard of honor and veracity than that which is now so rapidly demoralizing the atmosphere of our fair Dominion.