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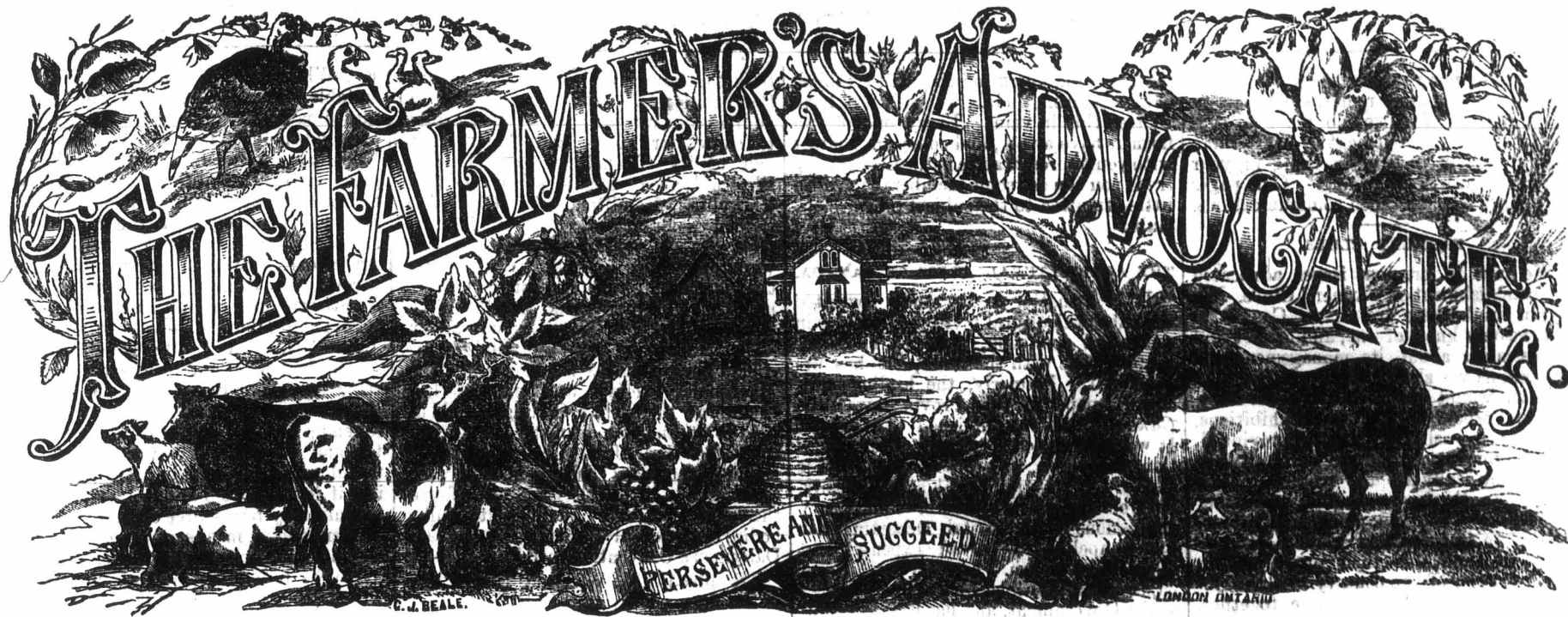
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VOL. VI. { WILLIAM WELD,
Editor and Proprietor }

LONDON, ONT., DEC., 1871.

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{ Office—Dundas St., Opp. City Hotel. }

General Editorial.

To the Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald, and
Members of the Legislature of the
Dominion of Canada:—

GENTLEMEN,—For the interest of the farming community of this Dominion, I have now lying before the House a petition requesting that agricultural papers may be sent by mail at as cheap a rate as political papers, and that the postage on them may be paid by the recipients of the papers. The present rate of postage on agricultural papers being one cent per copy, which has to be prepaid by the publisher, is acting most injuriously to the spread of agricultural information, as it draws the money from the publisher at a rapid rate, and prevents expenditures that might be made to improve agricultural journals. Secondly, the prepayment causes a listlessness among the numerous meagrely paid postmasters of small offices, who receive nothing for the delivery of agricultural papers published in Canada; consequently they are often neglected. We have now frequently to pay \$100 per month for postage stamps, which is taken by the recipients of large salaries, and the small country post-masters receive no benefit from it. Political papers afford them a little addition to their receipts. They should be allowed a little more for the delivery of agricultural papers than for others, instead of being allowed nothing for their labor. We believe that the Dominion Government and even the Post Office Department would be benefited if they were to allow the post-masters of country Post Offices to receive and retain half of the payment for the postage of agricultural papers. It would tend much to increase the circulation of the papers, and be the means of inducing postmasters to attend better to their business. We make the above remarks because we believe agricultural papers are of advantage to the country. An increased circulation of agricultural papers will cause the receipts of the Post Office Department to be increased, by a larger number of letters and parcels of seeds being sent. Canadian agricultural papers might take the place of the American publications, which are now filling our country, as Canadian editors might then be enabled to increase their staff of assistants, enlarge their papers, and embellish them better. For years past the agricultural press of Canada has been checked by the causes complained of. Not only by non-delivery of papers to subscribers, of which we have continual complaints, but also from neglect to return papers or give due notice

to publishers in a proper way, we have, individually, been the losers of many hundreds of dollars annually from neglect alone. We have frequently paid a hundred dollars per month for postage, while many of the papers paid for have never been delivered. In the procuring of postage stamps, we think when we require them in such quantities as \$25, \$50 or \$100 worth at a time, we might be supplied at the Post Offices at the wholesale rate charged to dealers, which would also be a saving of a large sum to publishers with large circulations, who are obliged to prepay publications. As publishers should not wish to sell stamps, we think this might be allowed. We also believe that increased export receipts will be obtained if the postage on seeds is reduced to one-half its present rate—one cent per ounce or sixteen cents per pound. In the United States, the charge for seeds is only eight cents per lb., to any Post Office. At the present time packages of papers are sent throughout Canada for four cents per lb. We see no reason why seeds should be charged at a higher rate than papers. We only ask that seeds may be sent on payment of double the rates now charged for papers, and that agricultural papers may be sent singly as cheaply as political papers. We do not know that the granting of our request would injure any one or any Department, but the farmers of Canada would be much benefited thereby.

Trusting that your Honorable body will look favorably on the petition,
I remain your humble servant,
W. WELD,

Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and
founder of the Canadian Agricultural Em-
porium.
London, Nov. 10th, 1871.

AGRICULTURAL POLITICS—ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

Some persons may say that we have no business to interfere or touch on such a subject. We well know that we have wily, cunning and doubtful persons watching every word we say, to use them against us, but we write this article for what we consider the general good of the country. It is not our desire to interfere with party lines, but to have our agricultural affairs conducted in such a manner that either Conservative or Reformer may be of most advantage to the country, and that party lines may not so easily check any progress or useful suggestion. All farmers have to pay the tax for agricultural purposes, in whatever way it may be expended, and we think all farmers should have the privilege of voting for the election of the persons who expend the public money. The Township meetings should be first held,

addresses should be given, and fair discussions encouraged. All farmers should have the privilege of voting at these Township elections. The officers of the Township Exhibitions should then hold a county or Electoral Division meeting, and there appoint the Directors of county Exhibitions and select a suitable person as a member of the Provincial Board. The Provincial Board of Agriculture should have control of the general public agricultural affairs of the Province, and should be composed of none but real practical farmers whose main dependence has been and is derived from their own personal attention to the cultivation of the soil as farmers. They know what is required, and have a knowledge of the value of agricultural undertakings. We have no doubt that if a Board of Directors was elected in such a manner as above stated, that any Legislative body would give a welcome ear to their suggestions, and aid them in every reasonable manner, and also that the farmers would become more interested, better satisfied, and would make it more beneficial. Our farms are capable of yielding double the profit they now yield, and a good efficient body of controllers of our agricultural affairs have much power in their hands of aiding improved plans and encouraging general agricultural advancement.

Although we have had a new agricultural Bill passed and also an amendment to it, we well know that a general feeling of dissatisfaction exists and is increasing. There is an injurious feeling existing between Township Societies and City or County Boards, and there is also a bitter feeling existing between the present Minister of Agriculture and the Provincial Board.

The Government is establishing a gigantic and expensive establishment which will almost be impossible to conduct without doing a greater injury to the country than even the mere paying of the costs of it will be. In fact the cost of it, should it be even half a million or a million, would be but a small burden in comparison to the injury it might do in trampling down private enterprise. This present state of strife, envy and jealousy existing between the townships and cities, between the Western Fair Directors and the Provincial Board, and between the Provincial Board and the Minister of Agriculture, cannot long exist. Something must be done. We suggest the above as one means of a remedy or as a means to bring about harmony and unanimity. We even believe that if the election of township, county, and Provincial Directors was left to the township, city or County Councils, it would give greater satisfaction and result in the election of more suitable persons than when left to

the few that attend the annual meetings held in this city and probably in other places. We know that by a few dollars properly expended previous to the annual meeting, that it is easy enough to get a majority for any city person, or any person that a city may desire, especially if politics has any thing to do with it, and we too well know that such has existed and does now exist to a greater extent than is beneficial.

We should like to be able to devise some plan for the removal of the party feeling that now exists in our agricultural affairs. Party or sect should not mar our agricultural prosperity. All should join as one, and our motto should be "Agricultural Prosperity."

We shall be happy to insert any other suggestions from any one that may differ with the above.

ELECTION OF SECRETARIES OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

One of the most important, probably the most important officer in an agricultural society, is the Secretary. Your liberal system of education should now begin to tell all young farmers born in Canada who can read and write, that it takes a series of years to carry out improvements; and it is often a delicate and sometimes a difficult matter to make a change after an appointment is once made. You should be more particular in your selection of a Secretary than any other officer or member of the Board, and you should by no means vote a man in as Secretary just because he can write a copperplate hand or is extra smart at figures, or because he is a particular friend of some one, or a scion of some wealthy nabob. Such may often be negligent, careless, or incapacitated, by the lack of stamina or principle. Your Secretary should not be selected because he has other offices. An old man is not likely to make as good a Secretary as a young man. One who has no other office should be preferred. He will be apt to attend to his business better and he will not be so apt to be set or stubborn in his ways, and will for his own honor and position endeavor to fill his part with honor to himself and credit to the Society. You should select one that is something more than a mere copyist or machine. Your Secretary should be able to write accounts of different meetings, and any agricultural information in regard to crops, implements, stock, experiments, swindling, humbugs, or anything of interest and importance to farmers, and he should send such accounts occasionally to the agricultural press of the country, if they are of interest or of use to the country. The editors would gladly publish them, and good might result to the Society, the writer, and to the country.