

J. W. Mann was formerly one of the most enterprising farmers in the County of Simcoe. It has been from his practical knowledge of the requirements of the farmer that he attributes his improvement on seed drills.

While dwelling on superphosphate it is but right that we should not overlook the use of gypsum; this is not a plant food, but of very great importance to good farmers, and a substance that should be more extensively used in some localities.

Gypsum is a wonderful absorbant of ammonia, and ammonia is the concentrated plant food, it will gather it and retain it for plant food better than any other available substance; for instance, every farmer has found strong smells emitted from pig-pens, stables, sewers, for closets. Some may not think this of much consequence, but the well informed know that this is in reality the strongest and most valuable manure they can procure, and the most intelligent use it. This is done by the occasional sprinkling of yards, stables or cesspools with gypsum. No one can estimate the loss that is sustained by the escape of the ammonia; that we may prevent by the liberal use of plaster.

The use of plaster as a stimulant to the growth of clover is known by the majority, but the full use and advantages of this highly valuable material are not so well known by many as they should be.

We will now introduce you to one of the principal plaster beds in Ontario, by giving you an illustration of the works of the Grand River Gypsum Co. These are situated in the County of Haldimand. In the foreground you see the vessels ready to transport the plaster from the mill. In this mill new and improved machinery is now employed, whereby the plaster is so finely pulverized as to lose that old gritty sensation that was always felt when handling the plaster; it is now reduced from a sandy or gritty to a fine flour, thus making it much more valuable.

You see the sheds in which the rock is stored previous to its being ground, at the back of which you see a dark looking entrance. If you were to enter you would find it dark enough in this cavity; the men are at work nearly a quarter of a mile from the entrance and between 100 and 200 feet below the surface of the ground. The sound of the pick, the hammer, and the drill salute your ear, as preparations are being made to blast the rock.

Some may prefer working in this cool place in the hot weather in summer, or in the cold weather in winter, but you and I would rather be preparing the soil or caring for the crops or stock that these subterranean workers are aiding us to improve. The rock is run out of the plaster lands in little low cars, some of which you see in the illustration.

One name or a dozen may be forwarded at any time. Subscriptions can commence with any number of the ADVOCATE.

Any reliable person can act as agent for THE ADVOCATE. Good commission given.

I like your paper much more year after year, for I think it improves with age, just as good cheese.

ISAAC S. CROSBY,
Marshfield, P. E. Island.

Travelling Agents.

The country is full of them. There are two kinds. Some are furnishing good information in regard to useful wares; many of these are well informed, gentlemanly and reliable persons. There are others that may put on a good appearance and talk very nicely, but their whole aim is to palm off some inferior, perhaps worthless, article, or to obtain a farmer's note, for something that he does not require. The former class deserves encouragement; the latter deserves rebuke. The difficulty with the farmer is often to know one from the other.

We require at the present time two good agents, to whom we will give steady employment, a good salary, and pay travelling expenses. We have had good agents, and invariably, after a few years, they have gained sufficient capital in cash and knowledge to start in different lines of business, in which each one has been successful, and they stand in their respective localities honored and prosperous. It is not every person that is adapted to fill the position. It requires one well informed on the business he undertakes, and who has a good address, and is able to convince those that he comes in contact with that he can supply the best of the kind, and that article, whatever it may be, will be of much more value to the farmer than the money he may pay for it.

publications invariably have some more influential party to serve; consequently the writings that may appear under the name of agriculture may be, and often are, intended to serve some other purpose. Every independent farmer should use his utmost endeavors to encourage an agricultural journal that is not and has not been devoted to any other interest than that of the farmer and his family. As an educator of the farmer and his family, it is undoubtedly the most valuable publication ever issued in Canada. That it is worth every year many times more than it costs can be testified to by thousands of the best farmers in Canada. No farmer can expend \$1 to as good advantage. Neither the young nor old can obtain so much useful, entertaining and timely information as is furnished by the ADVOCATE. We do not wish applications for these situations from old drammers who have been used to running through the country with drugs or "gimcracks." We want two good farmer's sons, whose parents have taken the paper and they have attentively read it for years. Young schoolmasters have made our best agents, and young men who have read and known the paper for years also make good agents. Every one of our readers may help us by trying to add one new subscriber. There is plenty of room for all. As we have every year improved our paper

according as our subscription list has increased, you will, therefore, help yourselves by aiding us to improve the ADVOCATE. Just kindly use a little exertion, and try to send one new subscriber. You can do it if you try.

Farmers of Canada.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE has for the past sixteen years fearlessly advocated your interests, and that in a more open, bold and fearless manner than any other journal has done; it has not been subservient to any locality, political party or organization; the greatest good to the greatest number is what it has labored for.

LIGHT, TRUTH AND JUSTICE

is what it has aimed to disseminate.

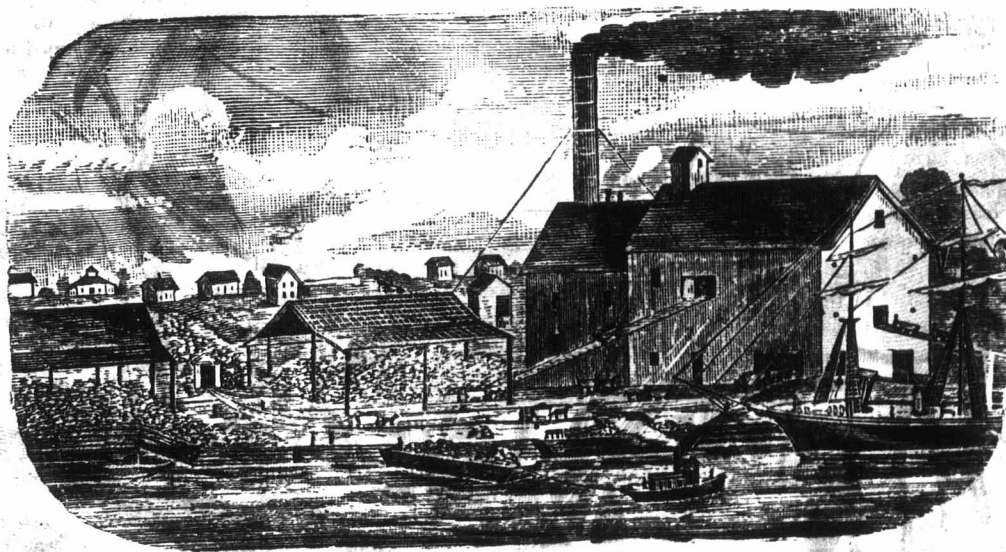
Much good has already been accomplished; thousands of the most enlightened and most enterprising farmers of Canada testify to this. Thousands say that it is the most useful publication in Canada. Have you ever taken it? If not, send 25 cents and take it for three months' trial, or \$1 for one year.

Agriculture is like the sun—that is, necessary to the life of all. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is the only journal published in Canada whose main aim and principle is the farmer's interest. Let agriculture stand first, politics second and sect third. The ADVOCATE has every year been improved since its commencement, and still greater improvements are contemplated for the coming season.

Every farmer who desires information in regard to his calling should take the best publication devoted to his interest. Thousands of farmers say the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is the best.

I am very much pleased with the ADVOCATE; it is complete in all its various departments. Would not wish to be without it. I admire its independent and outspoken principles in all matters for the general good of its subscribers.

JAMES GOOD, Jacksonville, N. B.



GRAND RIVER GYPSUM WORKS, OF CAYUGA, ONT.

The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is undoubtedly the best agricultural paper published in Canada. No reasonable person can truthfully deny this. Knowledge is power, and power represents wealth. Every farmer should be thoroughly posted in his own calling, and all that pertains to it. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE is entirely devoted to the interest of the farmer and his family. It has fearlessly advocated his interests for the past sixteen years. It has furnished the most useful information during that period in regard to the farm, dairy, orchard, seed, stock and all agricultural affairs. Many of the best writers on agriculture in Canada and the United States contribute to its columns. The proprietor is a practical farmer, and travels to each of the Provinces in quest of valuable information for its pages.

Some opponents of independent agriculture may argue that they obtain agricultural information from other publications. A good agent should be able to convince every reasonable farmer that every other publication purporting to furnish agricultural information furnishes such information for some other purpose than for the farmer's interest. Such