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The Mimico Farm.

This question will probably be the most important one to farmers that will be before the Legislature at the approaching Session. The site purchased is reported as unsuitable for the purpose; a committee has been appointed to select one more suitable near Guelph.

Whitby and Woodstock have been examined with the view of selecting a site better adapted to the purpose.

If it is carried on as originally contemplated, it must cost an immense sum of money, and whether the expense already incurred will ever result beneficially, remains to be seen.

There are Agricultural Colleges and Experimental Farms existing now in various parts of the world; Germany is in an advanced state as regards such.

It is our opinion that far more good would result if the Government would allow private individuals to join their capital and carry out such improvements as the country might require. Not only would the results be better, but an enterprise of this description, under the management of a joint stock company, would be carried on without a yearly amount of taxation. In fact, it would be to their advantage to do everything well, and at the same time economically. The Government ought, and probably would give assistance to a company of this sort, and if the farming community (not the favored few) are to be benefitted, it must be through the press.

Information is needed. Agricultural papers were considered sources for furnishing such to the farming community, but it is extremely strange that the same Government that put the most oppressive tax on agricultural publications, should attempt to establish an Agricultural College. As we happen to be somewhat acquainted with the objects and intentions of the late Government in imposing the extortionate rate of postage on agricultural papers, and their reasons and intentions for the establishment of the Mimico Farm, we cannot condemn in too strong terms the steps that have been taken. The postage was put on to check certain agricultural papers, and the Mimico Farm was to check the Canadian Agricultural Emporium; the *Ontario Farmer* was to have been supported and other papers obliterated; the Mimico Farm was to afford a good fat berth for a certain individual in this city.

It is a mere farce to pretend that the Mimico Farm was intended for the good of farmers; that is a shallow pretence; it would have been the greatest injustice and burden the farmers ever suffered.

We know on what subject we are

speaking, and despite our challenge that appeared in this paper long since, not a single supporter of the Mimico Farm has ventured to meet us on the platform to refute our statements regarding it and the Western Fair. We look on the act of the late Minister of Agriculture in obtaining the grant for the purchase of the Mimico Farm, as the blackest stain he can have on his character, as he had promised to aid the Agricultural Emporium in any way that laid in his power.

The scheme was started to benefit certain parties, and not the farmers. No farmer ever asked for it. If the question were put to the farmers themselves:— Shall the Government carry out the Farm, or shall it be left to private enterprise?— ninety-nine out of a hundred would favor the latter.

The question yet remains to be answered: will the present Government carry out the plans stolen by their predecessors for political purposes, or will they legislate for the interests of agriculturists? The question may arise: in what way could more good be done? we should reply, by encouraging the spread of agricultural information, the encouragement of farmers' clubs, and the spread of agricultural books; by allowing farmers to establish their experimental, test and sale farms by joint capital, which the law at present prevents.

The present Minister of Agriculture is a farmer, and we are impressed with the opinion that he will do what he thinks best for the country. We have our own opinion in regard to this farm, but if the past and present Governments deem the expenditure judicious, we have only to submit to the powers that be. We believe it has been from the effects of our writings that the plan has been taken up, although we may differ in the mode of putting it into operation.

Agricultural Societies.

The annual meetings will take place on the 31st week of this month for the election of officers and other business. We regret to say that in the majority of the Societies but very little more is done than the election of officers; so little attention is paid, that scarcely enough farmers attend the meetings even for that purpose. It appears to be one of those things that is everybody's business, and almost left to nobody. The meetings are so small that sometimes they scarcely deserve the name.

Now there are many subjects that might be discussed at these gatherings, pertaining to the management of the Exhibitions. The establishment of Farmers' Clubs is a subject that might receive more attention, and as unity is strength and knowledge is power, mem-

bers of these clubs have far greater opportunities for obtaining and disseminating knowledge than single individuals can have. Libraries might be added.

If there are any improvements that you could suggest, the annual meeting is the most suitable place for having discussions about them. In electing your officers, select those who are in favor of open discussion in preference to those who hurry over the appointment of officers and then walk away. If you desire Drain Tile manufactories to be established in your localities, you might offer some inducement to those who would invest in the undertaking.

If you are not ashamed of the poor agricultural papers published in Canada, when compared to those published on the other side, you ought to be, and you should at once lend your aid to remedy the evil. If you think agricultural information is of any value, and it should be distributed over the country through the medium of an agricultural journal published monthly, semi-monthly, or weekly, and that a proper staff of editors could select valuable information from the various agricultural works published, and from the reports of the Experimental, Educational and Test Farms in the United States and other countries; if you think that such a publication should not be made subservient to either political party or sect, would it not be well to assist in forming a company and elect managers to carry out such an undertaking. If one person attempts to do this, no matter how guarded he may be, it will most assuredly be termed a party paper by some.

We, as farmers meeting for agricultural purposes should know only one party—the agricultural party.

If you think such a publication would be of service, you might express yourself to that effect, or, if, in your opinion, the postage on agricultural periodicals should not exceed that on common newspapers, you could apply for its alteration.

If you consider it necessary that the Government should establish an Educational and Test Farm, your voice might strengthen them; and, on the other hand, if you think the cost would be more than the institution would be worth, or that it would be a mere shelving place for politicians and a political lever, or that it could be better carried out by a company, you might use your influence against it.

We have no doubt that if the Societies were to call the attention of the Government to these facts, but that the grievances, if any, would be removed.

Read the Club Prize List in this paper and encourage the young folks to obtain some of them. The chromos are beautiful. There are prizes for the useful, and those wishing to make money.