

### The Inefficiency of Canadian Agricultural Policy.

It is much to be regretted that agriculture in Canada has not afforded as good an opportunity for making money as mercantile pursuits or political offices have. Had it done so, we should have just as able men engaged in it; but the smartest men of our country leave agriculture for mercantile business, professions, political positions, or situations. Hence it is very difficult to find among our agricultural population men who are fit to take positions in the Legislature, or direct our agricultural affairs. Consequently, the public management of these must fall into the hands of lawyers, merchants, or manufacturers who may talk much at election times on their political platform of what they intend or wish to do. They may read up some lecture about agriculture, learn it off by heart, and give it to the poor duped farmers, magpie fashion, at the political meetings. They may talk politely and fluently, and have the "dimes" to spend, and purchase their supporters with either cash, or by kissing their wives, youngest child, and a hundred cunning devices, previous to election. But as soon as the election is over, we hear of duped farmers still remaining to see the fat salaries paid to nominal but useless appendages to state, and every other interest looked after but ours. It is much to be regretted that so few members of the Legislature are any way personally interested in the cultivation of the soil. It is also to be regretted that the Minister of Agriculture and his Board of Agriculture make such a bawkey team. They do not pull together, and we do not see much pull in either of them. Carling may oil Ryerson's pen, but we shall have to pay for it pretty smartly; and Ryerson & Co. may be good working tools for party. The Board of Agriculture may be working up their annual show to the best of their ability, but that should not absorb their whole attention. They ought to look beyond the 25 cent enclosure.

We do not say that it is at all necessary to appoint large-salaried officers to do nothing, or expend large annual sums for any great government importing or testing establishment; nor for the establishment of government papers to be paid directly or indirectly. But there should be some efficient power somewhere to look after agricultural interests. It is the farmer who pays for all, and many calamities which often mar his success, might with a very little care and a little timely attention, be in a great measure partly or totally avoided. The lack of information about seed-grain, the advance of the midge, the importation of improved stock, and the farmer's draining question, with cheap agricultural information, have all been touched on, but what we now wish to impress on your minds is the probable loss that we are likely to sustain by the unchecked admission of the Colorado Bug to our country. This pest bids fair to cause us as great a loss in our potato crop as the Midge has done to our wheat. Is there any school master who can estimate how many millions of dollars that loss has been? But that has only fallen on the wheat producers, and they are not as numerous as potato producers, for nearly

every family raise some, even in the cities. We hear accounts of the total destruction of that crop in many places. It has been known to have been travelling eastward for many years. Have our paid Entomological writers ever suggested a plan for its prevention? Have any of our Members of Parliament or our Agricultural Board ever made enquiries or endeavored to check its approach to us? Could we not have prevented its spread in our country, which is so nicely protected by the lakes, except that narrow slip at Windsor? Could they not have been trampled out on their first arrival? But no attempt has been made, and we now have them well established, and we shall suffer we know not what loss from this cause, which we believe might have been avoided. We say it is a disgrace and dishonor to any man to take a public office and receive one cent of money from the public taxation unless he acts vigorously, justly, honorably, and honestly in attending to such business.—We do not say that the neglect to attempt to prevent the Colorado Potato Bug from devastating our fields lies with the Entomological Society, who could spend \$10 per 1,000 for no earthly use on the Curculio, neither do we say that every member of the Board of Agriculture or the Minister of Agriculture are solely to blame; but neglect there has been, somewhere.

Reader, either you are a recipient of public money or not; you may perhaps think there has been some neglect when the Bugs visit your potato patch—if you do not yet know it—unless some unforeseen blessing checks the voyages of the insect above alluded to, which now has a good footing in our country. We have spoken of these insects in previous issues; and if any one wishes to see or know more about them, we have them bottled up in this office, but not for sale!

### Will Raising Wheat Pay?

This question suggests itself to us from a conversation we had the other day with Mr. Moses Kraft, of Bridgeport, who informs us that it has invariably paid him in past years, as well as this one, to adopt a system in farming, and one which we think correct, namely, the rotation of white and green crops. The wheat crop in former years, and ever since the country has been opened, has occupied about one-third of the whole extent of land put under cultivation year after year, exhausting the land of the necessary elements for the production of wheat, and thus not only weakening the soil, but also causing the wheat to deteriorate much in quality for milling, and making it totally unfit to be used for seed with any degree of success. This system of impoverishing the ground is much to be deplored as well as deprecated, for, as a necessary consequence, where so much white crop is grown, there is nothing to be had therefrom to enable the farmer to replace what the crop has taken out of the ground. But where a green crop is grown, and stock fed on the farm, there is not only the benefit of the change given to the soil by another kind of crop being reared from it—and that crop requiring and taking from the ground what the grain crop did not need—but also yields to the farmer the most valuable manure in large quantities, and enables him to replace

into the soil, what he by his wheat crops is constantly taking out of it. It is too well understood now, to be enforced here, that to be ever taking from the soil, without refunding, is one of the greatest mistakes a farmer can make, and how is he to be able to refund unless by growing himself what will afford him the means of procuring fit manure for that purpose? And we assume that, by growing more green crops than is generally done, and feeding that crop to stock on the farm, there is no other means of attaining so desirable an object. We will be glad to hear from Mr. Kraft on this or any other kindred subject.

### Progress.

We learn with pleasure of a sugar manufactory being about to be put up in the neighborhood of Berlin. We rejoice at this, as we believe it will be the first of its kind in the Dominion, and we wish the enterprising proprietors (with one of whom we are acquainted) all success in their undertaking, and hope that, should need be, the authorities or the Government will lend them what aid they can in the way of removing difficulties, should such exist, and at all events refrain from putting any impost on the article, either in the raw or in the manufactured state. A Sugar-Beet manufactory established among us will be certainly a mark of progress, and may only be but the glimmering, yes the faint glimmering precursory to the day when they may abound over the land, employing hundreds of people, and enabling the country to become an exporter of sugar, instead of what she now is—an importer. Who can tell? We give the gentlemen engaged in this promising concern all honor, and sincerely trust that they may reap to their satisfaction in the carrying of it out. It is an experiment involving some risk, but we understand that it has been fully considered and fully solved.

### Our Exchanges.

*The Scientific American*—A handsomely got up paper, devoted to the purposes its name denotes; furnishes information of the most valuable kind on all improvements and inventions in machinery, with highly finished illustrations; and whatever is important to the man of science; as well as other topics of general interest. We wish it success. Munn & Co., editors and proprietors, 37 Park Row, New York. Price \$2 per annum, in advance. Published weekly.

*Good Health*—A journal of physical and mental culture; is full of the most interesting information for young and old, rich or poor. We consider it as a great boon to the literature of the day, and well calculated to guide its readers in many things. It is got up in book style, has 48 pages closely printed, and its articles well written. Published monthly, by Alex. Moore, 11 Broomfield street, Boston. Price \$2 per annum. It has our best wishes.

*American Agriculturist*—Published by Judd & Co., 245 Broadway, New York. An ably conducted farmer's paper, consisting of 40 large pages, beautifully printed, and highly illustrated with fine engravings of splendid finish. It abounds with a variety of the most useful matter, and is calculated to do much good. Its enter-

prising proprietors seem to spare no expense to make it a first-class paper of its kind, and is also published in German.—Price \$1.50 in advance. Pub. monthly.

*Moore's Rural New Yorker*—A large sheet, comprising 16 pages of well-printed matter, on agriculture, horticulture, literature, science and art, and news of the day; is well conducted, ably written, and well embellished with suitable subjects. It is published in New York: offices, 41 Park Row, New York, and 82 Buffalo street, Rochester. We are privileged in having it on our list of exchanges. Price \$3.00 per annum. Weekly paper.

*The Carolina Farmer and Weekly Star*.—This spicy sheet comprises 8 pages, large size. It is well and closely printed, embracing a variety of topics which are well handled, and gives general information on what is passing. We hope it meets with the favor it deserves. Published at Wilmington, N.C.; price \$3, in advance.

*The Country Gentleman* is put forth in gentlemanly style, consisting of 16 pages of closely-printed matter, and furnishes useful information on a variety of topics well worth knowing; is issued weekly, at the price of \$2.50, in advance, mailed.—Luther Tucker & Son, editors, 395 Broadway, Albany, N.Y. It is well worth the money.

*The Prairie Farmer*—A large sheet of 8 pages, published weekly; devoted to agriculture, horticulture, mechanics, education, general news, etc. Published by the Prairie Farmer Co. It is well entitled to success, from the valuable information it affords. Office:

*The Horticulturist*—Edited by H. T. Williams; an indispensable publication for amateurs as well as practical gardeners. We heartily wish it success, and thereby see county and town residences made beautiful, and ornamented with flowers and shrubs. Price \$2.50 per annum. Office: 5 Beekman street, New York. Monthly.

*The Gardener's Monthly* comes to hand richer than ever in its matter, and magnificent print. We would commend it to all having a desire for gardening and the cultivation of flowers. Edited by Thos. Meehan; office: 23 North Sixth street, Philadelphia. Terms, \$2 per annum.

*Hitchcock's New Monthly Magazine*.—Published by Benjamin W. Hitchcock; contains choice music, art, notes, and select reading; handsomely illustrated cover; it contains very fine portraits of noted music composers, admirably fitted for the drawing room as well as the cottage; and forming an excellent library of first-class music. Price \$3 per annum. Specimen copies 25c. Office: 24 Beekman street, New York.

*Bee-Keepers' Journal*—Full of most interesting matter to bee breeders, is to hand for the month with fresh vigour and strength. Its articles are most valuable, and we consider the paper indispensable with those engaged with the industrious bee. Price \$1 per annum, in advance. H. A. King & Co., 240 Broadway, New York.

We add with pleasure the 1st number of another American agricultural paper to our exchange list. It is the *National Live Stock Journal*, edited by J. P. Reynolds, of Chicago, Ill. It is got up in good style, and contains much useful infor-