

necessary that they should be the most loquacious, the most wealthy or the most learned. Aid them, support them, and let no party clique take the control. I know the task will be difficult. Let the object be first for the farmer's interest; that will be to give light or information, which must be reliable, or it will not stand. The exaggerations of imaginary beneficial plans and erroneous information must tend to injury, if permitted to go uncorrected.

You should endeavor to obtain all the useful information you can afford in regard to your calling; at the same time, you should bear in mind that gold is often bought too dear. Do not be led away by every clap-trap that is boomed before you, or endorse by signature, voice or silence, devices that you know are injurious to you. The changes in market prices for products should guide you; our most prosperous farmers read and observe the changes. Wheat was at one time our most remunerative crop. How many thousands of farms are now mortgaged by those who persisted in continuing its production? Those who turned their attention to raising beef for a time made money; those who devoted their attention to raising good, useful horses, are now reaping a reward for their forethought; and those engaged in the production of cheese have been able to improve their circumstances. We should not advise you to abandon the cheese production for the butter boom; the losses and failures that have taken place in connection with butter making, are not depicted to you by the strong advocates of the radical changes too often and too persistently brought before your notice. Our farmers' wives have been too often and too mercilessly condemned for the bad butter; whereas the lash should here be placed on the backs of the condemners of our frugal, industrious, over-worked farmers' wives. Instead of feeing these orators by payments wrested from these industrious toilers, the burdens, if possible, should be lessened. Is it possible to improve our present state of affairs? We unhesitatingly say, yes. In what way, you may ask? By uniting; by resolving to do right. Abandon partyism for agricultural interests. You have the power in your hands if you unite for one great cause—your interest and your country's interest. Any legislator that knows nothing about your interest, and cares less, should be left at home. Your plea is to organize, and your battle ground is the ballot box. Watch the votes and the words and the acts of your representatives, and if any one opposes you on proper measures, if he does not try in earnest to guard and protect you, out with him. Now is the time for you to mark out. Make up your minds now whether you will return your member or not. I know not, or care not, what party your members may be allied to, if they support a party measure that is adverse to your interest, mark the fact on your mind now, and let no clap-trap orator with all the wiles and bribes of election time, turn you from duty's course. You cannot stand still; you are either advancing or receding, both financially and morally.

I will give a few remarks taken from a speech delivered by James Russell Lowell, at Chicago, on the 22nd of February, which should command consideration. He says the practical politician is a man afraid of his constituents; who studies the weathercock of what he calls public opinion, which is not public opinion, but trades on the opinion that the corner-grocery politician manu-

factures; that public opinion is, in the eyes of any man who has studied history, the opinion of about half a dozen men, six weeks, six months or a year afterwards, not the opinion of ten, twenty or fifty million men at the moment. What is wanting in politicians of the present day more than anything else is courage. Courage is the highest of all virtues, as it is the safeguard to all other virtues. He said: "I remember when the Duke of Wellington broke away from his party and voted with Lord Melbourne; he was reproached by some of his friends, and he answered in this way: 'I cannot afford to do what is not right.' The more intelligent and superior being can always govern the inferior being if he does his duty. Now, gentlemen, is there a great city in this country that—I wont say is well governed—but that is decently governed? Now, whose fault is it? I tell you that the loss of money is great, but it is the smallest loss. It is an infinitesimal loss. The loss of morals is the great loss. Every day that you let it go on your moral loss is at compound interest. You can recover your pecuniary loss, but I tell you that your moral loss is every day going on at compound interest, and that the sternest accountants that are known to human history are keeping the accounts."

When at the National Agricultural and Dairy Convention in New York, in February last, one of the delegates, in responding to an author who had been questioning the worn out, hackneyed adage of *vox populi, vox Dei*, said the voice of the people is the voice of God, or, in other terms, the majority are right. Another delegate, in reply, said that one and God constituted the majority.

When in Belfast last summer, placards were posted up announcing that the Rev. Hanna would preach a sermon in the Presbyterian church. The subject, "Politics and Religion," was most conspicuous on the poster in large letters. We heard that discourse, and that very night the first bullets and brick-bats were fired, lives were lost, and that war is not yet ended, but parties on this continent are and will be engaged in it. And this venomous party spirit that inflamed the worst passions of the people in the Irish city, is only an exaggerated example of the evils that party spirit produces in all countries, dividing as it does the farmers of this country—a class whose interests are identical, but who are so equally and almost hopelessly divided by this baneful political party spirit that they can hardly unite even to give expression to their grievances, much less to enforce their rights.

We now regretfully announce that this picture, "Religion and Politics," has come to be "Politics and Agriculture," and we unhesitatingly believe that of the moneys granted nominally for agriculture, nearly the whole is absorbed for political purposes, even to the appointment of the lowest menial, and too often for the ascendancy of a prize, whether for a prize essay, a prize farm, or prize grain; partizan ends are served in the distribution of political literature, the wresting of land, agricultural exhibitions or herd books out of the hands of the practical farmers, and placing those in office who have never been known to aid agriculture.

If it be true that righteousness exalteth a nation, legislators, exalt your nation. Dare to do right, and you will not regret it, despite the fact that the masses may now oppose, brow-beat and ridicule you.

Mr. Blayney endorsed the remarks made on moral grounds.

Mr. Nickerson did not approve of reading essays; he approved of discussions. He did not consider farmers were in a worse position than formerly. He used to get 20 and 25 percent for money; now farmers can get it for 6 percent. The Russian war and the Manitoba boom were the worst things Canada had ever experienced; one inflated the country, the other depleted it. Farmers should make money by using thoroughbred stallions.

An influential farmer afterwards remarked to us: "Mr. Nickerson is a horseman; his views are not correct in regard to the position of the farmers. He is from the other side of the lines."

Mr. Carpenter, late of the Model Farm, had expected a tirade against that institution. He suggested that farms should be established in different parts of the country to instruct immigrants how to work before they go on the farms. He depicted the losses sustained by farmers in allowing the green hands on their farms, and said that to adopt his suggestion would only cost 10c. for each farmer. He would like to have our opinion on this subject.

In reply, we stated that this was a dangerous subject to touch upon, as we had always avoided anything that might partake of a partizan nature. Nevertheless we would reply to it in accordance with our convictions in the presence of any who would unite to support the farmers' interests in preference to the interest of any party.

Mr. Blayney was the first to support the proposition, and another speaker favored the suggestion; the voice of the meeting was taken by the chairman, and the proposition was unanimously supported.

We then condemned the creation of additional offices in the nominal interest of agriculture, and the asking for more grants; we held it would be better to devote the moneys now granted to really beneficial purposes. When once the point of the wedge had entered, the log was pretty sure to be burst. The demands were yearly increasing, and the balance sheets of officials too often showed imaginary profits only; the losses caused by public expenditures were never made public.

Mr. W. Pegg read an essay on "Farm Studies," and Mr. D. Woolley one on "The Soil—its Impoverishment and Enrichment," but want of space forbids a full report. There were over a hundred farmers present.

Mr. Wm. Weld, editor of the *Farmer's Advocate*, published at London, Ont., gave a most interesting and profitable address on the "Farmer's Position and his Duty," showing the oppression of the agricultural classes by the laws of the country, and the burden under which these classes labor. The farmers' duty is to be truthful, banish partyism and maintain agriculturalism. The duty is to unite together for the purpose of advancing the interests of the farmer, not only materially, but morally, intellectually and religiously. The address was listened to with marked attention and received hearty applause. A vote of thanks, moved by W. W. Pegg, Esq., Reeve of Townsend, and seconded by Loder Culver, Esq., was passed and tendered to Mr. Weld for his labors in connection with the Institute.—Waterford Star.

Thorough tillage not only helps to destroy weeds, which feed on the nutriment that the crop should receive, but the loosened soil draws moisture and nutriment from the atmosphere.

Cutting out the old stalks in raspberry bushes is a work that is often neglected in the fall; if so, it should be attended to early in spring. The fruit appears on last year's growths, and all older stalks should be cut out in the fall as soon as the leaves drop. Trim the growing stalks back to two or two and a half feet in length, and treat all suckers as weeds.