

GOOD PAY TO AGENTS.

Agents wanted in every village, town and township, to make a thorough canvass for the RURAL CANADIAN. Liberal inducements. Work to commence at once. For full particulars address

G. BLACKETT ROBINSON,

5 Jordan Street, Toronto.

Publisher

LETTERS on business should always be addressed to the PUBLISHER, while communications intended for insertion in the paper, or relating to the Editorial department, to ensure prompt attention, must be addressed to EDITOR RURAL CANADIAN.

Mr J A McLEAN, Manager Advertising Department of this paper, is authorized to make contracts at our regular rates.

The Rural Canadian.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

TORONTO, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1st, 1881.

As we go to press the Toronto Industrial Exhibition is assuming fair proportions, and promises to be the most successful exhibit of the kind ever held in the city. The Provincial, at London, also bids fair to eclipse the record of previous years—the entries already made indicating a large number of exhibitors.

The advertisements in this issue are worthy a careful perusal. So far as we know every advertiser is in a position to do everything he proffers to do; and all are entitled to the confidence of our readers. Subscribers may rely that their interests will ever be consulted in the taking of advertisements for these columns, and money will never be able to buy space for questionable announcements of any kind.

The eighth Annual Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Society of Manitoba, will be held at Winnipeg on the 4th, 5th and 6th of October. All entries are to be mailed to the Secretary not later than September 15th. Competition is open to the world, except in certain classes such as fine arts. The prize list is very full, and well calculated to encourage excellence in every variety of production and in every department of industry.

The regular issue of THE RURAL CANADIAN will not commence until 1st January next. It is intended, however, to bring out two numbers this year, making, along with the specimen copy, three issues, which will be given to subscribers for 1882. In other words, parties subscribing on or before the 1st of November for 1882 will get *three copies additional*, FREE. Agents are respectfully asked to keep this point prominently in view when canvassing.

We take it as an omen for good that so enterprising a man as Mr. Wm. Rennie, of Jarvis Street, Toronto, should be the FIRST subscriber to THE RURAL CANADIAN. Mr. Rennie's name will probably figure frequently in our columns, because he is not only a successful seedsman, but an intelligent and progressive farmer as well; so that our readers may count on having from his pen, from time to time, helpful words on his methods of culture, and many valuable hints suggested by his ripe experience.

SPECIAL attention is directed to the advertisement in other columns, of the new work entitled CANADIAN FARMING, now in press and about to be published. The book is a very valuable one, and well worthy a place in every farmer's library. The combination offer—a copy of the book and THE RURAL CANADIAN for a year—is so liberal that thousands of people will doubtless at an early date avail themselves of it, and thus, while swelling our subscription list, become themselves possessors of a fine family journal for twelve months, and a copy of a book "about farming, by farmers, and for farmers"—at the small outlay of \$1.50.

WE publish to-day the first issue of THE RURAL CANADIAN. It is hardly a fair representation of what the paper will be when all our contributors are in harness, and when our list of exchanges is perfected. What are intended to be regular departments are far from complete; indeed several are omitted altogether. Even with the drawbacks indicated, it will be found that the paper contains a large quantity of valuable reading; and without promising too much, we may safely say that subsequent numbers will more than justify the claim put forth in our prospectus, that THE RURAL CANADIAN will be made a *first-class farm journal*.

ATTENDING THE FAIRS.

Let this be more than merely taking a holiday. An exhibition is a school, where much valuable instruction can be obtained. Combine enjoyment and study. Keep eyes and ears wide open. Get into conversation with exhibitors of stock and other products. Inquire into their methods and successes. They are generally communicative, and like to talk about their exploits. They resemble old soldiers who are fond of relating the story of their campaigns. A large amount of useful information may be picked up in this way. Young people who visit the fairs would do well to take a note-book with them, and when they meet with anything worthy of preservation for future reference, jot it down. The memory is treacherous, but as the Latin proverb has it, "*littera scripta manet*"—what is written remains.

THE DROUGHT AND HEAT.

Accounts from all parts of the Province show that an unusually protracted drought has been experienced almost everywhere, and has caused much loss and great inconvenience. The heat also has been excessive. A very hot spell ushered in the month of August, and another attended its close. During the last four or five days of that month the temperature ranged from 85° to 105° in the shade. In this city the temperature on the 30th of August was higher than on any day of the season, except the 5th of July.

The western parts of the Province appear to have suffered most severely from the drought. Taking the whole of the month of August, the rainfall in the western peninsula was an inch and a quarter below the average fall for that month in previous years. Indian corn, fruit and root crops have suffered severely; with very few exceptions the pastures are brown and crisp; and many wells have gone dry, while most of the remainder furnish but a scanty supply of water. For weeks people have been under the necessity of driving their cattle some miles to water, or of carrying the precious liquid from a distance in barrels; and after all has been done the cattle have been insufficiently watered. From this cause, and from the almost total destruction of the pastures, dairy products have been very much diminished.

The eastern parts of the Province—between Lake Ontario and the Ottawa River—do not appear to have suffered nearly so much as the western. One eastern town reports too much rain, and the complaints from the whole of the eastern district the limits of which we have just indicated are comparatively slight.

This drought, even in the west, has not affected the principal grain crops to any appreciable extent; in fact, it rather facilitated the securing of those which had not been previously harvested. The season on the whole has been a favourable one; and, so far as the late root crops are concerned, September rains may yet make up for the deficiency of moisture in August.

THE AGRICULTURAL OUTLOOK.

A large proportion of the inhabitants of this country are, and necessarily must be, tillers of the soil. This was the primeval occupation of man, and in prosecuting it, human beings may be said to be in their native element. There is not, however, that contentment among farmers generally, which ought to arise out of the fact just cited. As a rule, you have only to place a living creature in its proper sphere or element, to make it contented. The lower orders of existence appear to know but little of the restlessness and dissatisfaction which are characteristic of the nobler animal, man. It may be said they have not mind enough to aspire to better things, and so remain content where and what they are. Still it is quite possible that intellect may be directed rather to the trials and difficulties of the human lot, than to the reasons for satisfaction with it. I shall not undertake to say that farmers are more given to discontent than other men. It is a besetment of the human family at large. But, certain it is, that there is more of complaint and murmuring in connection with agricultural pursuits than is compatible with a state of rural happiness. These arise from varied sources. Farming is hard work; it is not, in the usual sense, a money making business; our lands are considerably impoverished; shrewd management and close economy are necessary to get on at farming; much of our land is heavily mortgaged, and the constant struggle with debt is discouraging; our educated young people incline toward other pursuits; and so forth. It cannot be denied that there is much truth in these representations. But, *per contra*, let it be borne in mind that there is plenty of hard work outside of farming. The majority of human beings labour and are heavy-laden. Many strive in vain for that which is always secure on a farm—viz., a *livelihood*. Not a few industrious mechanics have known what farmers as a class are ignorant of, a scarcity of daily bread. The gains of farming may be slow, but they are sure. Life on a farm may be like Jordan, "a hard road to travel," but most of the roads that lead through this world are of the same character. The farmer in this respect has no lack of company, with the exception of a favoured few, who are, after all, scarcely to be envied; the masses of humanity are destined to be toilers on the land or on the sea, and to win their bread at the cost of labour and care. If farmers were not so isolated; if they mingled more with their fellow-beings in town and city, they would speedily discover that their lot is by no means peculiar in this respect, and might, perhaps, congratulate themselves that, as compared with multitudes, they are so well off. The impoverishment of our soils, and the paucity of our crops, are agricultural evils that come very properly under notice, because their mitigation and removal are within our own sphere. We cannot make hard work easy; we cannot escape the necessity of toil, but we can do something to enrich our lands, and make our harvests more bountiful. Some of the disabilities under which farmers groan, are the direct result of an improvident system of agriculture. Despite all the lessons of the past, there are those who will mortgage the future for the sake of the present, and rob the soil this year at the cost of the years to come. Many farmers are very well aware that they are not giving their lands fair play. But they fully intend to do better hereafter. This is a mistaken policy, whatever the apparent or imagined necessity that leads to it. Honesty is the best policy with our land, as well as with our neighbours. Give back to the soil what is taken out in the shape of crops, and you are honest: fail to do this, and you are dishonest. The most encouraging feature of the farm outlook just now is the demand, apparently without limit, for fat cattle and sheep. To meet