

## THE BUREAU AND THE WHEAT DESTROYERS.

The information which has for sometime been expected from the Bureau of Agriculture, on the subject of the insects injurious to wheat, has not yet made its appearance. It will now, of course, whatever it may amount to, prove too late for the guidance of wheat growers this season. Before it can be circulated the wheat sowing will be over. It does seem strange that six months should have been consumed in perusing a few hundred pages of manuscript, and deciding what portion of it is suitable for publication. Surely, the Minister of Agriculture, if he was serious in offering prizes for information in regard to wheat insects, might have found means to bring it before the public at a period when it would have proved useful as well as interesting to the agriculturists of the country. We never expected much from this source, because we had no confidence in the plan adopted,—and we so stated our views at the time,—but we thought it might result in a compilation of what was already known on the subject, which, being scattered through numerous books and periodicals, was not within the reach of farmers generally. So much we expected from Mr. Vankoughnet's prize essays. But we cannot say if they even come up to this mark, for we have neither seen them nor heard anything of their purport.

We notice that two or three journals in the interest of the government have deemed it necessary to attack the *Agriculturist*, and to denounce the writer of this article for unwarranted hostility to the Minister of Agriculture, because another journal (with which he is supposed to be connected), can see no merit in the Minister's plans, no propriety in his occupying an office, of the duties of which he was necessarily ignorant, and no principle or honesty in the government of which he is a member. Now, it may be sufficient to say to our contemporaries, that the *Agriculturist* has not, and does not intend to concern itself with mere political questions, whoever may be the Minister of Agriculture, or whatever may be the political stripe of the government to which he belongs. We have managed to pursue the even tenor of our way for some ten years, in the midst of much political excitement, without losing sight of our mission as an independent organ of the agricultural interests of Canada. We have often abstained from the discussion of questions having an important bearing upon those interests, just because they were made the foot-ball of politicians for mere party ends. We did not wish to be drawn into discussions in these pages, that would even look like partizanship on the one side or the other. We are not conscious of having published a line in the *Agriculturist* that could fairly be objected to on account of its political bearing. We have spoken favorably of some government measures relating to agriculture, and unfavorably of others, without any reference to politics or individuals, and we shall continue to do so. If any reader should deem our strictures unwarranted in any case, he will find our columns open for reply so long as he confines himself to the questions at issue.

As to the writer's political opinions, we humbly submit that so long as he does not intrude them offensively here, no subscriber can complain. His right to use other channels that may be open to him, cannot be questioned. He has never denied his principles, nor hesitated to defend them upon any legitimate occasion; but we venture