

Agriculture and Arts.

The Board of Agriculture and Arts Association of Ontario held their first annual Meeting, for the appointment of officers, and transaction of general business, on Tuesday, the 28th of February.

Nathaniel Choate, Esq., of Port Hope, representing District No. 5, and George Morton, Esq., of Guelph, representing District No. 7, were the only new members returned. The other members retained their seats.

The Hon. J. Christie proposed the Hon. J. Skead as President, who was elected unanimously. S. White, Esq., was elected Vice President, and G. Graham, Esq., was appointed Treasurer.

All party politics appear to be shut outside of the doors of this Association; and the board are very unanimous in their acts and desires to do good to the country.—Discussions are freely entered into, and different opinions expressed, but all appears to work harmoniously together.

They have paid off \$7000 of debts due by the old board, and intend to pay \$300 that was incurred for the dance when the maritime guests were in London. They do not consider that London has acted honorably towards the Association.

There has been a new act, or amendments to the old act, passed very hurriedly through the legislative halls of Ontario—but what it is, and what its contents are, appears to be little known, and what has leaked out about it has caused a most unfavorable impression on the Board. One clause drives the board to the country every year for re-election, and as the present law does not allow them one cent for their time, even while sitting at the board, the expense and trouble of canvassing every year, caused some of the best men now in the board to say they would not take the office again, with such an act hanging over them. We believe, for the general welfare of the country, that more power should be given to this body, as it is composed of some of the most influential and intelligent farmers of the dominion and they really know the requirements of the country better than lawyers, or, what is even worse, place-seekers.

Farmers, we did you good service in exposing the old board, but you must not consider the new board in the same light. The old board did much good to the country, until corruption made it obnoxious.—The present board are principally new men, and a few members of the old board, some of whom have been elected by the farmers of their different localities. Have not these farmers just as good judgment as the farmers of our own county? There are a few that hold their seats by virtue of other offices. We would rather that every member belonging to that body should be elected by the farmers only; and that every farmer who pays a tax to support the institution—and all farmers do pay this tax—should have a voice in the election of those who are to control agricultural affairs—just as much as they have a voice in the general elections. At the present time the farmers of the country have a very poor chance of being represented, as the electors are only those that can afford to pay a dollar for the privilege of a vote, and city amateurs have just as much, or more influence than the farmers. If this is not

enacted the whole control of agricultural affairs will be in the hands of citizens, because it is easier to get 1000 citizens together in a city, than to get 25 farmers together in the country. The farmers should elect their representatives. Let this be a plank in the platform of every candidate at the coming election that you vote for. Never mind about party. Strike your blow for a fair representation of Agricultural interests. If you do not maintain your rights at these elections, you will never have another opportunity to do so, as long as this dominion lasts. Are farmers to be bondsmen, slaves, or serfs to the cities? We do not condemn as unjust all those who inhabit cities and towns, for we require their aid and counsel. But we require such artisans, lawyers and others, desirous of office in agricultural matters, to be elected by the farmer's voices only. The citizens, as a body, do not know our requirements, and nearly every honorable man in the cities would say,—Farmers; elect your own men to control your Agricultural affairs.

A resolution was passed in favor of allowing Canadian Cattle for breeding purposes to be sent into the States free of duty—the same as those imported from other countries. A copy of this resolution was to be submitted to Sir John A. McDonald, who is now in Washington.

The time of holding the Provincial Exhibition is fixed for the 25th of Sept., and following days. Persons exhibiting animals may now take 1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes,—but last year they were only allowed to take one prize in a class.

An increase of \$3000 is to be added to the prize list.

The board at their next meeting will consult about having a general trial of Implements—as mere paint, polish and words are not a sufficient guarantee of the superiority of any implement. It might be well for persons in different localities, who would desire such an exhibition to take place in their county, to inform the Association of the facilities their locality can offer; as it must be of advantage to that county in which it is held.

The Elections.

We pen this on the 6th of March, and as this is for our April paper, we write our opinion at the present time, just as if the elections were over.

On hearing of the last act of the Legislature of Ontario, we felt much vexed and amazed, as the government had adopted our plans, and are about expending very large sums to put those plans in operation. Of course this adoption of our plans while we were petitioning the Legislature to allow us to form a joint stock company to aid the undertaking, does not appear a just, honorable or honest act, but "might is right," and right is not always obtainable.

We have acted towards the government with all due respect, and submitted our plans in all moderation, but with no results save the filching from us of what we have been in the belief of looking upon as our own: that of establishing an agricultural emporium suitable for the Dominion, where seeds, stock and implements might be imported and tested, and, when worthy of recommendation, disseminated over the country.

When the heat and excitement of the elections are over, we believe no honest member of Parliament, whether Conservative or Reform, would wish to injure us. We took no active part in the last election, and have concluded now to let the two parties fight their own battles. Agriculture ought to be the first and most important interest to foster or protect, but we regret to say that it is the least regarded by politicians, as farmers have no power. The latter are as oxen and horses in the hands of their drivers. We only profess to be a backwood's farmer. We may be wrong—as no one is infallible. Still we have done what we have believed to be for the interest of the class to which we belong. We must accept the act, for what the legislators of our country enact, must be submitted to. We do not say that it is according to our wish or desire that such an act was passed, but now it is law it is useless to speak against it. Perhaps if it should prove either beneficial or detrimental to the farmer, we should be entitled to either praise or blame in the matter, as we have goaded the government pretty sharply to take some step towards the advancement of the agricultural interest, and we doubt if this act would have been brought on had we not agitated the question, as many a parliament had sat, and nothing had been done until our petitions had been sent in.

The establishment will, we have no doubt, be a most powerful engine either for or against the interests of farmers.

The first and most important question for our legislators to decide—if not done already—is under whose control it is to be. Such an important question could be most advantageously answered by farmers, as they should know who is best adapted to look after their interests, and what their requirements are.

Secondly, in regard to site, we believe it would be of very great importance that it should be on one of the leading railways so that the cars might be run to the farm, and that the buildings and work might be seen by passengers traveling along the line of rail.

We had contemplated this for years, and often looked for a suitable site when passing along the lines of railway. We now think the most advantageous place would be on the Southern or Air Line, as business would be transacted with the Americans as well as Canadians, and the more public such institutions are the better. We should ere now have had the establishment in good working order had we received the charter applied for; but instead of a charter or aid, a double tax has been put on agricultural papers. We say double, because a single copy of an agricultural paper must be prepaid at one cent for each copy, while a political paper can be mailed for half a cent, and collected from the receiver; and seeds sent by mail have to be prepaid at double the rate of political papers, and four times more than is charged in the United States. Of course all this must be paid by the farmers, who are thirsting for knowledge, and desiring to procure new seeds. There should be no such oppressive burden, or almost prohibitory impediment thrown in the way of agricultural progress, especially when our government appears to be so lavish with funds, and as nearly

every cent comes from the farmers, in one way or another. We believe these things should be the first attended to, if the interests of farmers were the first they sought for, or looked after.

We would feign hope that this large establishment just about to be commenced could be placed under the control of farmers. There ought to be farmers enough in the country with sufficient practical knowledge to conduct such an establishment advantageously and profitably; and as the Minister of Agriculture has referred other things of less import to the Board of Agriculture, and truly says they are the persons that ought to know what would be beneficial to the country, then we might expect this institution would be placed under the control, of persons suggested by them, together with agricultural affairs generally.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Fast Horses.

MR. WELD, SIR,—I see by your last issue you cannot let fast horses alone. I was in hopes you had done with it some time ago, but it seems you cannot let your hobby rest long at a time. Let every man use what horse he may desire; and let every agricultural society give what prizes they see fit—is my motto. When I have heretofore seen your remarks anent fast horses, I have asked myself what in the name of common sense would have been Mr. Weld's Anglo Saxon ("the King of Canadian Stock"), if it had not been for the mixture of blood he had in his composition; for, if I remember rightly, you gave his descent from a Cleveland horse, out of a thorough-bred mare. We all know if he had the good properties you claim for him, he must have derived them from his dam, for I never knew (as far as my experience goes), a Cleveland but what was a slab-sided, long-backed, flat-footed brute, and very little travel in them either. Walk, or any other pace, get all the blood and bone into a horse you can, and then what? why, you can go ahead. Yours, &c.,

March 13, 1871.

NEMO.

To Mr. Nemo, of Whitby. We may have given offence to some in using our little power to establish what we may have thought a class of horses of more value to the country than even the Blood or the Clydesdale. It was an expensive attempt, and its success or failure yet remains to be seen. We by no means disparage those who raise blooded horses or Clydesdale horses. They both are useful mares.

Sheep and goats are also useful. Improved Berkshire hogs are useful. Hybridized cereals and fruits are useful. How have they originated? The Durham, Ayrshire, and Herfords are only cross-bred stock, and an improvement on old varieties. Who ever could trace the Leicester or Cotswold sheep to a pure stock? They are improvements on old stock of the improved Berkshire, a pure-bred hog. What was its original? Perfection may and has been nearer attained by judicious crossing than by breeding from such improved stock; and for the prosperity of our agricultural interest, and for the wealth of the country, we endeavored to establish the class of horses that we deemed of most value to the farmers.

Those who prefer racing we do not wish to interfere with; but we have endeavored to prevent that business intermingling with agricultural duties.