



### The Farmer Feedeth All.

My lord rides through his palace gate,  
My lady sweeps along in state,  
The sage thinks long on many a thing,  
And the maiden muses on marrying;  
The minstrel harpeth merrily,  
The sailor ploughs the foaming sea,  
The huntsman kills the good red deer  
And the soldier wars without a fear.  
But fall to each what'er befall,  
The farmer he must feed them all.

Smith hammereth cheerily the sword,  
Priest preacheth pure and holy word,  
Dame Alice worketh broidery well,  
Clerk Richard tales of love can tell,  
The tap-wife sells her foaming beer,  
Dan Fisher fisheth in the mere,  
And courtiers ruffle, strut and shine,  
While pages bring the Gascon wine,  
But fall to each what'er befall,  
The farmer he must feed them all.

Man builds his castles fair and high,  
Whatever river runneth by,  
Great cities rise in every land,  
Great churches show the builder's hand,  
Great arches, monuments and towers,  
Fair palaces and pleasing bowers,  
Great work is done, be't here and there,  
And well man worketh everywhere,  
But work or rest, what'er befall,  
The farmer he must feed them all.

Charles G. Ireland.



WE have much pleasure in drawing attention to a most interesting letter on page 10 from an esteemed lady correspondent in Melbourne, Australia, who is a native-born Canadian.

THE oldest inhabitant has considerable difficulty in being able to figure out how many Canadian winters in his recollection have been so mild as the present one. Any stranger visiting Canada this winter for the first time would be mystified to account for the stories he probably had been accustomed to hear of the arctic nature of Canada's climate. It is the general impression up to the present that except in rather flat lands, which were flooded and the water had become frozen, fall wheat has suffered very slight damage.

PREMIER MOWAT has always evinced rare discrimination in his choice of men to fill positions in his cabinet. The appointment of Mr. Drury as Minister of Agriculture was an exceedingly popular one, and the appointment this month of Lieut.-Col. Gibson, of Hamilton, as Provincial Secretary, is just as popular. Col. Gibson is every inch a gentleman and will prove a valuable acquisition to the ministry. The vacancy was caused by the resignation of Mr. Purdee, Commissioner of Crown Lands, owing to continued ill-health, and the transference of that portfolio to Mr. Hardy.

THE Provincial Exhibition apparently must go on this year and London will have the honor of placing upon its annals the fact that the last one was held within its borders. It is understood that members of the Agriculture and Arts Association are fully alive to the fact that it is folly to continue holding the fair. There is, however, disappointment in store for the local fairs who expected to

obtain a share of the \$10,000 annual grant which the government has made to the Provincial. We are not much wide of the mark in saying that when the Provincial fair becomes a thing of the past so will the \$10,000 grant.

WE took occasion last month to refer to the scheme of annual examinations inaugurated by the Council of the Agriculture and Arts Association, of Ontario, on subjects having a direct bearing upon practical agriculture. It again affords us much pleasure to state that the Council have decided to give prizes and medals for different purposes for the season of 1889. Amongst these may be mentioned the following: Essay on "The cultivation of green crops for soiling and ensilage and their value in farm operations," first prize \$30, second prize \$20; essay on "The advantages of rotation of crops as compared with the evil of over-cropping," first prize \$30, second prize \$20, the manuscript in both cases not to exceed twenty-five pages, and to be sent to the Secretary of the Association, Toronto, not later than August 1st, next.

AT this season of the year farmers have to keep their wits about them so as not to get swindled by the seed wheat confidence men. Their game has been practiced so often that it is surprising any one can be simple enough to allow himself to be caught in the trap. It is generally to get a farmer to buy sufficient seed wheat of a certain grade at fifteen dollars per bushel for the land which the farmer intends devoting to wheat and agreeing to return in the fall and purchase an equal quantity at the same price from the crop secured and take the remainder at \$2.50 per bushel. If the farmer hesitates to accept this proposition they then offer him the option of selling the crop to his neighbors at \$15 per bushel and keep the profit himself. Unfortunately they are often successful and the farmer who pays them for the seed wheat learns to his disgust when the fall time comes that he has been duped.

"Why do boys leave the farm" formed an important subject for discussion at some of the recent meetings of the Farmers' Institutes. Well, we suppose a good many reasons can be advanced. One of them, no doubt, is the glamour of city life. How many sons of farmers have entered the learned professions and are barely earning enough to keep body and soul together? Of course there are exceptions and many farmers' sons in the professions have won for themselves not only distinction but an ample competence. The constant cry is that the professions are over-stocked and unquestionably they are. Why, therefore, should farmers' sons prefer to enter professions that are admittedly overcrowded to following the honorable calling of a farmer? It seems to us that those who can best answer the question "Why do boys leave the farm?" are the boys themselves, and if they would write us giving their reasons we will be glad to publish them. Their letters might provide food for reflection.

WITH the object of encouraging scientific farming in the province of Quebec, Hon. Mr. Rhodes has introduced a bill to the Legislature of that province inaugurating an Order to be called "L'Ordre de Merite Agricole de la Province de Quebec." The most important feature is to provide medals and diplomas as prizes to be offered for competition, and for this purpose the province is to be divided into seven agricultural and four colonization districts. The Order will comprise three classes: Active members, "tres grand merite," aspirant, "grand merite," and aspirant "merite," and the qualification is to be 85, 75, and 65 points respectively. Medals and diplomas are to be given under the great seal of the province. Three subjects are to be taken up, agriculture, kitchen gardening, and fruit raising. Anything tending to advance the cause of agriculture or to instil a spirit of emulation into the minds of farmers should be gladly welcomed and the Quebec Ministry are therefore to be congratulated on establishing the Order of Agricultural Merit. Now Mr. Drury, you have the floor!

JANUARY is the month for meetings of the Farmers' Institutes throughout Ontario. True to his promise, the Minister of Agriculture has attended a large number of these meetings. He states that a very much increased attendance is reported from almost all parts of the province and a greater readiness on the part of farmers generally to prepare papers and take part in the discussions. It is safe to say that the work done by the Institutes this year has been much better than during any year since their organization. The objects of these meetings are largely educational and by attending them all who have eyes to see and ears to hear can learn something to their advantage. Any farmer who imagines it will not pay him to take some trouble and a little expense to attend the Institute meetings must be possessed of a considerable supply of vanity. It would do him a world of good to go to one of the meetings as he would very quickly get the conceit knocked out of him, and would be forced to come to the conclusion that "there are more things than we dream of in our philosophy." All honor to the men who by reading papers on practical and scientific subjects do all in their power to uplift the cause of agriculture.

COMPARISONS are being constantly made between Dakota and Manitoba and the Northwest as to their farming capabilities. It is well known that farmers in Dakota have during the past year suffered very greatly from different causes, and a large proportion are in consequence in abject poverty. It has been estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture that the early frosts last fall in Dakota reduced the average yield of wheat to nine and one fifth bushels per acre. In Manitoba and the Northwest a good deal of loss was also occasioned by the early frosts, but although the loss is not fully known yet, it will not, according to competent authority, be nearly as great as in Dakota. The Canadian Northwest has undoubtedly the advantage in climate over Dakota as it is not so variable. It therefore should not be a difficult matter to convince intending settlers that Dakota is inferior to Manitoba and the Northwest as an agricultural country. Canada has a glorious heritage in her Northwest and it should be the duty, as well as the privilege, of every one of her loyal sons by voice and pen to defend that heritage from the malicious attacks made against it as a farming country by speculators and others who have interests at stake in Dakota and other rival States.

SOME valuable information can be got by a perusal of the homestead and immigration statistics for the year 1888 prepared by Mr. Brydges, commissioner of the Hudson's Bay Company. During the year about 330,000 acres of land were taken up in homesteads, pre-exemption, and sales in Manitoba from the government, and the land companies sold about 180,000 acres making a total of 510,000 acres, almost the whole of which has been taken up by actual settlers. Land companies who had become possessed of considerable quantities of land through the foreclosure of mortgages also disposed of a large quantity of what they thus acquired. Between the loan companies and private individuals who have been selling land not far short of 100,000 acres have been disposed of making a total acreage actually settled upon in Manitoba during 1888 of fully 600,000 acres, which is largely in excess of any year since the boom of 1882. Most of these lands have been taken up in quarter sections and it is estimated that about 4,000 farmers in addition to the 1,000 who were previously in the country have settled upon the land during the past year in Manitoba. Taking an average of three to a family this would mean a total increase in population from this source alone of about 12,000 people. The prospects for the current year are even more encouraging.

FRIDAY evening, January 4th, will long be remembered by the Toronto Board of Trade in particular, and by the people of Canada in general. It was the occasion of the second annual banquet of the Board of Trade and it was memorable from the words of loyalty that fell from the lips of every speaker. What called forth these genuine expres-