

## Miscellaneous.

### Mr. Weld on our Monetary Affairs.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—W. Weld of Delaware, whose letter appeared in your issue of the 1st instant, seems to have got out of bed with the wrong leg first, and to be out of humour with himself and all the world. It is certainly true, that there is very little money in circulation, and hardly any bank accommodation. Crops have been bad, but I sincerely trust matters have not come to as bad a state as he tries to make out, and we should live in hopes of more prosperous times. When people get into difficulties, in most cases the fault lies at their own door, and is the result of their own improvidence.

Mr. Weld complains of a society offering money at 6½ per cent. and the borrower finding it amount to between 20 and 30 per cent. Now if he was able to make the computation at all he could have come nearer to it than a margin of ten per cent.: and the farmer who he says has to pay double the sum represented to him for a loan of a few hundred dollars, "through some management of the Society," probably owes that to his own bad management in *not meeting his payments when they become due*. The Societies that profess to lend money at 6½ per cent. make no secret of the working of their plan, which is this; suppose a farmer wants a loan of \$1,000, the society advances it to him, to be returned to them in ten equal annual payments. Now \$1,000 at 6½ per cent. for ten years is \$650, which added to the principal makes \$1,650, and 1-10 of this (\$165) is the yearly payment for ten years, at the end of which period he is out of debt: of course in paying these instalments, the farmer towards the end of the term is paying interest on principal which he has already paid up, but this prepayment at 6½ per cent. is equal to an ordinary interest of 10½ per cent.; the advantage of borrowing from the society not being—and *not being held out to be*—a lower rate of interest—but enabling a farmer to free himself from debt by paying it off in moderate instalments, and knowing the exact amount he will have to pay.

Take this same \$1,000 in the ordinary way, for a term of ten [the usual term being five, but to give every chance, allow him ten] years at ten per cent. on which the borrower pays \$100 a year, and at the end of the time has \$1,000 to meet, and what has he to do it with? Grumblers say he has \$65 a year saved, equal to \$650 by which he is a loser of \$350; because if he has not put away these dribblets in an old stocking liable to be drawn upon at any moment he is pinched, he must either have kept it in the Bank at 4 per cent. increasing it \$117, still leaving him \$233 in arrear; or he has attempted to lend it out to his friends to pay him a higher rate, and expecting them to be ready with the money when he had to pay up the mortgage. Now if he could get some one each year who wanted that exact \$65, and who would *actually return it* when wanted, he would be all right, but I contend that this is a practical impossibility. Any one who does not agree with me, is welcome to try it and buy his experience. Some of the sub-borrowers will not be ready and he will either have an expensive suit brought against him, or to relieve himself he will have to go to the expense of obtaining another loan.

To insure punctuality, the society plainly tell all borrowers, that a fine of 2 cents in the dollar will be imposed on all payments for every month in arrear, and it is non-punctuality which increases the rate of interest. The borrower has just the choice of paying \$65 a year for ten years, or paying nothing and facing \$1,000 at the end of the ten years.

Mr. Weld cannot expect parties who lend out their money for the purpose of living on the interest, to wait any length of time till it is the convenience of some dilatory borrower to pay it; and those who expect such leniency, generally make that convenience at so far distant a day, that proceedings have to be taken to recover the amount lent; and the costs so incurred add considerably to the rate of interest.

Feeling that I have already trespassed too much on your space, I must leave other matters on which I should have liked to touch.

AGENT.

Guelph, March 18, 1865.

## The Provincial Ploughing Match.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—I notice through the columns of your paper that Mr. Hall of Oshawa, has offered to place at the disposal of the Board of Agriculture, a still superior prize to that of last fall, to be competed for at the coming Provincial Ploughing Match, being a combined Clover Mill, valued at \$300, which certainly is the most handsome prize ever awarded in Upper Canada for ploughing.

Now, Mr. Editor, the ploughing match last fall gave considerable dissatisfaction, so much so that few or no first class ploughmen would plough again on the same conditions. Very briefly I will point out a few of the chief errors. I will also notice some of the main objects in putting ploughmen to the test, and in securing justice, and if similar rules be adopted and made known in due time, I have no doubt but a goodly number of ploughmen, even from the Counties of York and Ontario, will prepare for the contest.

In the first place, 21 feet is too broad to prove whether a ploughman can shape a ridge or not, and only having the one, all had to report to the Secretary when he had gone the first six rounds, then start again, and throw out the remaining half between himself and neighbour, and again report. In both cases, considerable time was lost in finding the Secretary, which threw the majority out of time. According to the Judges report they had pretty nearly formed their decision by the time the men were done ploughing, a thing impossible till all had made their finish, and the work had been carefully gone over, which would take more than two or three minutes. Judges should be first class ploughmen, not only theoretical but practical, and they should not be admitted on the ground till after the work is completed. Each ploughman should have a lot about 25 feet broad, ploughing off two halves and gathering a 11 feet ridge in the centre, that being the premium ridge. When the turnings are short, each ploughman should not be restricted to less than 14 hours per acre, and should have liberty to use feet and hands if required.—No restrictions should be made as to cut, for under all circumstances ploughing with a deep cut is preferable, provided it be firmly put together. If the above rules are complied with, I am sure that lookers on, and especially foreigners, will not have the satisfaction of saying that Canada is still in her infancy with regard to ploughing.

W. R.  
Markham, March 7th, 1865.

## Where to get Cheap Cleared Land.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—As you court correspondence on matters of general interest to the agricultural community, I hope you will excuse my present epistle. I find the idea in the minds of emigrants and others, that cheap lands are only to be had in the far west, and bush at that, where the best of a man's years are gone ere the stumps can be eradicated. Now, what think you, Mr. Editor, of cleared farms selling in this county in some instances as low as \$9 per acre, and in many instances at \$12; these farms having 30 to 60 acres cleared and fenced, and log houses and frame barns thereon? No doubt your first impression will be that the land is almost barren, or in some way inaccessible. I must admit that our County Council have not made even a quarter of an amile of macadamized road. But nature has given us the Grand River, now navigable to Brantford; 30 miles from us is Lake Erie; and the best climate in Upper Canada. The Hamilton and Port Dover Plank Road passes through the county, North and South, and the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway, East and West. We also have the double advantages of a Hamilton and Buffalo market.

Then as to barrenness, these same lands in 1857, before the midge attacked the wheat crop, sold at from \$30 to \$50 per acre, and were by all considered choice lands, and now produce excellent crops of Peas, Barley, and everything but wheat. Yet, strange to say, our farmers having their eye so set on wheat, can content themselves with nothing else, and instead of taking to stock raising, and the dairy business have

completely fouled their lands with weeds, endeavouring with wheat to steal a march on that watchful little pest the midge. Now, I can only account for these low prices from the fact that the outside farming world are wholly ignorant of the prices at which unimproved farms can be procured. Would not such farms (and 3 or 4 could be had in some instances adjoining) be much more suitable to English Capitalists desirous of embarking in stock raising, such men generally not being afraid of heavy, rich clay lands, than to risk their fortunes in the bush, where the clearing of every acre would cost them at the least \$10?

AGRICOLA.

Cayuga, Co. Haldimand, March 4, 1865.

## The Provincial Agricultural Association.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—Between the attacks and raids committed on the Board of Agriculture, one is led to believe that it has a great deal to answer for. Now I do not wish to be called a belligerent, for I believe that some of their acts are worthy of commendation. Neither do I wish to observe a strict neutrality, and allow things to go on as they are at present. I will offer a word by way of intercession, through the medium of your valuable Journal, to try to remedy a fault, which I have had more than once cause to complain of. It is the manner in which delegates from the several societies are treated, when they meet to elect the officers of the Provincial Association. I spoke publicly on that subject, at the meeting of the delegates in Toronto, in 1862. I told the Board to their faces of the wrong they were doing, and I asked them to remedy the evil. All I wanted was to give the delegates an opportunity of knowing each other; so that they might not be left at the mercy of a few wire-pullers who could elect whom they chose. I was promised all I asked, but that promise was never fulfilled. I went to Kingston as a delegate to the meeting in '63, and inquired of the Secretary if there was any provision made so that I could know the men with whom I was to act. He said none whatever. I was then 400 miles from home, and it was not likely I had much of an opportunity of knowing who were the delegates from the other Societies. Under such circumstances, I made up my mind to leave before the meeting, as I did not wish to stop and vote for men I very likely knew nothing of. I think this is a fair cause of complaint and, as I said, I wish to suggest a remedy. It is this: As soon as a delegate presents his certificate of appointment, let him be furnished with an admission ticket, on the back of which will be printed the name of the place where the delegates can meet occasionally during the week of the Fair, leaving a blank to be filled up with the delegate's name, and the Society he represents, and give each one some kind of a badge by which he can be known, and I think by the time the vote is taken, you will find it can and will be done with much less wrangling and confusion than what took place at the meeting last year in Hamilton.

DAVID WILSON.

Canata Cottage,  
Township of Harwich, March 7th, 1865.

## Notes, Queries, and Observations.

BY A THINKING MAN.

1.—"I CAN'T AFFORD IT."

VERY recently—while in conversation with a neighbour, a man owning and farming over 100 acres of land, in the eastern part of the County of York, and moreover a person rather above the ordinary average of our farmers in point of intellect,—I asked him if he took THE CANADA FARMER—"It was only," I said "a dollar a year, and I thought it a most useful work." "I can't afford it,"—was the ready and brief reply, to which I rejoined; "Well, I can't afford to be without it." Now, I have since been thinking, can any farmer in all Canada afford to be without it? A farmer to be "up" in his proper business, should know what is already known, and what is being done and thought by others around him. If he omits all this, he is not only thrown on his own unaided resources, but he necessarily loses the benefits of the thoughts, observations, experience, and knowledge of other men. I repeat, no