

Correspondence.

[We solicit correspondence on any subject pertaining to our agricultural interests, but we do not endorse all that may be sent to us. We willingly insert articles that may not agree with our opinions, as open and fair discussion will be beneficial to the country.]

AGRICULTURAL POLITICS.

SIR.—The question, whether an agricultural journal may or should take the defence or oppose either of the political parties of the Province, for or against the Dominion Parliament, is quite a different position from having no political status. Politics, in the legitimate sense, is defined as devising and carrying out measures for the public welfare of a nation or people. That there is such a branch of politics as "agricultural" existing in Canada, is a question which will bear a flood of light to make it apparent. But every agricultural paper should advocate a principle in the interest of those whom it wishes to serve, which, if carried out and applied to the commerce and traffic of the country, would benefit the entire community. It is as much the duty of a paper to devise means and advocate a policy by which a good market may be obtained for any product of the soil or farm, as it is to encourage the growth of such products. Your duty, as one who wishes to promote the well-being and prosperity of the farmers of Ontario, will be only half done after you have encouraged the growth of produce and stock. Where we are to sell is as important a demand as the production itself, for without sales the stimulus to produce would cease; and, on the profits of production depends the great inducement to cultivate.

It is doubtful if every township in Canada had a well-organized agricultural society, and the best men in them were delegates to the county societies, these again to form a provincial society, with Editor Weld as President, that they would raise the value of pork or beef half a cent per pound in the Province. My reasons for doubting the efficacy of such an organization in promoting the prosperity of the agricultural class, are few, but it will, perhaps, be as well to have a look at the commerce of Ontario, and your readers will all the more readily be able to appreciate the radical obstacles in the way of our progress.

In 1863, we exported to Great Britain, \$742,686; to the United States, \$20,210,797. In 1870, we exported to Great Britain, \$1,216,989; to the United States, \$23,432,410.

Seven years ago there was a cry through the land, "we will open up a market for our produce and stock." This promise gave a certain quietus to the minds of the people, which the high price, produce and stock maintained after the war in the United States, had a tendency to perpetuate. The tariff against the produce of Ontario, in the only market it really has, ranges from 20 to 40 per cent; so, put this in a practical form: say, Ontario pays four million dollars annually for a market; the price of export controls the price of consumption here, which, at a fair estimate, would reduce our value three millions more. Now, what is the Advocate doing towards clearing away the erroneous views on this subject which the proprietor of the *Canada Farmer* has so industriously circulated for the past seven years? What does the Editor propose to do to stimulate the introduction and immigration of consumers into Canada, for on these two questions depends the future prosperity of Canada? By free trade with the United States, and protection against Great Britain's cheap labor, Canada can compete with the manufacturers of the United States, but not with those of Great Britain. Well, you may say that savors strong of independence. If the prosperity and development of the resources of Canada are retarded by political connection (which I believe), the sooner the political status is broken off, the better for both parties. The establishment of manufacturers in Canada, to the extent of supplying our home demand, would attract capital and labor into the country that nothing else would, thereby relieving Great Britain of her surplus and over-burdened population. To attract immigration we must present inducements. The rolling mills in Hamilton are closed, and those in Toronto are reported closed some time since; and you and your readers will perceive our policy is calculated to drive immigration out of Canada. The men operating these rolling mills will undoubtedly find employment in Detroit and other American foundries, where this closing up of some industries is not regarded in a favorable light. Will anything else but the

establishment of home manufactures in Canada attract consumers here? We want consumers to encourage production! What does the Advocate say?

Paris, Dec. 9th, 1871.

M. W. BROWN.

We willingly insert Mr. B's letter, as we have ascertained that he is a good farmer and is neither afraid or ashamed to give his name and address plainly. We think some parts of the communication might bear a little more light. Some very important questions are raised, which we hope some of our correspondents may take up and draw Mr. B. a little further out of his shell. We have for years asked of our present Government that farmers may have equal rights with the other classes of the community, but this we have not yet obtained. As soon as we gain this point we will be prepared to treat on other questions of minor detail, or, perhaps, that some may consider of more importance. We only ask that farmers may be able to join their capital for agricultural purposes, the same as other classes can; that agricultural papers and seeds may be sent as cheaply through the post as publishers can send books, or politicians can send political papers. We think that a Government that refuses such modest requests as these has no regard for the farmers' interest; when these modest requests are granted, we will then express our ideas more fully on other subjects. We are trying to drive the farmers' wedge into the Legislative halls, and we mean to do it or die.

SEEDS.

SIR.—Some months since, my friend, Mr. E. Jeffs, mentioned to me that as he had had occasion to write to you, he had written you an additional line or two relative to some new varieties of seed grain I had recently received from England, and which were then growing on his farm; and that you had expressed a desire to hear the result of their trial. I have, therefore, much pleasure in forwarding you a small sample of each kind by this post, and I think I may fairly add that, taking the peculiarities of the past season into consideration, the crop of each was very satisfactory. The wheat known in England as the "April Wheat," is a bearded sort, red straw and grain, and is beyond comparison, the quickest growing wheat I am acquainted with; in fact, its many good qualities have caused it to be regarded as a sterling spring wheat. The ear grows very long and is thickly set, the body also inclining to be long. I expect, however, to see it in a year or two greatly improved in colour, as well as size. Seed sown 28th April; crop, 36 bushels per acre. The barley, "Golden Mellon" is a very choice two-rowed variety, and is the best kind grown in England, being early to harvest and very productive; in fact it is the only first-class kind we have, and malts quicker than the "Chevalier." It won two first prizes and weighed 56 lbs. per bushel. Sowed 29th April; crop 36 bushels per acre, although it had but a poor chance, owing to the thistles. The peas are not much to look at; their merit, however, is to exceed all other kinds in bushels to the acre, and as they are essentially a feed-pec, are just as valuable for making pork as white sorts—bushel for bushel—while they will grow from 10 to 20 bushels per acre more. The beans, for a dry season, did well, and will, I think, eventually on suitable soils, become a valuable crop. One kind of wheat—white—entirely failed. I would, however, esteem it a favor to receive a line from you giving your opinion. I remain, yours truly,

Bondhead, Dec. 11th, 1871.

J. A. H.

We have examined the seeds you forwarded; the beans are equal to those raised in England. If they were raised in Canada, send us the particulars of your mode of cultivation. We have the tick bean, but they do not answer very well; are those different in their growth to the tick bean? The barley is of good quality and of good colour; will it malt with the common barley? send us fuller particulars about it. Is your barley quite as free from Canada thistles as the sample sent? We have Mr. T. Arkell, of Foshing, reported some of the April wheat, and it did well the first year, but the mildew destroyed so much the second year that he abandoned its cultivation. It may do well now, as the mildew does not damage the

wheat as it formerly did. I am highly pleased with the peas; we want a change; they will not sell for export like our common varieties, but we want feed. If they yield more bushels per acre they will be a great acquisition to the country. I shall be happy to aid you in disseminating each kind that is likely to be of value to the country. If any of the varieties have been grown in more places than one in Canada or on different soils, I should like to know; send full particulars. If I should disseminate any for you, there must not be one thistle to be found in the lot, or they will be at once condemned when they come here, and disposed of to feed-men.

SIR.—Pardon my neglect in sending you my subscription for your paper. Enclosed find two dollars, one for the present year, and one for the coming year. Continue to be the farmers' friend, and the farmers will be found to appreciate your services. Rely upon a straight-forward course of action. Be not deterred by croakers from copying good articles from American or other papers. If your croakers were to make themselves more familiar with the true American and his agricultural papers, it would have the effect of moving back his ears and flattening his conceit. Allow me to report that I have found the Norway Oats to be this year what I reported them last year, viz.—a humbug! I remain your well-wisher,

SAMUEL SMILLIE.

Tuckersmith, Dec. 9th, 1871.

The McCarling wheat turned out remarkably well; the sample I got was not near as good as it is now. Mr. Kuppe got 38 lbs., and he said that not over twenty pounds of it grew, and he has 10 bushels and 14 lbs.

DONALD MCLENNAN.

Kincardine, 24th Nov., 1871.

The potatoes I received from you have done remarkably well, far surpassing the old varieties in yield. I think the Willard Seedlings, Climax, Drees's Prolific, and Peerless are the best, and will be extensively cultivated as soon as they are known. The Rose done well, still I am highly pleased with the new varieties. The McCarling wheat was an excellent crop and as fine a spring wheat to grow as ever I saw. It stood well, but I am sorry that I got it mixed in threshing. I wish to procure some more next spring if not too dear.

TROS. STANTON.

Kintore, Dec. 3, 1871.

The potatoes I got from you did tip-top; but I don't think much of the McCarling Wheat. Hogs are low and water scarce.

W. J. N.

Clinton Dec. 4th, 1871.

I shall feel obliged if you can furnish me with information to prevent a horse from putting out his tongue when driving, as I have a valuable animal that acts in this manner. It is very objectionable and I do not know the cause or remedy.

T. McTAVISH.

Lobo, Dec. 4th, 1871.

We shall feel obliged if some of our Canadian veterinarians or subscribers would reply to the above question.

Horticultural.

CULTURE OF THE APPLE ORCHARD.

However wholesome and delicious the various fruits of summer and autumn—the berries, the peaches, the plums, the pears, and the grapes—it is probable we shall feel the loss of all the others less than the apple. In its natural state it is in use a greater portion of the time than all the others together—beginning with the harvest apples of July, and lasting with ordinary treatment, until June.

It enters into the composition of more dishes, is cooked in more forms than any other fruit, and is the stand-by once in the farmer's family. How best to cultivate so important a fruit, is worthy the study of every landowner in the country. It may not be possible to render its production for market profitable, in all localities, but we are of opinion that the portions of our country where a family supply may not be grown, are limited.

We are about to plant an apple orchard, guided by our observation and experience, we would select a pretty strong soil—naturally or artificially drained—not so low as to be particularly liable to frosts, nor so high as to in-

vite the winds—neither a valley nor a hill-top—but such land as corn always ripens upon. If planting for market, in Western New York, our varieties would be few, and nearly all long-keepers. With present knowledge, the Baldwin would occupy half the orchard. If we were certain that the Northern Spy would do well in our locality, we would plant a fair proportion of it. The Hubbardston Non-such is an excellent winter apple, in many localities quite productive, a good keeper, and an attractive market apple. We would plant it quite largely.

The Roxbury Russet would rank next to the Baldwin in space and importance. If the orchard were intended also for family use, we would extend our list so as to include a few of the best summer and autumn varieties.

If we could select our trees for transplanting from a block of well-grown nursery trees, four years from graft, that had not been called, we would prefer that age. We would insist that the trees should be carefully dug, though at extra expense, and that the roots should not be exposed long to the sun, or drying winds. We would consider that we were planting an orchard for a lifetime, and would insist that all the operations should be thoroughly done. The ground should be plowed in deep, narrow furrows; the rows should be perfectly straight both ways, and about 30 feet apart; the holes should be dug broad enough to receive all the roots, fully straightened; the ends of the roots should be pared off smooth, and the mutilated ones cut away.

Thus prepared, we would plant the roots in the soil (not in the sub-soil), where their proper aliment most abundantly, accessible to air, heat and moisture, without which growth is impossible. While we would keep the roots out of the cold, infertile sub-soil, we would cover them three or four feet deep with soil, to prevent injury from sun or frost. The soil among the roots should be well pulverized, free from lumps or stones, thoroughly worked in by swaying the tree, or using the hands, and packed down with the feet. It is well to have the tree, when the operation is finished, lean lightly towards the prevailing winds. The action of the winds would then be likely to straighten up the tree, whereas if planted perpendicular, it will soon come to lean from the winds. Now, as to the cultivation.

There are certain laws of vegetable growth that we should endeavor to understand and obey. For the first ten years of the growth of an apple orchard, our leading object is to produce wood—to grow a large, strong healthy, symmetrical tree, and our culture should be directed to that end. First, the soil should be filled with a liberal supply of available food. If lacking in this indispensable condition of growth, we would spread fine manure upon the surface in autumn, as we recommended in a previous article. The soil above the roots should be kept mellow, to admit freely heat, air and moisture. This can only be done by cultivation—not with a plow to tear and destroy the roots—but with cultivator, harrow or hoe. The roots of no other plant should be suffered to compete with the apple roots for the food within their reach. This rule does not prevent the raising of crops in the spaces not occupied by the apple roots, but care should be taken to restore to the soil the nutriment extracted by the crops, so that it may not be exhausted when required by the trees.

It is generally believed by arborists that the roots of trees extend twice the distance of the branches. This may not be exactly correct, but as space will be required for the extension of the roots of the trees during the season of the growth of a crop, it would be prudent to reserve from cropping every spring, a space around every tree twice the diameter of its top. These spaces should be reserved inviolable for the nutrition of the apple trees. Year after year, in a thriving orchard, the spaces left for cropping will gradually diminish, until the trees require the whole orchard.

What crops shall we raise in an orchard? Evidently such as will not conflict with a proper cultivation of trees. Crops sown broadcast would interfere with the use of the cult vator around the trees. It would not be impossible to keep the spaces around the trees clean and mellow with the hoe, but it would require more labor than farmers would be willing to expend; therefore, broadcast crops would generally result in neglect of the trees. But crops planted in rows, to be cultivated and hoed, would not only facilitate the culture of the trees, but promote it. Passing between the rows of corn or vegetables with the cultivator, it would be easier to cultivate across the spaces reserved for the trees, than to avoid them.

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