

# FARMER'S ADVOCATE

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LADY ADELA 2nd and SANSPAREIL 24th,

The property of James Cowan & Sons, Clockmohr, Galt, Ont. (See "On the Wing," next page.)

The exposures of the seed distribution department of agriculture at Washington should be a source of alarm to every right-minded person everywhere. The department was established ostensibly to benefit farmers by distributing new varieties of seeds freely amongst them, but it has been converted into a political machine, operated by wire-pullers, and Washington has become the common dumping-ground for all the worthless seeds in creation. Seedsmen both in Europe and America, manage to sell to the department at enormous figures seeds which they cannot otherwise dispose of. The attempts made to abolish the department

may prove futile, for it is now known to be a powerful instrument in the hands of the politicians for bribing the farmers, promising them free seeds for their votes and influence. At a recent meeting of Agricultural Professors held in Washington, a resolution condemning the department was proposed, but was voted down on the ground that as they were applicants to the federal government for money to carry on experimental work, it would not be good policy for them to pass such a resolution. What right has a government to undertake the ruination of respectable private enterprises for the purpose of keeping itself in power?

The zigzag fence-row varies from six to twelve feet in width; it is a harbor for weeds and bushes, and should not be tolerated for this reason if for no other. Any farm would be ten times freer from weeds were the weeds not allowed to ripen in the fence hedges, to blow over the adjoining fields. Where fences must be built, make them of posts and rails, slabs or boards that can be nailed or spiked to them, so as to reduce the space occupied to the minimum and allow opportunity for cutting out weeds and brush. Wire fencing, barbed or smooth, is being adopted quite extensively, and generally with satisfaction.

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