



Professor Buckland's intended Tours.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—In an article in your last number, on the subject of Agricultural and Veterinary instruction, you intimate that it is my intention to make agricultural tours in the country, with a view to excite a greater interest among the people, in the promotion of agricultural knowledge and improvement.

Will you allow me a brief space in your valuable columns, just to state what my intentions are, and how I propose to carry them into execution?

Occupying the chair of agriculture in our Provincial University, I have long felt the great desirability, if not absolute necessity, of becoming more intimately acquainted, by personal observation, with the state of agriculture throughout the Province, and of a more frequent intercourse with the cultivators of the soil. Such a course, as results have already shown, is essential to the maintenance of my agricultural position in the country. Formerly, when I had leisure and opportunity for getting about the country, not only was my class in the college better attended, but in other respects my means of public usefulness were increased.

In undertaking the charge of residence in University College six years ago, I resigned the situation of Secretary to the Board of Agriculture, and devoted my best attention to the duties of my new position. These, by gradually increasing, as also from their nature, kept me confined mainly to one place, thereby cutting off that personal intercourse with farmers, except in the vicinity of Toronto, which is so necessary to the full discharge of my professional obligations. Hence, I have been led to resign the charge of residence in the college, simply because I found the duties of that position became every year more incompatible with the claims of agriculture. And here, I may be permitted to remark, that during the period in which I held that situation, I enjoyed the respect and confidence of the Council, whose kindness will be ever gratefully remembered.

It is thought that the agricultural course in the college might be comprised within Easter Term, embracing the first three months of the year; an arrangement that would afford me ample time for visiting the country; which I propose to do in a thorough and systematic manner.

I could wish to spend sufficient time in each county to meet every agricultural society in it, and to make myself practically acquainted, by personal observation, with the existing state of agriculture, with special reference to its improvement, and the more efficient working of societies. I have long been of opinion that these important objects could be more effectually obtained, if the members of agricultural societies were to hold more frequent intercourse with each other, by attending stated meetings, for the consideration and discussion of such subjects as have an immediate bearing on their own pursuits, and the locality in which they live. Wherever these means have been fairly tried, the best results have followed. The agricultural mind is peculiarly liable to become sluggish, when not occasionally aroused; and the farmer, perhaps, above all men, needs reminding that his personal success in business, as well as the advancement of his art, requires as much the exercise of his mind as the labour of his hands. In going through the country, I hope to be able to do something effectually towards the formation of a Provincial Agricultural Museum, for which the Board has already provided a capacious hall in this city, to which visitors and emigrants coming to this section of the Province might resort, and obtain much needful and reliable information.

Further, it appears to me that in perambulating the Province, much valuable material may be collected, for illustrating its condition and capabilities, at least as far as its agricultural and rural life are concerned; and I think that an occasional article on what have been subjects of personal observation, addressed to our leading agricultural journals in the United Kingdom, would tend to awaken more attention to this country, and its vast, and, as yet, in a great measure, undeveloped resources.

Until the late deplorable civil war in the neighbouring Republic had attained such gigantic proportions, as to render, in the eyes of the world, our position in these British Colonies, somewhat uneasy and precarious, I was in the habit of frequently receiving letters of enquiry from parties in the old country, for practical purposes. As a brighter day is at length dawning upon us—Providence having, this year blessed the labours of the husbandmen with abundance, and our neighbours with the still greater blessing of peace, we may reasonably hope that an improved emigration will speedily set in towards our shores; and that, by a wise improvement of our opportunities, a long period of tranquility and prosperity awaits us in the future.

GEO. BUCKLAND.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE.

Toronto, Nov. 23, 1865.

Maple Sugar at the late Provincial Fair.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR, Although it is some time since the Provincial Fair took place at London, I think it quite worth while to send you three specimens of maple sugar, which were all exhibited at that fair.—In order to prove the necessity for competent judges being appointed, to do justice to the articles exhibited, and to encourage the industry of the enterprising exhibitors.

Mr. Samuel Williams, of the township of Dunwich, was the exhibitor of these sugars. He has two modes of manufacture—one, by the ordinary mode of pouring the hot sugar into a mould, which becomes cake sugar, and the other of graining it. The latter process consists of rubbing the sugar in the hot kettle, and keeping it stirred until the water is entirely evaporated. This is called "stirred" or "grained" sugar. The sapient gentlemen who passed their opinion upon these sugars, would not believe that the two finer specimens of these three parcels were pure and unadulterated sugar at all, but insisted that they must have been mixed with "something" to give them the beautiful, bright and white appearance which they bear. Now, as I happened to be present last spring when Mr. Williams was making sugar, I can testify that they are the simple and pure produce of maple sap, and I send these specimens to you to test them in any way you think proper, because Mr. Williams thinks injustice has been done him. For the two grained sugars he received no prize at all! Whilst for the hard or cake sugar, he received the first prize; which any one, who knows ought about it, will see is the inferior specimen.

While alluding to the subject of the Provincial Exhibition, I may state that the practice of exhibitors attaching their names to articles exhibited, affords the judges the opportunity of showing great favouritism, leads to dissatisfaction, and puts the honest exhibitor in a false position, against the exhibitor who wishes his own name or reputation to help him to a prize, which the article exhibited often does not merit.

D. J. HUGHES.

St. Thomas, C. W.

NOTE BY ED. C. F.—The specimens of maple sugar submitted, entirely bear out our respected correspondent's remarks. The importance of having, as far as is practicable, thoroughly competent judges for each department of the show, cannot be too strongly insisted on. At the next Provincial Fair, we trust there will be less ground for complaint. With respect to the name of the exhibitor being attached to competing articles, great diversity of opinion exists, and "much might be said on both sides" of the question. The same practice is adopted at the exhibitions of some of the principal agricultural societies in Britain, and we scarcely remember an instance where a shadow of suspicion has been attempted to be cast on the honour and integrity of the judges. If the name of the exhibitor did not appear, we presume there would be little difficulty for judges, who were open to improper influences, to ascertain all particulars respecting any article, on which they were called upon to exercise their functions. At the same time, the absence of the names of exhibitors, so far as the press and the general public were concerned, would rob the show of much of its interest.

HOW TO REGISTER.—"A Subscriber," writing from Wellington Square, propounds the following enquiry:—"Would you please inform me how I am to proceed in order to register a Devon heifer, two years old this fall? Both of her parents are registered in the Upper Canada Stock Register, but by some neglect she was not entered. If you can merely inform me to whom I am to apply, in order to do so, you will greatly oblige me."

ANS.—Apply to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, Toronto.

PRECOCIOUS FOWLS.—"R. A. W." of Toronto, communicates the following:—"I have Brahma Poultry fowls, hatched 7th June, laying now (Nov. 11th.) I would like some of our poultry friends to take a note of this, and let us know if they can beat it."

YOUNG ALDERNEY BULL WANTED.—"J. S. Smith," of Port Hope, asks the following questions:—"Can you tell me where I can buy a young Alderney bull, not more than one year old? What price ought I to pay for a fine animal of that age?"

ANS.—After careful enquiry, in well informed quarters, we have failed to hear of the existence of any pure Alderneys in this Province. None, at least, are publicly known. There are several eminent breeders of Alderneys in the States, chief among whom we may name John Giles, Woodstock, Connecticut, Dr. Twaddell, Philadelphia, and John T. Norton, Esq., of Farmington Ct.—all of whom, we learn, have used this somewhat delicate breed for upwards of ten years, for dairy purposes. If our correspondent communicates with any of those gentlemen, we have no doubt he will be furnished with any particulars he may desire.

NON-RECEIPT OF "THE CANADIAN BEE KEEPERS' GUIDE."—"H. E. Jaffray," of Macville, writes on this subject as follows:—"I send my address as requested in your issue of Oct. 16, and beg to say that I addressed a letter to J. H. Thomas & Bros., Brooklin, U. S., and said, 'I send you enclosed two dimes and a half a dime, which I understand is the price of your Bee Book.'"

ANS.—It turns out precisely as we suspected. The non-appearance of the book is the result of your letter being mis-directed. The correct address is: J. H. Thomas & Bros., Brooklin, Canada West—not Brooklin, United States. Enclose twenty-eight cents, twenty-five for the book, and three cents to defray postage.

THE GOVERNMENT AGRICULTURAL GRANT.—"W. E." writes as follows:—"Will you please answer the following questions in your next issue of THE CANADA FARMER, and oblige a large class of agriculturists, in the East Riding of Northumberland. What season of the year is the Government Grant, for agricultural purposes, paid to the different County Treasurers, so as to be available to the Branch Societies? Does the law provide for County Treasurers to hold the funds until the day of exhibition, (to the very great annoyance and inconvenience of the Branch Societies,) without any official notice in reference to them?"

ANS.—The time at which the Government Grant is made available, entirely depends on the date at which the Supply Bill is voted in the Provincial Parliament. This year, for example, it was not passed till the summer session, somewhere about September 20th. The County Treasurers were, therefore, unusually late in receiving their respective allotments of the funds. There is no legal provision made as to the length of time, during which, the County Treasurers may hold the funds; but, we presume, it is understood that they will hand it over to the respective Branch Societies, with all convenient speed.

FRUIT TREES PRODUCING TWICE IN A SEASON.—"W. Whittet," of Moore, writes as follows:—"Can you tell me of any instances of fruit trees producing twice in one year? I enclose a few blossoms from my plum trees, which present the appearance of spring in the month of September. The trees are of different ages, from five to seven years old. They flourished profusely last spring, and though partly destroyed by frost, a few plums came to maturity. About three weeks ago the leaves commenced falling off, and for a week the trees had the appearance of autumn. But as if repenting their too hasty preparation for winter, they again attempted to re-attire in their spring and summer garb. Can any practical nurseryman tell the cause of such a phenomenon, and say what will be the effect on the trees? What might be done to assist nature in forming a new set of buds for next spring?"

ANS.—Similar phenomena were observed in several districts in Britain during the present autumn. An unusually mild and open season was obviously the cause. We do not apprehend that any special treatment of the trees will be requisite to make amends for the very slight additional exhaustion, caused by a second growth of blossom.

A REMEDY WANTED FOR THE APPLE BORER.—"W. B." of Landsdown, writes as follows:—"Can you inform me of a cure for the borer in fruit trees? I planted an orchard three years ago; and I have cultivated it and mulched the trees every spring, and in the fall hoed or dug the manure in. This fall I found the borer had done a good deal of damage to