

The Board of Agriculture.

The last meeting of the Board of Agriculture and Arts of the Province of Ontario, was held on the 5th and 6th of December. There was a full attendance of the members. The present Board consists of, perhaps, as good and efficient men as the farmers could select, still we think that one or two electoral divisions might be better represented; but, on the whole, the chances are that if a change takes place, it may be for the worse. They are all highly indignant at being so suddenly compelled to return to the labors and expenses of another election, which, under the Act of the last Session of Parliament, compels them to. We should like to have the reasons of the Minister of Agriculture for such a course, and perhaps he may explain during the present Session of Parliament. The Board has finally ordered that Mr. Fish should be paid for the expense of getting us that costly supper and ball, when the maritime guests were in London. The Board has received the first instalment from the Denison deficiencies, and the balance is safely secured. They also receive \$2000 for the sale of the old Government experimental farm, on which so much was expended, and from which we never heard of any good having resulted to the country. The Guelphites modestly requested the Association to let them have the use of its Block for striking diplomas, to be given to the parties to whom they wished to grant them. Of course the Board wisely refused to lend their Block, but we think it might with advantage have sold it to them for half its cost, as we consider it a very poor affair and a disgrace to the Association to send out. It is not equal to the old one and it cost enough to have a good one. To Guelphites, Hamiltonians, and Londoners, we say, if you give a diploma at all, give a really good one, such as will be an ornament to any parlor. The present diplomas are so badly done that they almost require an index to tell whether the animals are intended to represent the equine, bovine, canine, or any other species. There were applications made for the diploma in the place of first prizes, but the Board thought it should not be granted for such, and should only be awarded for something of high merit. They do not wish them to be as easily obtained as heretofore. The old Board appears to have granted Mr. Fleming a long lease of the best part of the Agricultural Hall, but it also appears that it has been granted for the specific purpose of a seed warehouse. Mr. Fleming says he has a perpetual lease, but the price is to be agreed on every ten years. He wishes to use it for other purposes. He complains of the high rate it is assessed at, and considers the expensive and very handsome external ornamentation as of no additional value. The fact is, there has been a screw loose somewhere; the old Board should not have granted a lease, to give such power in the hands of the lessee as he now holds, as the building happens to be in the very best situation in Toronto, and is itself fit to be a bank, being highly valuable. Fleming has been a good servant to the old Board, and we can instance one thing that came under our observation that causes us to believe his services have been rather against the interest of Agriculture than for it. Fleming now wishes to turn the building to other purpose than those for which it was erected, and for which the lease was given him. Should there ever be any disturbance in future about this building, the present existing Board had nothing to do with granting the lease.

The time for holding the next Provincial Exhibition was appointed; it is to commence on the 22nd day of September. The propriety of permanently establishing the time for holding the Exhibition was discussed, and it was thought desirable to hold it the last week of September; but the Board considered that they had better leave that question for the new Board, to be appointed, as they did not wish to trammel the powers of their successors

in office. The second volume of the Canadian Herd Book is shortly to be issued, and a committee is appointed to attend to it. It is to be illustrated. If any of our subscribers have any stock, the illustration of which they should wish to appear in it, they should enquire of the Secretary about it at once. We are unable to say whether the first prize animals in each class are to be represented, or imported stock, as we did not make as full enquiries about it at the time as we might have done. We understand the owners of animals have to furnish the drawings of them, and the Association bear the expense of the engraving. We imagine the desire is to have the illustrations after the American fashion and similar to the illustrations in our last Herd Book. Page is an excellent artist and knows well the points of an animal. Breeders cannot afford to be behind the times, and perfection in the drawings of animals must appear, whether they fill the points or not. Our opinion is that we have carried these false or imagined representations of stock to far too great excess already, to such an excess that we cannot call them truthful. In some things Canadians excel the Americans; we have good stock in Canada, and the Americans well know it. We can afford to have truthful representations, and they will do us more good in the end than false ones. There is defection enough about stock, without our making it too apparent in our illustrations. We consider the cut of the Old Duke of Gloucester, which, we presume, was a wood cut, as a truer representation of an animal than any of those cut in stone. Wood cuts can be printed on any paper, and those cut on stone can only be used on particular kinds of paper. Perhaps it might be as well for breeders who are intending to have illustrations of animals in the Herd Book, to consider whether it would be better to procure a cut that they can use in their catalogues or advertisements, when printed with type, or one that can only be used for a special purpose. We shall feel obliged if the Secretary would inform us of the particulars of stock that will be admitted, or such as will be rejected, or if any one that sends a drawing will have it cut at the expense of the Association on stone only, or if electrotypes, stereotypes, or wood cuts will be inserted, and what are the requirements of the Association regarding an animal being engraved at their expense; must a drawing be made by the proprietor, or would a photograph answer; what the difference in expense will be if stone or metal is used, and who will have the blocks after having been used; can the proprietors of the animals have them, and if so, at what price?

The King of Canadian Nurserymen.

In December, after attending the last meeting of the Board of Agriculture, we took a walk to Mr. Leslie's, in the evening. His nurseries, consisting of 75 acres, are situated about two miles from the market. We entered the office and found Mr. Leslie seated fast asleep; he always takes a good sleep in his chair in the evening. We conversed a short time with his younger son, who was busy at the books, but presently the old veteran of between 70 and 80 summers raised his head and rose entirely from his seat to salute your humble servant with "Well, well, Dr. Weld—how are you? glad to see you; you are a wonderful man; you are doing more good than any man I know of; the country owes you a pension! I am always glad to see you." After this salutation we attended to our business, which was to enquire a little about the Buck-thorn. We find he has a supply, but not one-tenth of what he would like to have. He cannot procure seed sufficient, and he would give \$20 per bushel for it. The demand for trees, plants, and shrubs was never greater than it is at the present time. He has now such a business that he cannot supply the demand, and rejects many wholesale

orders. Presently Mrs. Leslie stepped in to the office. "Ma, ma, here is Dr. Weld." We do not know why he should call us Dr., as we have no pretensions to the healing art. Of course we must have a chat with the ladies. Editors are often privileged persons and admitted where others cannot go, but there is a duty belonging to this class of beings which, perhaps, your humble servant may exceed. We have no right to lift the veil or curtain and expose family matters of private, retiring persons, and we hope and trust that the Leslie family and the public will pardon us if we do exceed our proper bounds, by touching on a few remarks of a private nature; at any rate, our intention is not to injure any one, but to do good.

The present Mrs. Leslie is Mr. Leslie's second wife. Mrs. Leslie was a widow previous to her marriage with Mr. Leslie, and there were nine in her family, that is, she had four brothers and four sisters. Her brothers are all dead, each leaving a widow living, and the sisters were all married, but each of their husbands died, leaving them all widows. We quote this as a most remarkable circumstance. We received this information from Mrs. Leslie.

"Dr. Weld," said Mr. Leslie, "you claim to be the farmers' friend; why have you not spoken against the selling of the timber off the poor settler's land? It is a great shame; why, in many places the poor fellows have not enough timber left to build a house or barn. If I was in want of land, I would not take such a lot as a gift. I should go to a country where I could have my timber. I see the Government have been selling a lot more of those timber sections for \$200 and less a square mile, about 25 cents per acre. It is just ruin to the poor settlers, to build up some favorite; it is wrong, and you ought to write about it."

"Well, Mr. Leslie, I know it is wrong, but I have written against so many things that are wrong, and suggested so many improvements, that it appears only like blowing against an east wind."

"Never mind, write, write all you think ought to be written for or against it. It will do good some time; some will see it. You are doing good! you are doing good!"

We asked Mrs. Leslie where George was this evening, meaning Mr. Leslie's eldest son. Mr. Leslie said, "George is like you, Mr. Weld, he has been too philanthropic and is suffering for it." "What is the matter with George?" "He's suffering from a severe attack of rheumatism, and has been unable to attend to business for nearly a month. He is now staying with the doctor in the city; he has to be turned and lifted in bed, and has suffered great agony. It affects him in the limbs and stomach. He has always been very steady and industrious, but he went three times to Niagara in his capacity as volunteer. He was obliged to lie on wet ground exposed to the inclemency of the weather, and this is the result."

Does not this tell a tale of neglect that some of our Government officials ought to feel ashamed of? This is by no means the first instance that we have heard of premature and permanent injury having been done to our volunteers, who have so faithfully served their country in time of need. This kind of case-hardening our sons through neglect and exposure, is a disgrace to the present century. It has not been the fault of the men who obey the orders and have placed themselves under the control of the Government for their country's good. The fault is in having an inefficient staff to control. There are far too many large salaries paid to incompetent persons. What necessity has there ever been to sacrifice so many of our young men in such a manner?

While in conversation with Mrs. Leslie, we turned to the subject of emigration. She said she had a great many nephews and nieces in the old country, and she would like much to see them here, the opportunities being so much better for them here. She had never advised them to come, because she felt there was a respon-

sibility in giving advice, and at first they might not feel satisfied and blame might fall on her. At the same time, she well knew they would be much better here, if they really knew the state of this country. This brought another thought to our mind: cannot we send information? Where are all the \$50,000 worth of Government pamphlets and emigration agents; we have never yet seen what we consider the right kind of information to send home to such parties. We have a great deal of egoism, but if we were to devote our attention to the emigration business for three months, we believe we could bring a larger number of really useful and able emigrants to this or to any other good country, than our Government have induced to come here for the past seven years of expenditure.

In the morning, we walked into Toronto with Mr. Leslie, sr. On the road, Mr. Leslie called our attention to ornamental trees that had been mutilated for the benefit of the Telegraph Companies. Some parties had made the companies pay damages. He has a beautiful lot of trees planted by the road side, and he does not want them touched for any amount of damage that might be tendered. He contends that they have no right to mutilate the shade trees, and if they want their wires to run, let the companies purchase the right of way. They have no business to erect nuisances on the road. There are several reasons in this; we want our roadsides ornamented and shaded, but this cutting off the tops of trees will not do. Telegraph wires are useful, and we suppose there will be some new Act passed to give them power; still we think that as Telegraph lines are private enterprises, they have as good a right to purchase a route to set their poles on private land as railway companies. They do no harm in the backward part of the country, where ornamentation is at a discount, but where enterprising people live that have an eye for taste, beauty, refinement and comfort, the mutilation of shade trees should not be allowed. Perhaps the companies may run their wires underground in places where trees are planted for ornament and shade. Whatever may be done, we say by all means protect the trees.

Shameful.

There has been a very dastardly attempt on the part of some of our Western Fair men to endeavor to throw blame on Mr. Shipley, because the Western Fair took place at the same time as the Provincial Exhibition. We cannot denounce in too strong terms the deep-laid plan of unprincipled men to endeavor to injure Mr. Shipley, who has been a faithful servant to the Provincial Board and to the country, and who never did any harm to the Western Fair. It may have been done for an election dodge, but assuredly the calumny will recoil from the uninjured Mr. Shipley on to the pates of the parties who originated the vile attempt to injure the innocent, to shield their own foul deeds. We hope no such attempts are made in other divisions to injure the reputation of good men.

Mr. L. JOHNS sends us a letter containing one dollar and dated Dec. 4th., but the place is omitted, and the post-mark outside is illegible. We never can get aid through the Post Office to find out such places as are not stamped right, therefore should Mr. J. see this, we shall be pleased to send the paper to where he may direct. Thanks for the dollar. All persons should date their letters from the Post Office where they receive their mail.

THE Improved Berkshire pigs have been in such demand that most of our breeders are paying attention to them. Mr. R. D. Foley has just made another importation of a choice lot of them. His advertisement is in the Breeders' Directory.

Parliament.
The second session of the Parliament is now the Lieutenant-Governor's first consideration for the past act quite a talk justice. They draining of the been a step in now propose to enable them to may be a very we lay claim to plan through ago. We are Legislature are suggestions, are carried out, with farmers. The House of the their Experiment called the Ag the greatest meanness that men to enact. years to show and utility of tested seeds, from us by the Agriculture. To drive us, them in carry deemed injur cause we wou foundation st thieves who l seven years. tale is told what is to be tion. We sp have robbed ber; have ea litigation, an They have a and left the rock. They and their son their places horns. Insu and agricult nearly tramp icultural pa lished one p farmers of th This should the country to force th down the th bably will l paper has be and like th which have tical value.

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