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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

—AND—
Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor.

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Hard Times.

This is a general complaint. There always has been a fluctuation in business of all kinds. Canada enjoyed a long season of unusual prosperity; many that were here became independent. At the present time we are passing under a cloud, and the same depressing wave extends over this continent, Europe, and some other parts of the world. It is our impression that Canada can weather the storm as well as any other country. There have been many failures amongst our merchants; but few are holding their own at the present time. Some farmers say farming does not pay. On the aggregate, it has not been very remunerative this past year; many who have incurred debts, and gone beyond their means, will suffer, particularly those who depend principally on cereals.

Those who are engaged in the dairy business, and have proper appliances and conveniences, will find that their market will improve. Most of this class of farmers can bear the present low rate; they cannot make as much as in former years, but if they hold their own they are doing well, and some are doing more than that. Those who have been engaged in raising beef and mutton are still making money, and those who have been raising good, useful horses have a profit.

Despite the present low prices and small crops, farming is the safest business to be engaged in. We do not say that every branch of it in every locality offers a good field for capitalists, but for the industrious, hard-working man, the farm is the safest and surest place for progression. Some farmers with capital, also some capitalists, are employing their means in opening up our great Northwest Territory; there is room and an open-

ing and a competency to be obtained by all industrious, healthy, and active persons in this Dominion. There is a desire among many to change. The flattering accounts of other lands have tempted many a man to desert the flag that has protected him, and many a hundred who have left this Dominion would gladly return. The tongues of some we have personally known who left our Dominion are now silent; their bones are enriching poor soil that has been lauded and praised by placards and pamphlets beyond its merits. Some persons are apt to fly from the evils they know to those they know not of. Gain all the information you can about your business; persevere and do your duty the best you can; bend to the storm; let progress be your aim, duty your watchword, and prosperity will return and reward you; winter after summer will come, and after depression prosperity will return; it has always been thus.

England has had ten times heavier depressions than she has now. We are a part of that noble Empire. Heed not any of these gloomy tales of croakers who say that England's glory has passed and must now decay. We believe that her glory and honor and power are increasing at the present time faster than ever, and with her returning prosperity we shall prosper. We have traveled a little in the sunny South, in the Eastern and Western States, in England and France, and from what we have yet seen or heard, we say to Canadian farmers: "Stick to your business; stick to your country." Your position and prospects are good, and unequalled by any offered in any part of the world we have yet seen.

On the Wing.

Having heard of the depressed state of the nursery business, we took a trip to Rochester, New York State, this being the great American centre for this business. We found the old-established house of Messrs. Ellwanger & Barry progressing, nearly equal to times past, and having good hopes for the future. This year they will graft and bud about 2,000,000 trees and shrubs. Passing through their extensive conservatories, where numerous fine plants are to be seen, our attention was particularly drawn to a most beautiful palm; we admired this plant more than any of its species we have seen, either in England or America; it is a most perfect specimen, short in the stem, but the graceful length, density and form of the leaves were even surpassing in beauty and grace to any we have yet seen depicted on paper. Despite this, the gardener said they wished to dispose of it, as they required the room. We asked the price; \$30 was the reply. We felt as if we should like to present that plant to our Princess, but justice forbade us.

We called at Mr. Frost's. He possesses an immense rose tree, the stem of which is nearly one foot in circumference; it is in a con-

servatory, and is 20 years old. This is a white rose; 1,500 flowers have been gathered from this tree at one picking. These flowers sell for \$5 per 100, and are sent all over the States; there is a great demand for them for wedding festivities, balls and parties, and for Easter decorations. From this rose-bush or tree more money has been made than from 100 acres of nursery stock for the past five years. Some kinds of roses bring \$15 per dozen; this is for single flowers, while for the young bushes from which they are grown, not half that sum could be received. All kinds of flowers have been selling well, but the really useful and ornamental plants have been a drug in the market; for instance, pear trees that retail for 37½c. to 50 and 75c. each, have been sold at auction at \$50 a thousand, and lots of choice apple trees at \$30 a thousand; in fact, acres and acres of young trees have had to be cut down and burned. After the labor and expense of cultivating and raising trees, \$100 per acre is now being paid to grub them up and burn them. Many farmers near Rochester had planted largely of particular sorts. There has been a stagnation in business; sales could not be effected, and every device has been adopted to move the surplus. Some agents have purchased blocks of trees of varieties that have been in excess, and sold such at reduced rates; some do not scruple to attach the name of any kind of tree to any kind of stock.

Many persons have been ruined here and in other parts of the county. Brokers will not advance money on nursery stock. Now the great Bloomington Nurseries have failed—liabilities \$500,000. Many an industrious man has nothing now to show for his land and stock. The old firms and reliable nurserymen that can weather the storm will emerge from the wreck and will prosper as of yore.

Now is the time for our Canadian farmers, who have cleared farms and are clear of debt, to step in. We can instance many that have cash at interest and have unplanted farms; to such we would say—take some of that money and purchase a lot of silver maples and Norway spruce; plant wind-breaks, shade and ornamental trees. You never will have the opportunity of purchasing so cheaply again, and we believe it will pay you double the interest you are now making to plant ornamental and shade trees extensively. Make out a list of what you want, and send your list direct to several of the Canadian and American nurserymen whose names appear from time to time in the *Advocate*. Tell them you will pay cash for a good order, and you will find that you can get some kinds of trees that you want lower than ever offered to you by any traveling agent. Deal direct with the nurserymen; they are responsible; all agents are not.

If you put your name to a traveling agent's paper you are pretty sure of one thing, that is, you will have to pay, whatever rubbish you may get.