

for Circulation

THE MONTHLY

88

FARMERS' ADVOCATE

Vol. 2] DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY. [No. 10

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Editor & Proprietor.

London, November, 1867.

Postage Free.
Office—Dawson & Bro., op. City Hall

EDITOR'S REMARKS.

The Americans put a heavy duty on our exports. Why should we admit their wool, fruit trees and manufactures, on light duty or even none. Let us protect ourselves. It is a strange rule that can only work one way. We see that land is to be had at very low prices in the States, but the taxes are more than the farms would rent for. The debt on New York State alone for the war debt is over six hundred million dollars, independent of the Federal debt. It is equal to a mortgage on every farm in the State, or more than it will sell for. The farmers have to pay this debt, and gladly would thousands sell if they could find fools to buy. In some parts of the States we see that 100 acres can be had for \$13 greenbacks, and believe they would be dear at half the money. Just attend their State fairs as we have done, and that would convince any of you of the superiority of Agricultural advancement in Canada.

We know of Americans that have already come to settle in Canada and more will come. Were our Red River Settlement made available by Railroads or by Canals, in place of the present portages, we think it would soon be filled with settlers. Thousands of dissatisfied Americans would flock there, besides foreign emigration, were the true value of the country known.

We see by the papers that the wheat crop of Wisconsin and Northern Illinois will not exceed twelve bushels per acre. The Spring wheat crop about this part of the country, and to the north of this, we

think, from accounts of the threshing will average about eight bushels. Do we not require a new variety of wheat? We see by exchange papers that it is probable that American silver will be greatly reduced in value by our Legislature. Fifty cent pieces to be made a legal tender at only forty cents, and twenty-five cents to be twenty cents. The reason to be, to get our own money in circulation. When we were in the States we found they would not give near as much for their own silver as for our bills. Farmers, empty out your old stockings or old kegs, and use your money in some way that you will not have a direct loss of 20 per cent on your hoard. We see that cotton goods have declined one-third in value, and that our Canadian tweeds are superseding the imported tweeds. Good for Canada.

Grasshoppers have been so thick in the Western part of Iowa, that the trains were thrown an hour and a half behind time, the Grasshoppers being so thick as to cause the driving wheels to slip on the rails. On one occasion we saw them so thick as to obliterate the sight of a rail fence at ten rods distance. We understand they are moving westward. Could not some inventive genius devise some method of wholesale destruction to them. At the present time our Lakes are nearly hemmed in by net-work to catch fish. The twine the nets are made of is so fine that a man can carry miles of it. Would a frontier protection of grasshopper net of miles in length catch them? Is there no drug to destroy them? Prevention is better than cure. The destruction committed by them in the farming districts is almost incalculable.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

The weather was all that could be desired? The busiest season was over and the farmers of Canada never had more money at their disposal. The buildings were already erected, still the attendance of visitors and exhibitors was far short of what it was four years ago in Kingston. Some journalists say it has been a success, can they account for the falling off in attendance. Have we a smaller population than formerly? We will give our reasons, and if any differ with us, let them give theirs to the public, and let the people judge.

We have paid considerable attention to the working of Exhibitions, and in every instance that we have seen, where there has been favoritism, partiality or injustice carried on for a series of years, the inhabitants become dissatisfied, and gradually withdraw their support, and the interest dies out. Others, even in small places, where the Managers try to act fairly to all, are succeeding. Errors in judgment are overlooked, if they are not wilful, but the attempt to trample down and oppress any gives just cause of complaint and the dissatisfaction spreads.

Such is believed to be the cause of the falling off in attendance at the Provincial Exhibition. For a length of time some have tried to overcome the difficulty, but nothing will do it but an Act of Parliament.

Much good has been done by the Provincial Exhibition, and much more may be done, if a proper system is adopted. We hope to see it more prosperous than it

has been heretofore. In London a good Exhibition was held, but since then it has been degenerating. The Exhibition held in the Village of Strathroy, in many ways surpassed the last Provincial Fair. We have visited none that was more successful. The principal acting parties are farmers, and they are endeavoring to act fairly to all, and every one takes an interest in it. The Strathroy Exhibition is gaining in quite as great a ratio as the Provincial is losing, and if each continue to advance and retrograde as they respectively have done for the past two years, in 1870 the Strathroy will distance the Provincial Fair.

We expect steps will be taken to prevent the Provincial Exhibition from descending lower than it now is in the eyes of the public. The number of things exhibited at Kingston was small in comparison to previous Exhibitions, but in regard to the quality of the sheep, and Durham and Ayrshire cattle, this year's show was good. Machinery, roots, fruits, hogs, Devons, horses and poultry were not as good as formerly, nor was the fine arts or ladies work as well represented. We noticed a new kind of a harrow which we thought might be useful. It consisted of the usual number of bills, each having two iron bars through them, going half way to the adjoining bill. These are attached by a piece of cast iron about the size of an egg, having a hole in each end to admit the iron rods. The whole is kept together by two chains passing through each bill and tightened by a nut. The advantages are lightness and simplicity. They require no morticing, and are easily repaired, they are made by Israel Kinney, of Woodstock, Ontario.

We noticed a prize ticket attached to an implement called a potato digger, such an implement as we are fully convinced would be no better than a double mould board plough.

Two new kinds of wheat were on exhibition (new to us at least) but we saw no prize ticket on either. We shall speak of seeds in future, as we have been endeavoring to ascertain as much as possible about that department, and it is of great importance to us. We also saw some excellent spinning and weaving machines that are a decided improvement on the old system. The ladies exhibited some very nice wax work, hair work and fancy work, and some fair paintings.

Mr. Snell exhibited a very large Leicester, probably the largest ever shown in America, the weight of the animal being 445 lbs. He purchased an imported Cotswold ram from Mr. Cochrane for the sum of \$500. Mr. Davis of Richmond Hill, was offered \$1000 for a span of carriage horses.

One class of animals were not as well represented as we think they might have been, we mean the M. P.'s and M. P. P.'s. We noticed one powerful specimen in this class, but we think one owned in Middlesex should have been there. His fine portly form would have been a credit to the Exhibition.

We heard a complaint made by one of the principal exhibitors of stock. It was that the exhibitors of horses were charged for the stabling, and the occupants of the large building were charged nothing. We think this hardly right. Another exhibitor complains that he was not allowed to remove his contribution to the exhibition that has gained no prize, and the prize animals are allowed to be taken away before the close. This is also wrong. Why should a non-recipient of a prize be detained on expenses, while the recipient of prizes are allowed to remove their stock. We have in a previous number given a long list of the improper management and we can add much to it if it were necessary to do so, which we will not touch on at present, and refer to the account the *Canada Farmer* gives. We extract the following from that paper for Oct. 1st.

"The Annual Exhibition of the Agricultural Association of Ontario has just come off, having been held in Kingston during the past week. Taking everything into account, and especially making due allowance for the place of meeting, the affair may very properly be pronounced a success. Of course locality very much affects a thing of this kind, and it were unreasonable to expect so good a show at the extreme points East and West as at the centre. Kingston is, from local disadvantages, the poorest place for the Provincial Exhibition of the four at which we are accustomed to hold it; and although the one just over has been greatly in advance of its predecessors, we very much question if the receipts of the present year will do more than defray expenses. On the last occasion of the kind at Kingston, the Association lost some \$2,000. At Toronto and Hamilton, handsome profits are obtained when favorable weather is had, and it is not a little vexatious that what is made one year at a central, convenient, accessible point, should be sunk the fol-

lowing year through the remoteness of the place of exhibition. We believe that every year, weather permitting, the Provincial Show, held at Toronto, would be a paying concern, and it is a subject the farmers of Ontario would do well to consider, whether hereafter it might not be desirable to fix it as one of the permanent institutions of the metropolis and seat of Government. We can readily anticipate the objections to such a proposition, but, query; would not the greatest good to the greatest number be secured in this way? If so, that ought to settle the point. Many advantages would result from the course we have suggested, especially those connected with commodious and permanent buildings, which it would be easy to secure, if the exhibition were always held at the centre."

We in the West consider the editor of that Journal has for a long time attempted to slight us, and has kept our enterprise and progress as much in the dark as possible, and further that its main aim has been to center every thing at Toronto, and shield the negligence and omissions that occur there. Had he wished to give a truthful account, he would have included London among the places where the Exhibition has been held with success. Taking it on the whole, we consider that the last Exhibition held in London was the best ever held in the Province. Perhaps the Reverend editor has a special dislike to London, because his own real estate speculations there proved a failure.

The Prince of Wales might have drawn a large gathering to Hamilton; but for Agricultural purposes alone no. Provincial Exhibition in Canada has excelled the last held here, Rev. W. F. Clarke to the contrary notwithstanding. We have noticed the desire of the Torontonians to center every thing they can there for many purposes. We admit that the locality is good, but for Agriculture there are many other places more advantageously situated, having large, fertile tracts of land on every side of them, whereas Toronto is bounded on one side by the Lake and on the other with inferior land.

The Provincial Exhibition will move from place to place, and to more places than it now does, as it acts as a great stimulus to improvement. There will also be an Agricultural Emporium established in some locality.

To Councillors, or to County or joint County Agricultural Societies that wish to raise the most valuable stock of horses, Anglo-Saxon may be engaged for the ensuing season.

SPRING WHEAT.

This is a subject that no journalist in Canada likes to touch on at the present time. If the crop was good we should hear it exaggerated as those things are sure to be talked about, and people like to hear good accounts, but it should be the duty of all to let the truth be known, whether good or bad. If we have fine crops people may remain contented, and the country may prosper, but if bad, it is the duty of every one to agitate the question, and look for a remedy. We all know the immense loss that the country has sustained by continuing to sow the Soule's variety, long after the observant portion of the community knew of the danger. This year we have not seen a single field of any kind of Spring wheat that is a paying crop. Some fields look very well while growing, but the yield has been very poor from them, and it is our duty to state these facts and induce discussions and communications on the subject. We believe that new varieties are needed continuously in the country, as no variety has been yet found to stand cultivation for many years in succession. Many that do not know the state of the country, say it is from bad cultivation of the land, but we speak from facts and experience, and say, that with the best tilling, draining and manuring the soil may get, it does not prevent blights, blights, insects, &c., or gradual failing of every variety brought forward, and the best farmers have to abandon them after a few years. This is a very important subject, and we hope some of our farmers will show themselves alive to the necessity of giving us further information about it. Consider what we have said, and send in your observations and suggest your plans at once. This paper is open for you. You may benefit yourselves and the country by using it.

In our September number we spoke of a variety of Spring wheat which was new to us and was yielding well, we asked if there was any quantity to be had, and if any Secretary of an Agricultural Society would oblige us by giving some information about it. The wheat has a very long beard—is thick set in the head—has a stiff straw—is of a light color—hard to grind, and the quality of the flour is inferior, but the quantity per bushel large, and the yield per acre also large. We have not received a written communi-

cation from any one about it yet. We made enquiries respecting it, but have only seen four persons that have any to spare, one lives in Prince Edward's Co., and is asking \$3 per bushel; the 2nd person lives near Kingston, and two live in this County, all speak of it as being the best Spring wheat to raise. We do not know the right name, but we hear them call it the following:—Chilian, Minnesota, Barley wheat, and Spring Midge Proof. They all admit it to be Midge Proof, and each one tells us that their neighbours want what they have to spare, and in fact they will not sell to us unless we pay them 25 cents more per bushel for the whole, preferring to sell at a less price to their neighbours by the single bushel. The prices asked us in Prince Edward's is \$3 per bushel, add to that carriage, bags, loss by weighing out in small quantities, bursting of bags, storage, and use of cash. We do not think it judicious to purchase unless we receive orders to do so. Last fall all the wheat we purchased was sold, except the Deihl, that we had to sell at much less than cost to the miller, we had but little, but more than there was a demand for. We do not know as yet where our supply is to come from, we may have to send to Minnesota, so that parties wishing us to procure some for them we must send their orders in in time; cannot say what the price will be. We hope to be able to procure it in some part of Canada without sending to the States for it. We have also heard the Rio Grande wheat is yielding well. We should feel obliged if some one that has raised it would furnish us with accounts about it, and the price it may be had for.

We went to New York State Agricultural Exhibition, also to Michigan, East Middlesex, West Middlesex and London Township Exhibition, to notice the stock, seeds and implements. At each we could only see one of the kinds that we spoke about, the Midge Proof Spring Wheat, that was at Kingston, and one sample at East Middlesex, none to be seen except the common varieties of Spring wheat at either of the other places. Some peas, and Fall wheat, new varieties to us, was on exhibition, we wished to find the proprietor or owner, but could not, although we visited the grain spoken of a dozen times; this may convince some of the parties that have opposed the Emporium plans, because it would interfere with the

Exhibition. That this Emporium plan does not interfere with the Exhibition, but is intended to fill a place that is much needed, namely: a means of supplying the demands of the Agricultural community at any time. What we have already done should convince every reasonable and unprejudiced farmer that our labour and undertaking is for their benefit, and should aid the undertaking by paying for the paper that many have been reading for nearly two years, without adding one cent towards paying for the printing; and those that have not received it, should at once subscribe for it.

Since writing the above we have been able to procure two small lots of the Chilian wheat, one of which we got from Mr. G. Sharer of Westminster. He raised this year on two acres of land from four bushels of seed 64 bushels. The other sample we got from Mr. J. Martin, who raised 40 bushels from one and a half acres of land. The other varieties of Spring wheat in that part of the country, turning out but from three to seven bushels per acre.

We quote below the yield of Spring wheat as near as we have the means of ascertaining.

	Bushels per acre.	Average here.
Baltic Wheat.....	5 to 12	9
Fife.....	8 to 16	7
Club.....	4 to 18	7
Rio Grande.....	12 to 16	14
Chilian.....	26 to 32	the only report heard of.

We would feel obliged to the Secretary of any Agricultural Society to furnish us with more correct statements, and to inform us of any good seeds that may be yielding well in their neighborhoods, and if any of the Chilian Wheat or Barley Wheat can be had in their section of the country.

NEW YORK STATE FAIR.

Having visited Michigan, the Provincial, New York, East Middlesex, West Middlesex, and London Township Exhibitions this Fall. We shall have to revert to them occasionally, as we wish to call attention to different things and different management in future numbers. We have not space in this small paper to give you the prize lists of each show, but we hope to be able to increase its size and issue supplements for such in next year's numbers.

In our last we touched on the Michigan State Fair, we will now make a few remarks about the New York State Fair. Being in Buffalo it was easily accessible for Canadians. The ground occupied was spacious, but the buildings are not at all to compare with our buildings for such purposes. Canvass tents

and temporary buildings of the commonest kind, made from hemlock half inch boards were erected there, and the contents of most of them were far behind our Exhibition in London two years since. Their show was not equal to ours in Horses, Durhams, Ayrshires, Galloway's or Hereford cattle; Leicester or Cotswold sheep, nor in improved Berkshire hogs. They excel us in Alderney cattle, as we have none that we are aware of; also in Merino sheep they have the advantage and are welcome to it, as we are satisfied that our long wools are a more useful and profitable sheep, both in regard to wool and mutton. The Americans themselves are also satisfied that we have the best, and many would like to get ours, but our prices for really good, well-bred sheep cause them to withhold for a time, although many have purchased, and many more are intending to as soon as they can afford it.

Their show of hogs was inferior to ours, except in the Chester whites. They appear, like the merinos, to be favorites with them. They had a large show of that class, and really fine large animals, but are longer maturing than our improved Berkshires. We have no more fear of their surpassing us in hogs, than of their Marinos surpassing our sheep for profit. Their show of Poultry was not equal to ours in London.

We noticed among the Poultry coops a cage of white cats, marked first prize. We could see no reason why they should be awarded a prize. They looked like common cats but rather dirtier. What advantage the color could be we fail to see.

The Roots, and Horticultural department were poorly represented. The grain to our surprise contained cockle chess, &c., and still we noticed prize tickets on such samples. There was very little grain shown.

Large quantities of flour, and immense quantities of salt were on exhibition, but we were unable to judge of either. Their great display was in implements—they excel us in this department. American genius and invention is behind none, and the many labor-saving machines to be seen would occupy the whole of our paper for one year to particularize to the satisfaction of all exhibitors. A few we will notice of importance, one which we think will be highly useful to dairymen. It is a small wheel turned by the water that runs from the cheese vat, and causes a light rake to be constantly agitating the milk in the vat—to prevent the cream raising. By this simple contrivance the milk can be kept in the vat over night, or over Sunday.

There were three ditching machines on the ground, two of which were large and expensive, one costing between two and three hundred dollars, and would require a small barn to stow it away in; but to the honor of our country Mr. Carter of Almyer, Elgin County, carried off the diploma from the Americans with a small simple ditching machine worked by two horses, and one man, and costing but \$65. He informed us he had received orders for 30 of them there and as many in Kingston. We also noticed

ploughs and harrows attached to two wheels, whereby the laborer can sit and drive his team and cultivate the soil. There were several potato diggers on the ground, but we should like to see some of them tried before condemning or praising them. As for washing machines, churns, sewing machines, and all manner of small fixings they were legion, and many were highly commendatory. There were some good and useful apple grinding and cider presses on the ground, but Mr. Sells of Vienna had one that appeared to give as much satisfaction as any. We spoke to fruit men about them, and they informed us that the only deficiency in these small machines is, that the screw and frame-work require to be heavier to enable them to put on a greater pressure, then they will excel all others that are yet made. The Stove department was the most complete part of the exhibition. The varieties of cooking and parlor stoves were the best we have ever seen.

On our return we met F. W. Stone of Guelph in the cars. He informed us he had sold six Cotswold sheep at Buffalo for \$900 in gold. We enquired of him about the shipment, duty, &c. He made no complaint about the duty as that was the law, but he justly complained about the neglect, indifference and detestable officiousness of some parties who have the charge of the entry business. \$1 for charges from some, and \$3 50 for others. Parties acting as if they would rather detain a person for a day or two than let them go. We have experienced some of these annoyances and may touch on them when we have more leisure. We think if the duties are paid, that most of these catchpenny dodges practised by some officials should be discontinued, and fair and reasonable charges should only be made, and less detention and hindrance of business.

There were immense bills circulated throughout the country giving notice of the State Fair, which said a procession of prize animals would take place on Friday at 10 o'clock, but the majority of them had left the ground the previous day. The weather was fine and the attendance good, and the fair was considered a success. The horse department monopolized the lion's share of cash and attention.

One little incident while there, caused us to think and much pleased us. While walking along the side of sheds containing the Alderney cattle, a well-dressed lady was a little way in front of us, and one of the Alderney cows put her head over the railing. The lady stroked it two or three times on the side of its face with her gloved hand, saying at the same time, you nice old cow I would like to take you home with me. This little scene contrasted greatly with what we saw in Kingston when the horses were being shown; one female might have been seen, seated in one of the vehicles, riding round the ring, exposing her rolling eyes to the gaze of the multitude—young Canada is bound to be ahead in some things. We could easily place the person admiring the cow as a lady, and one who might be making a selection for her daughter as a marriage portion.

The worst feature that marred the satisfaction of Canadians was the awarding of the second prize to Mr. Stone's Durham bull. It was considered by disinterested parties to be highly deserving of the 1st prize. But our Canadian long-wooled sheep carried nearly everything before them. More at leisure.

A SLUR.

Extract from the *Canada Farmer* of Oct. 15th.

"The New York State Fair held in Buffalo, is very like a Canadian Provincial Exhibition held in London or Kingston. The point is extreme, and too many are inconvenienced, &c."

Truth, fair play and justice is what we want and what the editor of the above named paper does not want us to have. Farmers of Canada, is it right that London should be classed with Kingston? Does this show that justice is intended to the Province, to omit giving credit where credit is due? The editor's ideas cannot extend beyond the city walls in which he is pent up. An attempt is made to center everything in Toronto. We do not say that Toronto has no claims to set up for the Exhibition to be permanently established there, but we say they have greatly abused the power they have, and deserve but little encouragement in their attempt to monopolize the great salaries paid there. We would ask what good is being done by them? One person receives £3,000 per annum from government and for what? We cannot tell you unless it is as correspondent for the *Canada Farmer*. We have never received one cent, and we think our little journal will compare favorably with the *Canada Farmer* for usefulness. We have disseminated more stock and seeds than the whole of the paid officials at the Agricultural Hall.

Middlesex has many claims that should not have been overlooked by the editor of the *Canada Farmer*. The best Agricultural Exhibition ever held in Canada was there; the best horse in Canada is owned there; several fine herds of Durham cattle are there. The largest herd of Devons in Canada, is owned there; good Ayrshire and Galloway cattle are there. No township in Canada can surpass the London Township in numbers of fine Leicester sheep. The best pair of Cotswold ewes were owned here. No county can excel this for improved Berkshire hogs. Our poultry have long carried off the prizes. Seed grain has been circulated this Fall from this County over a greater part of the Province, than from any other. In fruit and roots we can compare favorably with any.

The farmers of Middlesex are already talking of independent action but they wish to act fairly with other sections of the country, but the gross injustice practised has already caused some to withdraw from the Provincial Exhibition; and the *Canada Farmer* is looked upon as a supporter of injustice, and as a detriment rather than an assistant to our Agricultural prosperity. There is undoubtedly some good in the paper, the quality of paper is good,

the size is large, and some engravings are attractive, but there is a great lack of practical information in it which is not to be wondered at, when we find that the editor and most of the writers for it know nothing about farming, having spent their lives in the city.

We may have blamed George Brown for more than is his due, as we find the Rev. editor of the *Canada Farmer* has the whole management of that paper. If Mr. Brown were to engage the assistance of some really practical person, that would act fairly to the country, we should not have started this paper. Our aim has been for the advancement and prosperity of the Dominion.

TO THE MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT OF ONTARIO.

GENTLEMEN:—Four years ago we suggested the plan of establishing an Agricultural Emporium for disseminating the best stock, seeds and implements. It was spoken of by those capable of judging to be a most beneficial undertaking. We have since been laboring to the utmost of our means and abilities to get it into successful operation, which we have at length succeeded in doing, having disseminated stock and seed throughout the Dominion that must materially add to our export receipts. We have been at heavy expense in procuring and trying different kinds of seeds, and in spreading good stock. To bring these plans forward we found it necessary to establish an agricultural paper, which all know must occupy much time and required a large sum of money. We feel confident that with assistance we can make the Emporium and the paper both useful to the country as well as profitable. There exists no law by which we could form a joint stock company for carrying out our plans above spoken of.

We request that an Act be passed allowing the formation of a joint stock company to establish the Agricultural Emporium. In addition to the above we have suffered heavy losses in timber, land and law expenses, caused by the law of limitation, for which we have received no remuneration. We have received no benefit or favor directly or otherwise from the present Agricultural Board in Toronto nor from the Government. We therefore request that the loan of a small sum may be granted to enable us to carry out to a greater extent the plans already commenced, hoping that you may not fail to see the utility of the undertaking nor to allow a voluntary public servant to be unrewarded, especially one who has suffered much loss by the existing laws of the country, without blame on his part.

The Treasurer of the West Middlesex Agricultural Society, (Mr. Keefer,) requests us to notify the several Township's Societies in West Middlesex, and the holders of prize tickets at the County Show, that he has received the Government County grant in aid of agriculture, and is prepared to pay the Township Societies and prize list of 1867.

PERHAPS YOU MAY.

About four years ago we suggested the propriety of establishing a Farmer's Bank, as the farmers could not get accommodation at the Banks when they most wanted it. When two or three more of our Banks fail, or a little pressure sets in and you are again shut out from any accommodation, by our Banks dabbling in American securities or barren rocks, and you have to suffer loss on the bills you circulate or accept as payment for your produce—then Perhaps You May say we will have a Bank. The Middlesex Insurance Company is as successful and as safe as any other. It is doing the business that used to be done by others. It is managed by farmers. We have made other suggestions that some of you considered of importance. Every one that reads this paper has power to assist our plans or help its circulation. Perhaps You May!

SEED PEAS.

MR. EDITOR:—I send by express a sample of the peas you wrote for, their proper name is, the Crown pea. I got into the seed of them from about one pint, and the third year I grew them I had eighty-seven bushels. For the last three years I have grown no other kind, as I consider them superior to any other variety. I have raised over 40 bushels per acre, but think from thirty to thirty-five about the average yield. The straw if well saved, I find nearly equal to hay—all stock eat it clean. My sheep will eat it in preference to the best clover hay. Another great advantage they possess is, they do not lie down like other peas. If the ground is rolled they can all be mowed. For the last two years I have cut the greater part of mine with my mower, this year I fixed a table to my mowing bar and with a boy cut seven acres in less than a day, leaving all bunched for hauling. They require better ground than the common pea; being a short vine variety never growing more than two and a half feet long. I have now one vine bearing thirty-two pods and have found over forty pods from a single pea.

I have them perfectly pure, as I grow no other kind and expect to have about two hundred bushels; which you can have at \$1 per bushel. I have never been able to supply the demand. I have sent them from Toronto to Michigan, and have never met a person who got from me that was not satisfied when they threshed.

I would not like to thresh at present as I would have to put my straw out as I threshed it, but could fill orders after the first of January, and can ship per rail to you.

I remain Sir,
Yours respectfully, J. C. R.

A NEW AGRICULTURAL ACT.—The Board of Agriculture has notified the several County Agricultural Societies in Ontario to send each one delegate to a meeting of the Board to be held in Toronto at 2 p. m. on the 12th day of November, to confer with said Board relative to a new Agricultural Bill.

Profitable Farming.

John Johnston's remarkable success as a farmer might be attributed to his underdraining, and to the large quantity of plaster he used for many years on clover. But this would only be a partial statement of the truth. His success is owing, first, to the man himself,—to his rare good judgment, combined with indomitable energy, persevering industry, close observation, and prompt, intelligent action. Second, to underdraining. Third, to the free use of plaster on clover. Fourth, to consuming all the clover, straw, and corn, on the farm. He has raised 3,000 bushels of corn in a year, but none has ever been exported from the farm except some which he gave to be sent to Ireland at the time of the famine. He never sold a bushel. It has all been fed out with the clover, straw, stalks, etc., raised on the farm. In addition to this, he has bought large quantities of oil-cake to feed sheep and cattle, and this has added greatly to the quality of the manure heap. Fifth he bestowed great care on his summer-fallows. They are not allowed to grow up to weeds, but were repeatedly plowed and harrowed, and rolled and cultivated, until the stiffest clay was reduced almost to as fine a tilth as an English turnip field. Such thorough tillage is itself more than an equivalent to a heavy dressing of our common manure.

Underdraining enabled him to work his land thoroughly and in good season. This thorough tillage set free the latent plant-food in the soil. The clover took it up and organized it into good food for sheep. The sheep extracted the fat from the clover hay, and left the nitrogen and mineral matter in the manure heap. So of the corn, straw, and stalks. They all found their way back to the land, with oil-cake in addition. It is easy to understand why his land is vastly more productive than when it first came into his possession. Underdraining, good culture, and good manure will make any land rich.—*American Agriculturist.*

Communications.

For the Farmer's Advocate.

MR. EDITOR.—Dear Sir:—

It appears that certain persons in the western counties, are selling to bee-keepers what they call "a bee charm." Now allow me to say through the *Advocate* that bees cannot be charmed, and whoever sells a bee charm is a swindler—obtaining money under false pretense, and should at once be brought before the authorities. Doubtless some unprincipled fellow has visited the late Michigan Fair, and seeing Mr. Flander's of Ohio, gulling the people by selling "a bee charm," have

concluded to try the "dodge" on Canadian bee-keepers. I hope however that Canadian bee-keepers will not part with their money for that which is utterly worthless. If the bee-keeper wishes to examine his bees, he has only to blow into the hive a few puffs of smoke of any kind, and rap on the hive a few times and the bees will fill themselves with honey, when they may be examined or handled with perfect safety. Let all bee-keepers obtain some practical work on the Bee and during the long winter evenings read up, making themselves acquainted with their nature and habits, and they will soon see the folly of all "bee charms" and be prepared to manage their bees upon scientific principals. J. H. THOMAS.

Brooklin, Ontario.

[We think it our duty to expose all useless humbugs, that are attempting to palm off worthless preparations of any kind, on the farmers; those that read the above will be cautioned, and it will save them the price of the paper in cash, and four times as much in time. Should they meet any of those bee charmers have nothing to do with them, Mr. Thomas is a reliable person and thoroughly understands the bee business, and is well known to most bee-keepers, and has fearlessly come forward and exposed this deceptive plan and deserves credit for it. Ed.]

COMMUNICATED.

MR. EDITOR.—We on the Ottawa river appear to live in what; to the majority of Western Farmers is a "Terra Incognita." I have just returned from a trip to the neighborhood of St. Thomas, near London and finding your sheet at home before me I thought a few remarks about our crops, &c., might not be unacceptable to some of your readers, more especially as the majority of persons with whom I conversed when in your neighborhood evinced an almost total ignorance of our Eastern portion of Ontario.

The prevalent idea so far as I ascertained, appears to be, that all the Ottawa country is one vast forest, with here and there clearances where the land is so rocky that in order to live the settler must spend six months out of the twelve in a lumber shanty. Now I want to disabuse the minds of some of your people, Mr. Editor of this idea, and to tell them that in my own township of Fitzroy I have seen and can point out now, better crops of swede Turnips and Mangold Wurzel, than any I saw when away from home.—We do not as a general thing grow much

fall wheat, but I think this season our spring grain will average fully 5 bushels to the acre more than what I have heard of with you.

Peas and Oats have also been an abundant crop here,—the latter are really a staple commodity all through this country, on account of the great demand to supply the lumbering establishments, many of which keep from 50 to 100 teams of horses in the woods from the commencement of snow to the breaking up of the river in the spring.

Then again can we be so far behind the age, when we have actually in course of construction "a cheese factory," when the milk of 500 cows will the coming spring be manufactured into cheese.

You will pardon the vanity which compels me before I close to say that we have a river, the one from which this valley takes its name, that for magnificence of scenery has no rival in the west, its worth too, as a motive power for machinery cannot be estimated, and the ridge of mountains skirting its northern shores are I think destined to prove of more value for their minerals than they have been hither for the timber which once covered their rugged sides.

A "FITZROY" SUBSCRIBER.

Fitzroy, Russell Co., Ontario, Oct. '67.

A few Hints on Gardening Operations for October.

This arrived too late for the October number, but there are useful hints in it that may not be too late for some of our readers.

This is the tree planting month of the fall season. Everything in that way done now, or even prepared for the spring is so much time saved from that busy season.

The earlier planting is done in the fall the better, as it is a well settled fact in American gardening that the way frost acts in destroying fall planted trees is by excessive evaporation, by which the moisture is dried out of them, and this is to be obviated by shelter from cold winds, protection from the sun, and pruning; never omitting to strip the leaves from a tree instantly it is dug up. Forest trees intended for spring planting can be dug up now and "heeled in" in the woods, having their heads well cut back with a sharp axe, for the reason given above.

Now is the time to do all sorts of ground work, grading, road making, sodding &c.

Hyacinths, Tulips, Crocuses and other

hardy Dutch bulbs which were taken up in June, after having done flowering, should now be planted again. Well decomposed surface soil from the woods makes an excellent compost for them.

Hardy Herbaceous plants such as Phloxes, Chinese Peonies &c. &c., can be propagated now by dividing the roots, care being taken to cover the newly planted beds with leaves or litter to prevent the frost drawing them out of the ground.

Dahlias should be taken up and stowed away in a dry cellar. A. P.

AGRICULTURAL FAIRS REVIEWED.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Oct. 4, 1867.

Extracted from the New-York Weekly Tribune, our readers can draw their own inferences from it.

For the benefit of the New-York State Fair, or rather for the benefit of New-York farmers, as well as the farming community in general, I propose to review the management and character of the Fair just closed at this place.

As it has been held with greater pretensions, and produced greater results in money, than any preceding one, its managers can well afford to be reviewed, because they undoubtedly feel peculiarly independent of public opinion. At any rate, they have braved it most brazenly during the past week, caring apparently for nothing but the money, that flowed into their hands in extraordinary quantities.

As usual, the great, lying, attractive show-bills have been spread over the State, promising the people a grand entertainment and instructive school of agriculture at Buffalo during the first week of October. Some innocent individuals who read these preliminary advertisements really suppose they are going to see several palatial structures, which had been erected for the magnificent accommodation of those who exhibited their wares, as well as the on-lookers. There were the "Domestic Hall," "Dairy Hall," "Mechanics Hall," "Floral Hall," "Vegetable Hall," and how many others I cannot tell. Then there were the rooms of the President, Secretary, Treasurer, General Superintendent, and Superintendants of Departments; the business office, and ticket office, and police office; the grand dining-room of the officers of the Society; and last, but not least in this grandiloquent catalogue of what has been provided for the comfort of the piped part of this show, was the superb structure, over whose portal the public read, "For the Press." That signment simply this: Here is where drinking men and women meet and guzzle free liquors, furnished by men who contribute it to make capital to break down the Excise law. This room "for the Press," the only decently fitted up one on the ground, was simply a bar-room, Irish grocery, or common rum-hole, a store-house where the Buffalo rum-sellers' liquor was delt out with a free hand to both gentlemen and ladies!! God save the mark! for I saw those who were dressed like ladies, drink off a half a tumbler full of whisky at a quaff. There was not a place that would save goods from destruction in a

severe rain storm, and many things were damaged by a small shower; while all the receipts of the Fair (\$21,500,) great as they were, would not cover the injury from the clouds of fine clay dust, which hung like a thick sea-fog over the race track inclosing all these great "halls," and along the single narrow road by which all vehicles and pedestrians came to the gates. When the races were held on the same ground the managers contracted for \$200 to have the dust laid completely. When the managers of the State Fair were receiving money by tens of thousands of dollars they could not, or did not, expend one dollar to lay the dust, which ruined many fine bonnets and dresses of visitors, as well as many things on exhibition.

Beside the road dust "Floral Hall," which should have been floored, had the ground covered an inch deep with turners' chips and sawdust, and as soon as the crowd was admitted this flooring was ground into an impalpable woody powder, and that mixed with the fine white clay of the dry earth, for it was sodless, and the whole rose up hour after hour, and day after day, until the place was absolutely unfit for any human being. Flowers and fruits, and people, were all one color—all white dust. The Pleasant Valley Fruit Growers Association of Hammondsport, Steuben County, N. Y., had the best show of grapes probably ever made at any State Fair. The fruit was worth for market, when put upon the 150 plates, at least \$150. I doubt whether it would have sold for a 150 cents when the Fair closed. Other exhibitors of fruit and flowers suffered proportionate losses vexation, disappointment, and chagrin. Yet \$20 would have paid for the use of lumber for a floor, or \$5, would have paid a man to keep the dust sprinkled; provided he could get water, which was so scarce on the ground that men and beasts suffered, and men said they drank rum, wine or beer because they could get no other liquid. The stock suffered constantly, for their tubs were emptied faster than the slow carts could fill, and so were the water casks, placed here and there for people to drink. Besides, as they stood open and near the dusty road, there was a constant need of using one of those filters before the water was fit for drink.

In short, in every respect the whole ground, and all the arrangements, were the most unfit, inconvenient, uncomfortable, unsightly, unsatisfactory, that were ever selected, devised or used for any agricultural fair ever held on earth. The whole arrangement completely illustrated the term "higgledy-piggledy." I only repeat what I heard constantly repeated. "There never was a more inefficient set of officers." "The concern has no head." Yes it has. They are all heads, and that's what's the matter." "I should say all tail and darned small at that." "At any rate, the arrival is always tail foremost." There is neither head nor tail, body nor soul, life nor aught that, is worth preserving about the present organization of the New-York State Agricultural Society. The only object now is how to get money under false pretenses. Buffalo was assessed \$9,000 for the glory of having this Fair located here. The pretence was that all these "halls" would cost that sum. I forgot to mention that a great number of stalls

for horses and cattle, and pens for sheep and pigs, were erected. I herd one man say, who took pains to count, that just one-fourth of those were occupied by beasts, and that he found some of the closed horse-stalls occupied by worse than beasts—male and female.

The exhibition of stock is not a farmer's exhibition. It is made by men who breed fancy stock as a genteel speculating business, and use and have for years used the State Fair as an advertising medium. Every notice they get in the paper by this means is clear gain. It was heralded far and wide that one Vermont man had a ram at the Fair, valued at \$8,000. Of course his name and post-office address was given, so that those who want high-priced grease and wrinkles would know where to apply. I have mentioned only one herd of cattle, and that only because I know it is for the interest of a great many people to become better acquainted with the Alderney breed, which has been overslaughed and demeaned by the "Short Horn interest." I write for the benefit of farmers, not fancy breeders, nor for the glorification of managers of agricultural fairs. I know that something better than the present organization is needed. I want to see State Fairs made for the people. I am tired of seeing the people used to fill pockets which yield no good fruit to the honest farmer. It is time now for them to take the matter in hand and hold fairs for their own benefit. Let us have no mere shows, but actual fairs, such as are held in Europe, where everybody who has anything to sell, swap, or buy, can go, and thus make such meetings useful and profitable. To save us from the disgrace of having a State Agricultural Society, with headquarters in Albany, that offers its annual exhibitions to the town which will bid the highest for it, let us have one, two, or three, if necessary, permanent locations and decent buildings. Let us hear of no more black-mail levied upon our town for such accommodations as we have seen erected. Let the New-York State Agricultural Society cease to exist if it is dependent upon subscriptions of rum-sellers, brothels, and gambling-houses for its support. These are only given because the fair draws victims into their dens. It is time that fairs supported by such means and conducted upon such free rum principles as this one just closed were suppressed by the people. As at present managed they are not intended to serve the farmers nor advance agricultural improvements half as much as they are to get money from the man for the use of a few.

GOING TO THE DISTRICT SCHOOL.

Barefooted boy and little girl,
She with rosy cheek and curls,
His a forehead brown with tan,
Sturdy little farmer man.

Old straw hat, with broken rim,
Is the least that troubles him,
As the dinner-pail he swings,
Full of mother's choicest things.

Happy little pair are they,
Chatting blithely on the way,
In the morning fresh and cool,
Going to the district school.

From the shady farm-house door,
Mother watches, till no more,
She can follow—out of sight.
They are gone, her heart's delight.

Can you see them sitting there,
On the benches hard and bare,
Tired feet swinging to and fro,
Counting o'er the lessons low?

Sitting at the noon of school,
By the gurgling streamlet cool,
'Mong the brakes and bending trees,
Eating up the bread and cheese!

Or, with merry laugh and shout,
When the boys and girls go out,
Books and pencils cast away,
See them jump, and swing and play.

Hark! the ferule on the pane,
Rap, and rap, and rap again,
Rushing in with cheeks aglow,
Half reluctantly they go.

Glide the busy hours away,
Till the warm sun's westerly ray
Slants across the open door,
And the hours of school are o'er.

Happy, healthy girl and boy,
Full of simple, careless joy,
Free from tyrant fashion's rule,
Going to the district school.

LONDON MARKETS.

LONDON, Nov. 1, 1887.

Fall Wheat, per bushel	.....\$1.45 to \$1.65
Spring Wheat do	..... 1.37½ to 1.45
Barley do	..... 60 to 73
Oats do	..... 40 to 42
Peas do	..... 70 to 73
Corn do	..... 60 to 70
Rye do	..... 75 to 85
Hay, per ton	..... \$8.00 to \$10.00
Butter, prime, per lb.	..... 12½ to 18
Butter, keg, per lb.	..... 12½ to 14
Eggs, per dozen	..... 12½ to 15
Flour, per 100 lbs	..... 3.75 to 4.25
Wool	..... 25
Mutton, per lb., by quarter	..... 5 to 6
Potatoes, per bushel	..... 37½ to 50
Apples, per bushel	..... 40 to 75
Pork, per cwt.	..... 4.50 to 5.00
Hides, per lb.	..... 7
Sheep Skins	..... 40 to 75

New Advertisements.

WANTED.

A GIRL to do general housework. Liberal wages given. Apply at the residence of M. D. Dawson, Clarence Street, between Bathurst and Horton Sts.

NOTICE.

ANY PERSON HAVING ANY GOOD Chilian Wheat, Rio Grande Wheat, CROWN PEAS, NEW BRUNSWICK SEEDLINGS, GOODERICH & GARNER CHILLIE POTATOES, Are requested to let us know what quantity they may have to spare, the price, and if perfectly clean. We had an application for two car loads of Spring Wheat for seed, and two car loads of breeding Ewes, for an Agricultural Society in Illinois, last week, but were unable to supply the kinds required. A few grains of seed as a sample can be sent in a letter. Apply at this Office. Prices published in next number.

MONTREAL VETERINARY SCHOOL

Established under the Patronage of the Board of Agriculture, Province of Quebec, D. C. LECTURES commence on Wednesday, 20th Nov., in the Anatomical Lecture Room of the Medical Faculty of McGill University, Cote Street. Introductory Lecture by D. McEACHRAN, M.R.C.V.S. Subject:—Epidemic Diseases among Horses. Bursaries will be granted by the Board of Agriculture to young men residents of the Province of Quebec, which will enable them to attend free of expense. Special Tickets issued to amateurs for Lectures on Veterinary Medicine and Surgery. For Prospectus, apply to Geo. LECLERE, Secretary Board of Agriculture; or to D. McEACHRAN, Veterinary Surgeon, 639 Craig Street.

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PUBLISHED MONTHLY IN LONDON, D.C.,

POST FREE, Edited by WILLIAM WELD, a practical Farmer. It is devoted to the interest of Agriculture. It treats on the Cultivation of the Soil, the Stock, the Dairy, the Orchard, the Garden, Seeds, Crops, Implements, the Apiary, Agricultural Exhibitions, and Fairs. It was commenced to bring forward the plan and establish the

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It is now necessary for every farmer, who wishes to know about the best kind of Stock, Seeds, and Implements, to take this paper, as the proprietor of the Emporium has spared neither time nor money to procure the best kind to be found. No paper in Canada can furnish you with the first information about the best Stock, etc., as no one else has taken as much pains to obtain this information, as the Editor of the Farmer's Advocate. It will be doubled in size on the 1st of January, 1868.

Engravings will embellish the next year's issue. Supplements and Extras will be published weekly, when necessary, free to subscribers. The price will be raised to \$1 per annum, in clubs

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N. B.—The price of this paper has been 50 cents per annum, if paid in advance, or 75 cents if paid at the end of the year. Gentlemen that have been in receipt of it for 1867 and have not paid for it, will be marked paid by sending in 50 cents before the 1st of December.

Inducements for Parties Getting up Clubs.

THOSE that send in the largest list of paid subscribers before the 1st of December will receive the following presents, in proportion to the numbers sent in by each.

1st LARGEST LIST

One Improved Berkshire Pig and one bushel of the Chilian Wheat. It is a Midge Proof variety. It is very scarce and yields better than any variety we have heard of. Valued at \$14.00.

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One pair of pure Black Spanish Fowls, and two bushels of the Crown Peas, a variety that stands up, can be cut with the mowing machine, are of good quality, yield well and are highly spoken of by those that have tried them. Valued at \$8.00.

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Two bushels of a new kind of Oats imported two years ago, yields 50 bushels per acre, 45 lbs. per bushel, only 2 years raised in the country.

4th LARGEST NUMBER

1 bushel of the New Brunswick Seedling Potatoes, the best croppers we have heard of, and good eating at all times of the year, and not known to rot as other varieties.

5th LARGEST NUMBER

2 bushels of Black Oats, raised from the same kind of seed as was sent to the Paris Exhibition.

6th LARGEST NUMBER

1 bushel Garnet Chille, an excellent potato.

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200,000 CULLED white oak Staves for Pork or on the premises, or Oil Kegs. Apply at this Office.

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Before purchasing American Trees.

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Farmers let us have an Advocate. Supply yourselves and then your neighbors with the best Seeds. You can spend no money better.

Farmers let us have an Agricultural Emporium! Farmers help yourselves and take the Advocate to assist you get up your clubs and gain the prizes.