

and foul as not only to be wholly unfit for seed, but very seriously deteriorated for commercial purposes. If farmers would exercise proper care, not only in selecting the most suitable varieties of grain for their soil, situation, &c., but also take sufficient pains to clean thoroughly the seed and the land in which it is to be sown, the expense of cultivation would be speedily reduced, and the amount of produce augmented to a degree at present inconceivable. A prevalent and fatal error arises from the foolish desire to buy *cheap* seeds, which are necessarily of inferior quality, and often very much intermixed, and which, in their results, will be found *dear at a gift*.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION, 1863.

Reported for the Agriculturist.

The Eighteenth Annual Exhibition of the Agricultural Association for Upper Canada was opened at the city of Kingston on Tuesday, the 22nd of September, on the grounds formerly occupied by the Association. The grounds are extensive and well laid out, and the buildings, for size and accommodation, are equal to any in the Province. The cattle sheds also are commodious and well arranged, and the pens for sheep are the best that have ever been provided, the substitution of neat little doors for bars in front being a decided improvement.

The arrangements about the judges were the same as usual, but, on their meeting to enter upon their duties on Tuesday morning, there was, if anything, more than the usual delay in getting to work, for, as the steamers were fully taken up by the conveyance of troops to and from Toronto, all the articles for exhibition had to be forwarded by the Grand Trunk, which not only caused confusion and delay, but also, it is reported, prevented many things from being sent forward at all. It so happened, therefore, from this, as well as from other causes, that though the number of entries was sufficiently large, there were many vacant stalls and empty tables, and in no department was there anything like the show, as far as quantity goes, that was witnessed at the two previous exhibitions. It cannot be denied that this was partly owing to the locality where it was held, there not being there the same wide extent of good farming country that there is in the Western peninsula, and many of our best breeders in the West not

carrying to undertake the trouble, or to bear the expense and the risk, of conveying their stock for so great a distance. This must not however, be understood to convey the idea either of any reflection upon the farmers in central Canada, or upon the quality of the articles exhibited. Among the exhibitors from about Kingston, we notice several new names, and one or two who have shown great spirit both in breeding and importing; and as to show generally, especially of live stock, though the number of animals was small, the quality was proportionately better, for, of course none but the best were brought forward. Another remark it is but fair to make, and that is that through all the country, from Cobourg eastward, the summer was so remarkably dry that it was difficult to obtain even pasture for the cattle. The consequence was that not only were there few animals in condition for show, but, from the failure of the crops, a depression prevailed among the farmers which had a most injurious effect upon the Exhibition, by preventing many from taking that interest in it which they would otherwise have done.

The weather at the opening of the Exhibition was all that could be desired. A shower on the previous day had put the ground in order, and, at first, everything promised extremely well. Unfortunately, however, Wednesday evening the weather broke, rain set in with extreme cold and high wind, and the consequence was a woful falling of the number of visitors, and a corresponding diminution in the amount of the receipts.

Entering now upon a more detailed review of the principal articles of exhibition in the Agricultural department, we will commence with the noblest of all domesticated animals.

HORSES.

In the show of blood stallions we had this year the finest in what has generally been considered the worst feature in the exhibition. It is true, the number exhibited, being only five, was very great, but so excellent were they all, even in quality, that the judges had some difficulty in coming to a conclusion. Of the five no less than four were recent imports, two from the old country, and two from Kentucky. The former were "The Tester," arrived from England, the property of C. Douglas, Esq., of Oak Ridges, county of York, and "Birdcatcher," imported by Mr. S. Beattie, of Markham, just before the last exhibition, at which he was shown, but in