

The Premiums we see, amount to nearly TWELVE THOUSAND DOLLARS!—The prize list appeared in our last number, and is being sent to Agricultural Societies, Mechanics' Institutes, &c., throughout the Province. Copies can always be obtained by addressing the Secretary of the Board in Toronto.

Complaints have hitherto been made that articles not manufactured in the Province have sometimes been entered by mistake, as home production, contrary to the seventh printed regulation. Every exertion will, for the future be made to carry out this rule in its integrity, as no article can be thereby allowed to compete in our own classes, *unless made in the Province.*

Foreign articles are invited for exhibition, and they will receive diplomas, or special prizes, according to their respective merits.

Correspondence.

PREMIUM AND SEED WHEAT.

NEWCASTLE, 6th June, 1859.

To the Board of Agriculture, Upper Canada.

GENTLEMEN,—Permit me through the *Agriculturist*, to address you upon a subject which I deem of vital importance to the Institution, as upon its management depends its success.

It is a matter of the gravest consideration to know whether the efforts of societies and individuals in promoting competition by the means of premiums, are proving beneficial or not for the purposes intended.

Close observation compels me to say that this is not always the case, and in that of Seed Fall Wheat most particularly so. When I say this I refer directly to the present management of this article by the Association.

Fall Wheat, I emphatically term the very marrow of the country, from and through it this colony as an agricultural one, has obtained the high celebrity which she now holds; the expositions of 1851 and 1855, can fully testify this. If we wish to retain this position, it behoves us one and all to be the more careful in properly nurturing it. Agriculturists of high reputation and gentlemen of philanthropic spirit have not lost sight of this particular.

When the Provincial Association was first formed, the article, Seed Wheat, stood as it now does, the most prominently forward. The Canada Company caught up this spirit, and their yearly munificent gift of \$100 clearly shews it; they knew that in their extensive settlements of the west, by the introduction of the best and most favourable kinds of seed, they were not only conferring a boon upon the farmers, but actually raising the value of their lands from 50 to 100 per cent thereby. The western portion of the country has gained the reputation of producing the best wheat, and consequently first class emigrants settled in these particular localities.

The result of high premiums brought about great competition. Farmers strained every nerve; the greatest skill was brought to bear to produce the best samples, and to such a high state of perfection was this attained, that the judges had the greatest difficulty in deciding which was most worthy, but to get over this difficulty the Association deemed it the most just way to measure and weigh the samples, the heaviest of course taking the first prize. In introducing this system they did not foresee the present results. It is against the system of weighing that I wish to draw your attention; an onlooker has sometimes better opportunities of observing than the officers of an institution, especially at a time when they are most busy, during the days of the exhibition. A superficial observer would consider this system of weighing the most just, but upon close inspection (and I have done so for the last 3 years) the system now employed will not carry out the original intention, the great aim of the Association, viz., to produce the very best seed. Some may incline to differ with me in this, but when I say that close observation and practical results are my guides, I can speak confidently, pointedly. I cannot say what instructions the judges of this article may have from the Association but I have observed the system they adopt. Measure in hand, they proceed from lot to lot, taking down the weight of each one, and when gone through with they sum up