

soll. As we returned from Hamilton we stopped at Ingersoll and walked through the exhibition grounds of this comparatively retired but thrifty part of the country. They do not pretend to equal the London, Guelph or Hamilton Exhibitions, yet in some ways they far surpass them.

Perhaps the most important feature noticeable was the very large proportion of ladies and children to be seen here. The contrast was very remarkable, as at the larger exhibitions accommodation for the ladies is not procurable, and very few attend from any distance. The hotels afford very meagre accommodation for them, and on the grounds, even at the Provincial Exhibition, no seats could be found but the damp sod, but at Ingersoll the farmers can drive their carriages on the grounds. These afford a home for the children and the ladies, and they are all right, and can attend the Exhibition and return home in a sort of independent manner. This is a great feature. If the carriages have to be left in some hotel yard or strung along the public road, as in London, they afford no accommodation for the family.

This is a necessity that should be more attended to, namely, having room for farmers' wagons to stand without being subject to a fine by leaving them in the public street, as is too often necessary in many places. The ladies and children at this exhibition appeared to be all at home and to enjoy themselves. This is, we believe, a great advantage to all local exhibitions, because at the hotels the accommodation for the ladies and children is meagre enough. We should accommodate them more.

The next important point in which this exhibition surpassed all the others was in the cheese department, this place being the head centre of the cheese business and the Association holding their Exhibition in connection with the Agricultural Association.

The roots appeared better than at the Provincial Exhibition, and nearly as large in assortment.

In stock, implements, poultry, &c., of course they were not equal to the larger Exhibitions, yet there was a grand display.

The ladies had not been idle in this part of the country; lots of their productions appeared deserving of Provincial prizes, and no doubt would have gained them if there was better accommodation for them to attend, but the expense and time deters many from going far to the Provincial Exhibition.

#### MUSKOKA AND THUNDER BAY EXHIBITION.

Muskoka and Thunder Bay attempted to make a Show, but had they kept their produce at home it would have been better for them; a great deal of their stock is worse than any to be seen at our exhibitions. The wheat is pretty good and the oat straw is long enough, and the specimens of wool shown were good, but the roots and vegetables are no where compared with our western produce in that line.

That country may do for greenhorns, but sensible Canadians leave it as quick as they can after they have taken the timber off the land.

#### Shall we Admit Americans to our Exhibitions?

This question suggests itself to us from the fact that at the Hamilton Agricultural Exhibition the representatives of the Nebraska Land Co. desired to exhibit their products, but were refused by the Board of Directors. At the Provincial Exhibition they made a grand display of cereals, plants, woods, &c.

The display drew considerable attention. The space allotted to them was well filled, and the articles were quite a novelty and a feature: the crowd appeared thicker there than at any other part of the building in which grain, roots and flowers were shown. Of course their object was to distribute circulars and cause attention to be drawn to their lands, to induce emigrants and others to go there.

The majority of the Hamilton Board of Directors were of opinion that the Exhibition would be injurious to us to some extent. We admit it might, but the advantages of free trade, free intercourse and the spread of information would be better for us and our country. This is our opinion, and we think the Hamilton Board acted wrong in thus attempting to check the spread of information and good feeling.

We contend that it shows the importance of our country when exhibitors attend and make large displays from such distant parts

as Nebraska. We want good exhibitions, and they help to make them attractive. We had nothing to fear from the samples of grain sent; we saw none of them, excepting corn, equal to our own. As for their wood we can show about ten times as much, and nearly ten times as much from the growth of one acre as they can from 10,000 acres. By closing our doors to them, it would tend to spread a false impression, that is, to show that we were afraid that we were beat.

Besides, we have dissatisfied people in Canada who will go somewhere, and they might just as well be fished up by those who tend to make our exhibitions attractive as to go to Texas or any other part where the inhabitants do not think us worth reciprocating with.

What would become of our breeders of pure-bred stock were the Americans to shut us out from their exhibitions and their markets. Just look at the honors we have gained in Boston the present year at the Great International Exhibition of Fruit. It has fairly astonished the Americans themselves, still there has never been one word said by them as to shutting us out.

Nebraska will not be able to gain such honors in a hundred years as we gained from the Americans this season. Away with the idea of keeping people in darkness; away with all attempts at serfdom. If our farmers, farmers' sons or emigrants covet the broad acres of Nebraska, with its advantages and disadvantages, let them go; in fact, the first attempt to check them would be the best way to drive them from our country.—We are not in chains or total darkness.

#### The Agricultural Grounds, London.

The first day we went to the Provincial Exhibition in London, this year, we noticed a new bridge thrown across the stream that winds its way through the grounds. On enquiry we found that an Act of Parliament had been obtained by the citizens to allow them to cut up these grounds by opening roads.

We at once saw that the grounds could never again be used for exhibition purposes if this was allowed to be done. We deemed this would be a loss to the Provincial Association, and to the agriculturists of East Middlesex, as we could never procure such good grounds again. We went before the County Council, which was then sitting, and gave them the information, as it was only known to one or two strong party men in the Council, and they had kept it dark from the other members, and were adverse to our being heard on the subject; but the Council at once took action to attempt to prevent the injury being done. Some of the citizens have since got up a petition to endeavor to stop such a disgraceful act.

We issued the following circular to the president and leading members in agricultural affairs, and have some hopes of the evil being averted, which most certainly would have taken place had we not agitated the question, or rather found it out in time and shown the consequences.

To the Directors of the Western Fair, the Directors of the East Middlesex Agricultural Exhibition, the Members of the County Council of Middlesex, and to the Directors of the Provincial Board of Agriculture:—

GENTLEMEN,—

We hear with regret that the grounds on which we now hold our Agricultural Exhibitions are, on the close of the Provincial Exhibition, to be immediately thrown open and divided for individual or city interests.

By a little united exertion on your part at the present time, these grounds can be retained for agricultural purposes. The grounds are admitted to be the best in the Dominion, and they are nearer to the centre of business than any other grounds in the Dominion; we have a nice stream of water running through them.

No such grounds can be procured again.—Our other agricultural grounds have been taken away from us, and shall we lose these we now have for the lack of a little exertion on our part?

Let East Middlesex men immediately wake up and have a meeting at once: the County Council and Provincial Board we have no doubt will aid them, and retain the grounds until an Act can be obtained to set the disputed question at rest. Immediate action is required or the grounds will be taken from us.

#### Is Plaster Beneficial to Grain Crops.

Mr. E. K. Corbett, of Toronto, says he has particularly noticed the effect of plaster on a piece of barley. The plaster was sown through the centre of a twenty-acre field; throughout the summer the difference in the appearance of the part sown with plaster was most apparent, being of a much more luxuriant growth, threshing the grain one third more was obtained per acre than from the land where no plaster was sown.

We gave in a previous number the reports from the French Bureau of Agriculture, in which it was stated that plaster was of no advantage to the yield of grain, although it increased the growth of the leaf.

We hope some of our readers will inform us of their positive experience in sowing plaster, as this is a debatable question: Does plaster directly increase the production of wheat, oats or barley.

#### Talks with the Farmers.

We had a good many visitors Exhibition week, and some very pleasant chats with our subscribers. For their cheering words we thank them heartily, and we hope that our subscribers will always drop in on us when in town and give us any item of news that they may have. Mr. Facer, of St. Catharines, told us his experience with Scott wheat. His neighbors said last fall that "he was foolish to go away up to London and pay that wild such a high price for seed wheat, when he could get lots of wheat at home cheaper." But now they have a different tale to tell. Mr. Facer bought ten bushels of the Scott Wheat from us, and it turned out an excellent crop. His neighbors were quite willing then to buy all he produced at \$1.50 per bushel. He wants to know who is the fool now?

Mr. C. S. Vanlurven, of Battersea, bought 10 bushels of Scott wheat from us last year, and, although he sowed it late and gave it no special care, the neighbors liked it so well that they gave him two dollars per bushel for all he could spare this fall, and he could have sold much more if he had had it. No wheat yielded like it in his neighborhood.

Mr. G. McKay took first prize for "Canadian Leopard" in the road and carriage horse section. The judges were unanimous in this decision. "Canadian Leopard" is one of "Anglo-Saxon's" colts.

Mr. McKay refused \$1000 for his horse, and he has now engaged him for next year's services for New York State, for \$1500 for the one year. Good for old "Anglo-Saxon" and his colt.

It was Mr. W. Dickie, of West Nissouri, who wrote the prize essay on "Exterminating Canadian Thistles." Mr. D. has promised some other articles for future numbers.

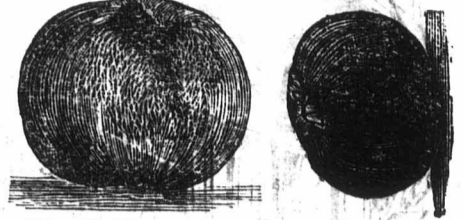
Mr. Wm. Daffran, of Paris, thinks very highly of the Hanson Lettuce which was introduced by us last spring. He says that the Canada Victor Tomato is all that was claimed for it, and that he tried it for earliness alongside of four other kinds, and it came out ahead. We have other reports that do not speak so highly of it.

We made Mr. Jarvis, of Byron, a present of one potato last spring, and he raised from it three pecks, and took 2nd prize at the Provincial Exhibition, which brought with it \$2. Very good for one potato.

Some of our friends say that the Exhibitions are not of as much real benefit to the farmers as they ought to be. The prizes in cattle are carried off by breeders with whom ordinary farmers have no chance to compete, and as for the root crops, a man with a little patch of land in town can, by extra manuring and attention, raise roots and other vegetables which the farmers cannot come up to. Some of our subscribers want prizes to be offered for grade cattle. Some say that root crops which obtain prizes should be from fields of certain sizes.

Sales at the Provincial Exhibition were not very brisk, either in cattle, horses or hogs.—We have heard of but one good sale, namely, that of Mr. John Miller, who sold six Cotswold sheep for the sum of \$470.

#### The Black Tomato.



Mrs. R. Heatley, of Delaware, received from a friend in the States a few seeds of the Black Tomato. She brought us a few of them. They are entirely new to us.—They grow in a most peculiar manner; each tomato is covered or encased with a leaf like a coating, which appears like the substance of a very fine leaf.

So peculiar and novel was this fruit to us that we instructed one of our engravers to make two cuts, one showing the film or coating beginning to peel off, and the other the tomato without the coat. They are both engraved the exact size of the tomato.

These tomatoes, we understand, are used only for preserves, and are far superior to any other variety for this purpose. They resemble plums, and make a preserve quite equal to the plum.

If any of our readers know more about them we shall be pleased to hear from them.

#### The Grain Deficiency in Europe.

THE WORLD PRODUCING AN OVER SUPPLY OF BREADSTUFFS.

These two questions are occupying no little attention of statisticians. Placed juxtaposition, as in the heading of this article, they seem to balance each other, and such we believe to be the solution of both questions. There is in Europe, taken as a whole, a deficiency great, but not unprecedented. There is in North America an over supply of breadstuffs for its people. We are not of those who believe that the increase of bread consumers will cause a famine upon the earth. There is a deficiency in some densely populated countries, more or less, from time to time, but the over supply of other countries is sure to be sufficient to meet all deficiencies. Nor has there yet been, nor will be, in all probability, in any land an over supply not needed by others.

In Great Britain there is every year an insufficiency of breadstuffs, though the soil of England is more productive of the necessities of life than that of any other nation, yet such is the greatness of her population compared to her limited area, that she is every year the greatest purchaser of the over supplies of other nations. About one-half of her imported supplies is usually from Russia, one-fifth from North America, and the remaining three-tenths from other countries, including Germany and France. These two latter countries have this season no breadstuffs for exportation; on the contrary, they are importers.

English authorities well versed in the statistics of home products and the demand and supply of grain, estimate that England will require this season an importation of eleven and a half millions of quarters of wheat, equal to ninety-two millions of bushels. Last season her requirement was one hundred and four millions of bushels. This falls short of the previous year's requirements by twelve millions. This decrease of her requires is produced by the superior quality of her grain crop and the very large potato crop.

Though England requires less supplies than in 1872, the demand from Europe for breadstuffs will be greater. France and Germany are now in the market as purchasers, and Russia is the only European country that will be an exporter. Her crop, it is now estimated, will not be over an average. The *Western Farm Journal*, in a carefully prepared article on the subject, says:—"Russia, however, is the greatest wheat producing country of the world. The capacity of Russia to increase

her supply meets the demand according to opinion, gradually now though one. The rather small prospect grain at than this land require nearly enough though this year's production, Russia of, and the plus to made on is, we have no rope or not able hand, do others the production

#### The Black

The M own land them, in robbed a women, supply of croachm poor Ind became the intr leave the would r source, t white ve They took the means k tured by Two of were re tribe, w authorit President were de but in t ren, rel of the tr openly f The r or and these five ought t dent's w We s award a and chil the poo live. This our sp act to s since th

#### The

In our to their give a re dress be with far dressing The P stranger Advoc the mos most ele straight rights a and adv in his of PENDEN CANAD the pra is alway are app pleasure County all whic tive to