

On the Wing.**PINKERTON EXHIBITION.**

Pinkerton is a small village in the county of Bruce, situated about two miles from the railroad station of that name. The directors consist of five men; they have erected their buildings, had the grounds enclosed, and charge a small admission fee to enable them to pay their prizes and other expenses. Here the display of Shorthorns and Shorthorn grades were the only cattle exhibited. The quality was highly commendable, as also was the exhibit of horses, etc.; local manufacturers exhibited some implements that would have done credit to larger exhibitions, and probably increased the profits of the manufacturers. But what surprised us most in this township exhibition, which is the most northern exhibit we have seen in Ontario, was the very fine display of fruit. The apples in this section are of a very fine growth, more exempt from spots and worms than many of our more southern counties. The trees in this locality are young and are bearing as good crops of as fine apples as can be found in any part of the world. Dr. J. D. Douglass, the Secretary, exhibited some remarkably fine pears, and also an almost white tomato, which to us was a novelty. These he has grown for some years.

In the evening a very pleasing, amusing and instructive entertainment was given, consisting of music, recitations, songs and speeches. The Chairman announced the object of the association in getting up this meeting being to aid their agricultural exhibition.

D. E. Cameron, Esq., Deputy Provincial Treasurer, was the first speaker called on. He stated that our Dominion was of larger area than that of many European nations, and larger than that of the United States; that we possessed the two most extensive railways in the world; that we had a larger extent of tillable land than the United States, and that we should look forward to establishing our own nationality; we should have our own history; by independence we might become a strong support to England, that as we now are we are a source of weakness. He hoped in a few years to see the Canadian flag on the Citadel, where the British flag now floats.

Your humble servant was next called on. Not having prepared an address, and being a Briton by birth, knowing the oppressions and poverty that exist in Great Britain, and continued changes and eruptions in France and Europe, noticed the dangers existing in the United States, believing that, despite all the defects and tardiness of the British nation, there is greater stability, more honor and more justice in her government, and greater freedom given to her subjects, than in either the United States or in France. Although on the most friendly terms with our American cousins, we could not forbear expressing our opinion, although antagonistic to Mr. Cameron. We advocated the maintenance of the British flag and British connection, believing that independence would shortly result in our subjection either to the French or United States supremacy. We depicted some of the disadvantages, losses and deaths that had been occasioned by the overbooming of advantages of some localities in the United States, and hoped to see the child united with its mother, believing from what we had seen and heard when in the United States, that our Queen was held in greater respect in that country than any individual in

it, that the administration of our laws was held in higher estimation there than their own administration, and that greater liberty and justice to individuals was secured under the British Government than under their own.

Mr. W. M. Dake, M.P.P., of Huron, supported the views of Mr. Cameron, and commended the work of the officers of township exhibitions. He believed the Provincial Association had outlived its usefulness, and thought further assistance should be given to township and riding exhibitions. The township exhibitions are growing, and many are now as good as the riding exhibitions; that they enhance the value of products and land in the vicinities in which they are held, and farmers should contribute to their support whether they exhibit or not. He considered the Agricultural College had done good, and said that the Dominion Government had now established five Experimental Stations.

Mr. H. Cagill, M.P., of Bruce, said Mr. A. McNeil, M.P., was unavoidably absent, and who was to have given his views on Imperial federation. The Agricultural College and the Experimental Stations may be of benefit, but we have to pay dearly for the whistle. He believed the farmers would learn as much by reading the agricultural papers at home as by attending the experimental colleges. He had seen those that had been guided by the scientific instructions of colleges, they could talk a great deal, spend a lot of money and fail, while the real practical farmer would succeed. He believed more in practice than in theory.

Mr. Gibson, M.P., of Huron, thought it best to leave politics to election campaigns. He sang some appreciative auld Scotch songs, which brought down the house, particularly so when he called for a drink. He said he had not taken as much as a half cupful of whisky during his life, at the same time he did not approve of the Scott Act, and thought the people should be left to act as they pleased. He was not prepared to say that the usefulness of the Provincial Exhibition was gone, and considered the prizes given by it enhanced the value of our stock in foreign markets. He had visited the Industrial Exhibition in Toronto; the crowd was larger than at the Provincial, but the agricultural exhibit was no better, in fact he found the crowd a hindrance, as when he was examining a threshing machine, the exhibitor and everybody else rushed out at the cry the balloon was up. He confessed he might be a sinner because he had made up his mind not to see it, but he went with the crowd, and was surprised to see the man alight on the ground as easily as a pigeon after his great ascent. He did not see much harm in that, but he was thoroughly disgusted by having been detained by the storming of Sebastopol, and had waited for three and a-half hours on the ground, cold and uncomfortable, to see a few sky rockets fired, then some powder flashing for about ten minutes, and all was over. He had lived at the time of the battle, was interested in it, but this was not a bit like it. It was a perfect farce, and considered it far more preferable to give Barnum the fifty cents than to waste one's time in going to such things in Toronto; in fact, he had this day seen more of an agricultural exhibition than when in Toronto. He said what good did this do. He thought it questionable whether more injury than good was not being done by the Industrial; he also thought that either the riding or the township exhibitions might be abolished.

The Chairman thought we were safe as we were; politically we were in no way embarrassed by our British connection; said the farmers approved of township exhibitions, and thought the Government grant might be used to stimulate them.

Capabilities of the Northwest.

Alexander McDonald, special commissioner sent out recently to the Canadian Northwest by the Mark Lane Express, has passed very high encomiums on the capabilities of that country, and recommends it as a very desirable place for British farmers to emigrate to, as it possesses, in his opinion, vast plains of almost inexhaustible fertility. From Winnipeg to the Rocky Mountains, a distance of 900 miles, the best known lands in the world are found, and he estimates that this area contains from two to three million square miles, the capabilities of which, as a cereal producing country, cannot be over-estimated. Had it not been for the frost that visited that country this year, the surplus of wheat would have been fully 20,000,000 bushels, but taking the decrease into account, caused through the agency of frost, the Northwest will export larger quantities of grain this year than any previous season. The farmers there display too much laxity in their operations, which has a tendency to create a feeling of inertness—a state of mind dangerous to the individual's best interest and the agricultural progress and prosperity of any country. Mr. McDonald reports that he saw beautiful fields of oats that had been sown on stubble land, and the only cultivation the ground had been subjected to was a very meagre harrowing after the grain had been scattered among the stubble, thus proving beyond a doubt that the rich, alluvial soil of the Northwest is not surpassed by any other country. The want of attention to the utilization of farm manure was everywhere observable, and the straw, which should have been applied to the soil to resuscitate it, was burned. The yield of wheat this year on an average is from 28 to 40 bushels to the acre, and in districts which escaped the frost the return will average fully 40 bushels to the acre. The larger farmers are showing commendable enterprise by introducing good stock, and taking the country as a whole Mr. McDonald has no reticence in saying the stock is superior to that of the Maritime Provinces. To the educated agriculturist farming in the Northwest may appear somewhat crude, but a land so rich in virgin soil will most assuredly develop an intelligent community, and be the birth-place of a manly and vigorous type of the Anglo-Saxon race. The incongruities in farm operations will be rectified in the near future, and the institutions that are now in their infancy will gather strength and stability as the country increases in wealth and influence.

At the opening of the Western Fair, London, the Hon. John Carling, Minister of Agriculture, said the estimates showed that Ontario would have fifteen million bushels more of grain this year than last. Although there was a deficiency of 12 per cent. in the product of wheat there would be an increase of 25 per cent. in the prices realized. Facts have since shown that the hon. gentleman has rather underestimated the price and yield, than exaggerated them. He also stated that although there might not be quite as much first-class wheat in Manitoba and the Northwest, they would receive two million dollars more for it. In regard to retaliation, he said, "I do not think we have done anything to provoke such a measure. The course of Canada having been a free, straightforward and honorable one, we have right on our side, and right will prevail."