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The Farmer's Advocate

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The Provincial Exhibition of Agriculture and Art, 1877.

This Exhibition, which has just closed in the city of London, has been one of unprecedented success in this Dominion in regard to numbers of agricultural visitors and agricultural exhibits. The weather was most favorable. The railroad companies accommodated the public by running sufficient trains at suitable times for the public; they have been well patronized. There was no disturbance or excitement to diminish or increase the number of spectators beyond the proper exhibits of the Association. The mass of visitors have been the farmers and their families. The attractions to this Exhibition were not increased by any horse-racing, or elk-racing, no balloon ascension or fireworks; no prince, potentate nor orator added to the attraction, not even a band of music was to be heard; still this Exhibition has been better attended than any previous one held in London.

THE EXHIBIT. The agricultural implements and machinery displayed were astonishing; 21 steam engines were exhibited, most of which were in operation, many driving long tiers of machinery; such a display has never before been seen in Canada. This part of the Exhibition was most highly appreciated by all, despite the repeated deafening shricks of the whistles of the steam engines, the drivers of which appeared to take the greatest delight in trying which could make the most noise. Manufacturers prefer to exhibiting at London rather than at any other place, because they effect more sales. Many manufacturers sold all they exhibited; some took orders for hundreds to be shipped. To particularize about the merits of each would not be of general interest; we must leave that for future numSTOCK-HORSES.

The blooded and trotting stock were better represented than they have been at our previous Exhibitions. Messrs. Crabb, Brown & Hornsby of Eminence, Kentucky, exhibited many fine animals; we are pleased to have the Americans exhibit amongst us. The display of Clydesdale, Agricultural, General Purpose and Carriage Horses was much admired by all who examined it.

Durhams, Devons, Ayrshires and Herefords were well represented. The Alderney were a new feature; they were not largely represented, but some of the ladies were much pleased with them, while some of the old settlers said they would not do to turn into the woods, they would be sure to be shot for deer; some stigmathed them as mere rats and worthless, but they have their merits and many people know their worth. The Galloways were not represented; we hope some of the Galloway men will state why they have not exhibited this year.

SHEEP.

Each class was well represented. On the whole, we do not consider the exhibit in sheep superior to former years.

SWINE.

This department drew unusual attention, as the Prince of Wales' Prize was awarded to Berkshires. The competition was great and most of the stock unusually good, although there were some exhibited which were no credit to the exhibitors or the country, and ought to have been turned out with disgrace marked on them. J. Snell's Sons gained the prize; it was well deserved, although there were many who were strong rivals and gained prizes in different grades. The other classes were fairly represented. There were more Poland China and less Cheshire Whites and Yorkshire hogs exhibited than usual; this shows that the medium sized and quick maturing animals are more in favor than the larger-sized hogs.

Fruit and flowers were not as largely displayed as we have seen them. Vegetables and roots were not equal to the display made in Ottawa. The competition for the prizes in seeds and grain was not as good as it should have been, in fact this part of the Exhibition has never received the attention that its importance deserves. The highest award has for many years been carried off by the Deihl wheat, which is the whitest and most precarious wheat to grow. A special list of prizes have been given for the Egyptian wheat; the Egyptian or Eldorado wheat is the whitest spring wheat, but it will not pay for general cultivation one-quarter as well as many varieties to which no prize is awarded. We have previously called attention to the necessity of a proper revisal of the seed-grain list.

The Crystal Palace was well filled with a general assortment of horticultural goods, wearing apparel and arts products; to particularize would occupy too much space at the present. In the poultry department we noticed nothing new

worthy of particular mention; the general exhibit was creditable. Messrs. Pontey & Taylor of St. James' Park Nurseries introduced a new feature, copied no doubt from the Centennial Exhibition, they planted a grove of trees and surrounded it with a border or rather plots of flowers; the va eties were all named. This plan we hope to see followed in our future Exhibitions, as trees, shrubs and flowers add greatly to the attraction of our Agricultural Exhibitions; if our florists, seedsmen and nurserymen were allowed a space in every exhibition ground in Canada, and the associations would properly protect such plantations from harm, we believe that the exhibition grounds of our country would soon be handsomely decorated and comfortably shaded. If each Provincial Association in the Dominion would take this question up at their next meeting,'we feel satisfied that good results would follow; our exhibition grounds would become institutions, pleasure grounds, and add shade and beauty without interfering with the space required.

The weather has been most tempting, fine, dry and warm; the number of visitors was far greater than it had ever been in London; the dust was very disagreeable to visitors and exhibitors; the Board neglected their duty in not having the grounds well watered every night-the cost would have been but trifling, as there were numerous engines at work on the ground and a running stream passing through it; seats were very sparsely supplied, and the litter of papers and melon rind that were strewn in every direction should have been removed. The annual meeting of the delegates was well attended. The usual routine of reading the minutes of the last meeting, delivering of the President's address, and voting on the place to hold the next Exhibition, is all that is done annually. There was quite an excited feeling in regard to a feeler put out in reference to locating the Provincial Exhibition permanently at some place. The repudiation of the attempt by the President and others quieted the discussion; a strong feeling existed against such a coarse being taken. Guelph was prepared to furnish the necessary accommodation, and received about onequarter of the votes. Toronto was also prepared to furnish proper accommodation, and as according to former custom it was Toronto's turn to have it, the majority voted for Toronto. Where it may be held in 1879 no one can yet say. Kingston has received a heavy reprimand by having been deprived of it for one year; perhaps it may never go there

Many spoke highly of the attention and management of the President and the Secretary, but many successful exhibitors complain that the Treasurer left the city and prize-takers awaiting their pay at his office. If the Treasurer has a duty to perform he should attend to it, or leave the office to some one who would.

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