

many others who have tested this variety, and Mr. Geo. Nixon, of Hyde Park, informs me that it is the best amongst 40 varieties which he has been testing for several years.

#### The Rot-proof Potato.

Last year Mr. E. W. Chambers, of Woodstock, Ont., informed us that he had raised a seedling potato from a cross between the Early Rose and Garnet Chili, which he had tested for the past three years, and that he considered it a most valuable potato for our country. He stated that they were most rampant growers, of good quality, enormous croppers, and the best keepers he had ever seen; that he never found a rotten potato among them; that they did not get soft and shrivel up like his other potatoes in the spring, and that they are rather later than other varieties. He wished us to test them; this we consented to do, and sent a few to our son's farm, having some planted in this city, and placing some with others to be tested. Mr. Chambers also placed some with leading potato growers in the county. Every report corroborates the statements made regarding them. They have been tested in Middlesex and Oxford against the different leading varieties, on clay and on sandy soils, and in every instance they have excelled all others in resisting the rot. No potato that we have yet heard of appears so promising or desirable at the present time, now that the potato rot has become so prevalent and is so rapidly extending. Last year one person lost many thousands of bushels, and many thousands of farmers have had their crops materially shortened and some almost destroyed. Should this potato rot increase as fast the next two years as it has the past, the potato crop will be in a bad plight. The propagator calls his potato the Bronze King, from its reddish bronze appearance. It is inclined to be of an oval shape, of medium size, the eye moderately indented; it has a few white spots.

Mr. Chambers has a very high reputation as an enterprising and honorable farmer in his county. He was the President of the Ontario Fat Stock Exhibition the past year, and is the Vice-President of the Oxford Agricultural Society. We have every confidence in him and his potatoes, and have secured a few to present to our subscribers who send us in one or more new subscribers. We would advise you to plant a few of these potatoes even if you have to present the *ADVOCATE* to some friend to procure them. The sample is not as large this year as usual, on account of Mr. Chambers' business causing a neglect in the busy season, but will be found just as valuable for seed. (See advertisement.)

The condition of the woolen goods trade is regarded as satisfactory, old stocks are well cleaned off the markets, and all the mills are fully employed on profitable orders, says the National Stockman and Farmer. This healthy condition of the trade in woolen argues well for the wool trade the coming spring, and if no outside influences affect the business a better feeling will animate sheepmen and better prices will be realized.

#### Agricultural and Arts Association.

A meeting of the Board of this Association was held in Toronto on the 10th and 11th ult. Mr. Henry Parker was elected President, and Mr. J. C. Snell, Vice-President.

The President said the Association was stronger than ever, and quoted the authority of an M. P. P. to substantiate his statement. The Secretary's report was made up chiefly of evidence of a similar character. He (the Secretary) boasted that London never had, and will not have for some time to come, such a magnificent exhibition as the last Provincial, and yet, he said, some of the citizens of London were mean enough to get up a deputation to wait upon the Commissioner of Agriculture to talk about dividing the grant amongst the agricultural associations. He also criticised the attitude of the *ADVOCATE* with reference to the Provincial, especially in suggesting that the authorities should mend their ways. As evidence that they have no ways to mend, he pointed out that the Legislature had cheerfully voted their grant from year to year, with little or no opposition. There is just as much logic in saying that this action of the Legislature proves that the grant is manipulated by a pack

breeders to control their own business, and prevent its getting muddled up with the Government. The Board has a large number of herd books which they cannot dispose of, and they generously propose to donate them to the agricultural societies. The Board is against the Government giving more encouragement to the agricultural societies, and yet it offers donations from itself. These societies should feel too proud to convert their premises into dumping grounds for Government rubbish.

Mr. Joshua Legge deserves the gratitude of the farmers for his efforts to prevent the butterine men from overrunning this country with their vile stuff, thereby locking up our markets against genuine butter. It appears that a butterine factory has commenced operations in Montreal, and Mr. Legge proposed to petition the Dominion Government to pass stringent laws; but he afterwards interviewed the Provincial Government to ascertain what action they could take. We believe the matter is still pending.

A committee was appointed to look into the liens which the Association held against various properties, which notably includes their right to hold exhibitions on the Toronto grounds, and the relation of the Association to the London grounds, which have been sold.

The Board's educational scheme for last year cost \$313.50. Circulars were broadcasted all over the Province to the number of 10,000, the result being that only 28 students presented themselves for examination. The prize farm scheme has extorted \$251.65 from the public chest. Another boom, viz., the fat stock show, cost \$385.92. Fortunately, no invitations have been received for next Christmas, and this sum may possibly be saved. This expenditure does more injury than the cost of all other schemes combined.

The Secretary presented, in his report, an account of his visit to the Chicago Fat Stock Show, and the

second annual convention of the International Association of Fairs and Expositions, held in Indianapolis, Ind. It is evident that the Board is coming into more intimate relation with the stock boomers on the other side of the line, and the future effects are not hard to forecast.

#### The Agricultural and Experimental Union.

This organization, composed of students and ex-students of the Ontario Agricultural College, held its regular annual meeting in Guelph on the 11th and 12th ult. We sent a representative of the *ADVOCATE* to take notes of the proceedings. A few farmers attended, and the number of ex-students was small. Most of the time was spent in the discussion of matters pertaining to the College and Farm, in which the critics of the Institution were severely handled.

An organization of this sort should receive every encouragement, for the hope of our agricultural industries depends largely upon the organized efforts of our young farmers. We are sorry to say, however, that the Union is based on a bad foundation, and in its present state cannot merit the confidence and respect of the farming community. It proclaims itself to be an independent organization, and yet it receives money from the government for printing its literature, and the requisites for conducting its experiments are also supplied from the public exchequer. We fail to see that its reports are of sufficient consequence to merit



THE BRONZE KING POTATO.

of speculators and other suckers upon the Government's udder. It is hoped that the new act granting them more power will help them to mend their ways. It is a shame and a disgrace that the report should occupy so much space in their own laudation, scarcely a score of lines being written about agriculture proper.

The report gives the following registrations for 1885: Shorthorn, 1,868; Ayrshires, 212; Polled Angus, 36; Herefords, 7; Devons, 13. Of horses the number of registrations were: Clydesdale, 160; Shires, 46. Of hogs, 229 Berkshires and 21 Suffolks were registered. The registration receipts amounted to \$1,879.75, and \$286 were received from sales of their herd books.

The report urged the patrons of the Clydesdale Book to organize an association in affiliation with the Board, and have their first volume published. They had been compiling for three years, and had now 700 pedigrees ready for publication. The Clydesdale men should hesitate before they unite with an organization which has brought so much disgrace upon the Canada Shorthorn Herd Book. The Clydesdale breeders should wait at least until the Board mends its ways. We would advise these