

### Returning Adventurers.

The St. John papers notice the return to New Brunswick of some persons who left that Province last spring to seek their fortunes in New Zealand. A party of fifteen or twenty persons went to New Zealand from New Brunswick last spring, and already it is said that all but two have returned, convinced that there are worse places in the world than the Province which they had abandoned. We frequently see notices in the New Brunswick papers of the return home of persons who had left that Province for the purpose of settling in the Western States. These persons usually return with their minds entirely changed as to the relative advantages of their own country and the Western States. We occasionally meet in Ontario with gloomy individuals, who hold that the Province is going to ruin because some of our young men go to the Western States; but the large numbers who return after a short experience of life in the United States, are seldom noticed or made the subject of editorial essays. All the older communities on this continent suffer from the emigration of the young and adventurous; but a very large share of that emigration comes back, and that which does not is counterbalanced by the immigration from the old world. Hence, it comes about that at each census, localities which seem to have been losing population year after year, actually show a considerable increase. With all the emigration to the United States, every one of the Provinces was considerably more populous in 1861 than it was ten years before, and is more populous now than it was in 1861. When we get the Hudson's Bay Territory and have a far west within the Dominion, we shall lose less than ever by the adventurous spirit of our young men. They can then gratify the desire to go westward without being lost to their country.

### Agricultural Societies.

As the time is now close at hand for the annual meetings of Agricultural Societies, we propose to make a few remarks on some matters in which these societies might be improved. We have attended both county and township shows last autumn, and have come to the conclusion that some of the smaller associations, as at present managed, are not doing what they might towards the improvement of Agriculture. That they can get up a good show of the productions of the soil, the dairy, and the household, and draw a crowd, we have had ample proof; but in the matter of selecting good Judges they too often utterly fail, and the awards made of prizes are such that it must prove extremely difficult for any person of sense to see how, or wherein, any benefit is to be derived, except by those who are lucky enough to pocket the prizes. Often the most glaring mistakes are made by the Judges in giving

their awards. We are told that such things cannot be helped; that good Judges are appointed, most of whom live at some distance off, and as a consequence are not to be found when show day comes, especially as they are expected to pay their own expenses; so, as the directors say, they cannot select Judges from within the township, for fear of favour, they pick up any chance comers from outside the township, give them a dinner, and make them Judges of the articles they often have not the faintest knowledge about. Again, their prizes are so infinitesimally small, in the stock classes, that no owner or breeder of really good stock cares to show his animals. The better plan would be for these smaller societies to leave the prize-giving for stock entirely to the county society, and content themselves with giving larger premiums for such articles of farm produce as can be shown in the building used for a hall. With many societies, however, we have no fault to find; we are satisfied that they are doing all they can to foster a knowledge of agriculture and the breeding of choice stock. We should like to see a greater effort made to get the farmers interested, and would have something done by the societies in the way of importing and distributing seed of new and valuable varieties of cereals, roots, and grasses. We think that instead of frittering the money in giving prizes for roots, vegetables, and miscellaneous articles, it would in many cases be preferable to offer a liberal prize for the best managed and most productive farm, and the best field of roots within their county.

A man can easily pick out a few of the largest potatoes, turnips, &c., from a field, in order to bring them to the show, but it would be quite another matter to be able to show an acre or so of a clean, well-cultivated and productive crop of roots; and a farm without root crops can never be made progressive and profitable in its powers of production.

### Grain and Prices.

Farmers have been receiving such high prices for their wheat for the last year or two that they seem unwilling to sell at present prices, and much of this year's crop still remains on their hands. Those who sold before the close of navigation realized a fair price. It costs more to move grain to the seaboard by rail than by water, and the extra cost of storing and handling at several points has also to be added to the price of the grain; so that, unless there is a very considerable rise in the price of wheat at the great centres of consumption, which does not seem probable at present, those who have held over their crop will realize less than those who sold early, besides the losses they will suffer from the depredations of rats, mice, insects, etc. Oats are seemingly high in price, yet at present figures they are less remunerative than many other crops grown, and many farmers need all they grow for home con-

sumption. A team kept in good condition for work on the farm at all seasons will consume at least 100 bushels of oats in a year; but if they get an abundance of roots in winter a portion of their oats can be reserved for sale without injury. This year, however, the root crops are almost a failure, and what there is of them are needed for the sheep and milch cows towards spring, so that the oat crop being considerably below an average in yield, there will not be much of it sold even if the price should reach a higher figure than it is at present. It would be a bad policy to have the working animals run down in condition by spring in order to save or make a few dollars extra out of selling their food. No good farmer, at least, would commit such a folly, as it would seriously lessen his profits next season, if he failed to get through his spring work in good time. The main dependence of large purchasers of oats will have to be on what they can procure from the back townships, where, owing to the protecting influence of forests, the effect of the drought was less severely felt than in older settlements.

**APPLE CULTURE.** An admirable essay on the culture of the apple will be found in our horticultural columns. An essay on the same subject, written by Mr. Beadle, for which the Fruit Growers' Association awarded the prize, was published in the CANADA FARMER of November 2nd. These brief but comprehensive treatises furnish a valuable compendium of practical instruction for the guidance of the amateur orchardist.

**VICK'S ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE AND FLORAL GEM.**—We have received from Mr. James Vick, of Rochester, N. Y., a copy of his beautiful catalogue of seeds for 1869. It extends over 100 pages, and contains a large number of illustrations, including a coloured frontispiece. Besides a very full list of garden seeds, it gives brief practical directions for the culture of flowers and vegetables. In completeness and typographical execution it is a model catalogue.

**THE GAME LAWS.**—It may be well to remind those interested that the period allowed by the late Sir Henry Smith's Act for shooting certain kinds of game expired on the 1st of the year. The shooting of Wild Turkey, Grouse, (*alias* Prairie Hen,) Partridge, Quail, and Hare during the months intervening between the 1st January and 1st September is illegal, and is subject to confiscation of the game shot with an added fine ranging from a minimum of \$2 to a maximum of \$25 for each head of game killed in contravention of the enactment. All dealers now in possession of game shot before the 1st instant are by the same Act allowed fourteen days of grace from that time in order to dispose of their stock. In other words the selling of game after the 14th inst. will be illegal.