

at the gate his ticket of entry was required and he was sent to a stall already ticketed to receive him. Every thing went off with the regularity of clock work. Horses, Ayrshire cattle and poultry were also a step in the right way. Some good grain was shown, but nothing else could be considered a fair sample of what Lower Canada can produce. The weather was favorable, and the place not difficult of access. The public countenanced the undertaking most cordially with their presence. Why then was there such a falling off in the number of exhibitors as compared with the year before? The answer probably may be that several of them then came to Montreal from a distance and found it too expensive a business for repetition, expenses while there that seemed unnecessarily multiplied upon them as compared with their neighbours of Upper Canada and the United States. Parties having hereafter the management of our shows must endeavour to obtain from the steamboat and railway proprietors the same liberality of conveyance to property intended for exhibition, as is granted by the Americans and Upper Canadians. Such arrangements should be made at an early period, and published along with the premium lists, that parties at a distance may be aware of them in due time to get their stock into good condition against the time of Show. A farmer is willing to incur the risk (which is great) of moving his stock from one place to another, as well as to suffer the depreciation in their condition, which invariably happens on such occasions, but he is seldom able to bear the heavy cost of transport by rail or boat from distant points, and every exertion ought to be made to render it as little onerous as possible to the class for whose encouragement the institution has been established.

The *Quebec Chronicle*, the *Montreal Pilot* and the *Gazette*, and some other papers, are entitled to the thanks of the agricultural community for the frequent notice which they kindly gave of the exhibition.

We understand that the next annual meeting of the Association will be held at Sherbrooke. A few gentlemen on behalf of that locality guaranteed in a most liberal manner a contribution towards the expenses of not less than £600.

The fact of a little town in the Back Woods having come forward with an offer of a sum exceeding that contributed by the City of Montreal and double that contribut-

ed by the Corporation of Quebec is most creditable to our friends, and we anticipate from its central position and the energy of the population of the townships that every success will attend it. We highly approve of the principle of holding the annual meetings in different parts of the Province and still more so of selecting those places which are liberal enough to compete for the preference in the handsome manner which Sherbrooke has done. It is an example which we hope to see repeated on future occasions by others of the rising towns within reach by rail or steam.

PLOUGHING MATCH.— In our advertising columns it will be observed that the County of Montreal Agricultural Society in addition to their ordinary prizes, offer a Purse of Forty Dollars to be competed for by Ploughmen residing in the Province of Canada. We hope this liberal offer will bring out such a number as will produce a spirited competition.

It will be seen, from an advertisement which appears in another column, that Mr. Dods, of Petite Côte, purposes to dispose of a part of his valuable stock by public auction on Thursday next, the 5th of October. So favourable an opportunity for procuring pure bred animals is of rare occurrence in this Province, and we trust our friends will be on the *qui vive*.

The most interesting topic of discussion at present is the result of the grain crop. The returns are very contradictory, and leave room for the inference that the distribution of fertility is, this year, very irregular.

The apprehensions of a short crop in the United States, seems very much diminished, and though the wheat may be deficient, the deficiency will be probably compensated by increased productions in other articles of food.

In Western Canada, so far as we can learn, the grains are generally productive, and the potatoes good in quality, though scant in quantity. The great deficiency is in the grass crops, which were burnt up by the summer heats. A good deal of rain has fallen within the last few weeks, but it is too late for the aftergrass, materially, to recover itself. This would have been a very favorable season for parsnips and carrots, but unfortunately, they are not grown to any extent. Turnips we have not many

they would have suffered from the drought of summer more than any other crop. Hay and straw must be very light, and we apprehend considerable difficulties will be experienced by the farmer in carrying his stock over to the next spring, unless the winter be unusually late in beginning, and early in ending. It is the general fault in this part of Canada, to keep far too short stocks of fodder. This produces what we may almost call a gambling system. When a certain price is offered to the farmer, he does not always act upon the rational principle of invariably providing for his own stock first, but calculates the chances, and often calculates them very ill, of what may be called betting against time. He runs down his fodder to the lowest practical limit, and if he falls within that, his stock perishes, or is sacrificed for the most miserable trifle; and that does not benefit the public, because it is not in a state fit for consumption, and is monopolised by a few persons who have means of carrying it over to another year. But, still, more often it is exposed in the market, in a state of leanness, in which it can only be eaten by persons as ill fed as itself.

In no market that ever we were in, is there such an enormous discrepancy between the prices of fat and lean meat, as there is here. This arises partly from the want of capital and foresight, but still more so, from the want of agricultural skill. There ought always to be on every farm, where stock is fattened, enough food to carry on the stock meant for the butcher, beyond all contingencies, and to leave an overplus one year to meet any possible deficiency for the next.

In one respect Lower Canada, for we cannot speak with such confidence of the Upper Province, is very unfavorably situated. Our winters are long; our season of labour short; and the range of our crops very much limited.

It seems now perfectly settled that the European harvest, so far from being deficient, is a very abundant one. Prices have descended with a very great rapidity; but, we would warn our readers against being misled.

The very extravagant speculations for a fall, in which many people now indulge, it is very possible, may be verified. It is possible that wheat may be twenty or thirty shillings lower than was lately, and every other grain in proportion; but we do not think that any rational speculation will extend over a wide