

**On the Wing.**

The Welland and Lincoln Agricultural Society held its spring exhibition 10th and 11th May. There were but few heavy draught stallions exhibited. The prevailing feeling of the managers of this exhibition appears to partake strongly of the race-course, as by far the majority of the horses exhibited were of the blooded stock or their crosses, and the most attractive part of the exhibition was when the competition took place for style and speed. A good race will always draw attention. The mind of man requires pleasure and recreation from a monotonous course, but there is a great difficulty in drawing a judicious line as to the extent the race course should interfere with agricultural exhibitions. It is claimed that money is required to maintain the exhibitions, and a race will bring the money. We find the hurdle races, etc., draw the crowd at Toronto. We know that some Londoners have for the past 18 years striven to make these races a grand part of the attraction, but as yet they have not entirely eclipsed the agricultural departments. To what extent this very alluring and attractive feature should be allowed to control the agricultural exhibitions is rather hard to define.

At Niagara we found the rival feeling strongly existing between the admirers of the Clydesdale and the Percheron classes. It is our opinion that any step taken by the Government or its officials to foster any one class or individual importer, will tend to the injury of farmers as a body. The farmers can judge of their requirements, and the best and most profitable for each locality will be chosen. The Government has tried to force the Shorthorns into localities where they are not half as well adapted as the smaller breeds of animals would be. Could any one estimate the loss to farmers by the over-forcing system on poor lands, it would be appalling. We would strongly advise greater encouragement to all beneficial classes of animals, rather than the spasmodic centralization of all expenditures on only one class, whether on horses, cattle, sheep or swine.

From Niagara we went to Brampton. Here a

**STEAM PLOW**

was put in operation previous to its being shipped to its work on the prairie. The plow - or rather gang of eight plows - was drawn by a traction engine constructed for the purpose, with a small tender carrying a supply of wood and water running on two wheels, the front part being attached to and carried by the engine. The plows are attached to a strong iron frame, and are so constructed as to enable the operator to gauge to the depth required, for one or for the full gang, as he may choose. The plows each have a revolving coulter, and are constructed especially for prairie sod. They are gauged so that each plow turns 12 inches. There had been a very heavy rain the afternoon and night previous to the trial, and the land in the vicinity of Brampton is a hard, tenacious clay. The field in which the trial took place had only been seeded down last year. It had been plowed up in narrow ridges, and water was lying on some parts of the field. But despite these great disadvantages, the plows were attached to the tender and a highly satisfactory exhibition was given to the numerous farmers attending. The engine was found to have ample power, and the plows did their work in a satisfactory manner, considering the bad state of the land. One or two trivial minor details were to be improved upon. This is the first steam plow we have seen in operation on this continent. We were better satisfied with its performance than with the working of the steam plow we saw in England, which was drawn by a wire rope and a stationary engine. The traction engine will not work unless it has a good dry

or solid bottom to enable the wheels to take a firm grip of the ground; neither will it answer to go through sloughs or deep mud holes. The farmers present did not consider they would come into general use in Ontario, but for breaking up the prairie it was thought they would be a great acquisition. Two brothers named King, from Woodstock, Ont., have purchased this engine and plows. They have 4,000 acres of land near Moose Jaw, Manitoba, and expect to break 30 acres a day with it. They have promised to inform us of the results when they get started. The engine and plows were constructed by the Haggert Manufacturing Co., of Brampton. This firm has long been known as among the first and most enterprising manufacturers in Ontario. We hope to hear such good reports from this new and improved plow that hundreds of them may soon be heard whistling over our vast prairies. We shall let you know of it as soon as we know that it is breaking up the sod in a satisfactory manner.

On the 17th of May we were on

THE FARM OF MR. G. DRUMMOND, OF PETIT COTE, on the Island of Montreal. This farm has been ruled out of the competition for the prize as the best managed farm in this part of Quebec, because it always carries off the prize when allowed to compete. It consists of three hundred acres. Some of the soil is good, rich clay loam, and some is of a lighter quality, having a large quantity of small stones upon it - not large enough to interfere with the drill or plow. The land has been very stony, so much so that it has been fenced with stone, and all the gate posts on the farm consist of single stones, taken from one part of the land. The farm is well drained and cultivated, and trees have been planted along the fence on each side of the field, so that a line across the fields from tree to tree contains just a half acre by measurement. The barn and stable are very convenient, comfortable and well arranged; but these buildings, though good, do not compare with many we have seen in the west. They are low and small in comparison to the barns to be found on many farms of the same size in Ontario. The cellars under these buildings are very extensive, and are used for storing implements and roots. Large barns are not required, because the farm is used as a dairy and root farm, although considerable barley is grown and some oats.

Ayrshire cows are kept. Mr. Drummond supplies milk and cream to the Windsor House. Mrs. Drummond has a convenient dairy and keeps it in nice order. They have a good orchard and garden, and a plain, substantial farm house, built, as most of the farm houses in Quebec are, low in comparison to those in the west. He raises about 40 acres of potatoes. Being only four miles from Montreal gives him such an advantage with milk and potatoes that it is questionable whether we should in reality call this a farm, and this may be the reason that it was excluded from competing; there should be a line drawn somewhere. We find that many of the prizes in Ontario went to farms that were used for similar purposes. Such farms have a decided advantage over others, as manure can be procured from other sources than the farm.

We next called at

THE FARM OF MR. THOS. HENDERSON, who is the most extensive potato raiser we have met. He generally crops from sixty to ninety acres of this tuber each year. He prefers manuring his land in the fall with dung that has been kept one year and well rotted, plowing it under in the fall. Plows in the spring, drags well, then drills, and plants; then in about a week drags down the ridges with a common harrow; in a few days he

ridges up again and lets remain about a week, then drags down with a saddle harrow, made thus:



The potatoes are at this stage just ready to open their leaves. In about a week a cultivator is run through them, and in a few days they are earthed up and left till digging time. We met one student that had attended the Model Farm at Guelph, and he informed us that there was more work and fuss about raising eight acres on the Model Farm than Mr. Henderson had in raising his ninety acres. Mr. H. farms under the four course system, thus: meadow or pasture, oats, potatoes and barley. The next farm is called

**THE OGILVIE FARM,**

and contains 200 acres. Mr. Brown is the tenant, and in one respect, he is in advance of the others. He imported one of the large double sized potato planters from Scotland three years ago, but he could not get it to work, and gave it up after a half day's trial in despair. But his mother, an old Scotch lady, nerved him to another attempt, and this time with success, and for the past three years he has used the planter with satisfaction. A firm is now manufacturing them. Mr. Brown supplies the Allan Line of Steamers with milk for the passengers. The above named farmers are noted for their Scotch plows, Clydesdale horses and Ayrshire cattle.

When passing over the mountain we stopped to see the fine stock of plants raised by Mr. McGibbon, the manager of Mountain Park, at which place he is carrying on great improvements.

Crossing the canal, we arrive at the farm and gardens of Mr. W. Evans, perhaps the oldest seedsman in Canada. He has a beautifully situated farm. It is more devoted to agriculture than to seeds. Mr. Evans, though now an old gentleman, intends going into the tree and plant growing next year to a much greater extent than he ever did. Adjoining this is

**THE FARM OF MR. J. HICKSON,**

the manager of the G. T. R. On this estate we found 4 good Shorthorn cows, 9 donkeys, 9 Welsh ponies, 3 Shetland ponies, 2 imported Clydesdale mares and 19 different breeds of fowls.

Mr. Hickson has 160 acres in this lot; he also has a large farm near Brunswick, on which he has 400 acres cleared, where he has 100 more donkeys and ponies. He will now move many of them to his Montreal farm, as he has disposed of his Hereford and Galloway cattle.

On the 20th we called at the Veterinary College. Mr. D. McEachren, the proprietor, wished us to take a seat with him in his carriage, as he was in a great hurry, and was about to leave by the evening train for the purpose of establishing in the North-west a ranch farm for an English company, he having already purchased five thousand head of cattle for the ranch; \$300,000, we understand, is the sum to be expended on the new ranch. Mr. McEachren is about to abandon the ranch first taken up by the Cochran Ranch Co., and locate it further south, on the Kootney River, within 6 miles of the U. S. boundary line. This year they raised about 15,000 head of cattle; they also have 500 horses and 120 foals. The reason for moving is to get where there is less snow and frost, as the severity of the past winter caused a loss of 1,000 head of cattle, and the horses were reduced to a very bad condition, but hardly any of them died. The Government leases these ranch companies 100,000 acres for 20 years, but this does not prevent squatters settling and breaking up land if they choose to do so.