

of the past season, which was a very unfavourable one for this class of products.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Under this head we may briefly refer, first, to dairy products. D. Clarke, of Puslinch, and G. Stranger, of Nassagewaga, took the leading prizes for butter. As usual, Mr. H. Ranney, of Dereham, took the lead in cheese. J. Cowan, of Saltfleet, came next. H. R. Parsons took the first prize for Stilton cheese, and J. Harris, of Ingersoll, for pine-apple cheese. Excellent honey was exhibited by H. McKee, of Norwichville, D. Vandusen, of Grimsby, and others. B. Hymman, of Grafton, Mrs. Miller, of Norval, and others, showed some prime samples of maple sugar. Bacon and hams, beef, mutton, and mutton hams, were shown by John Campbell, of Hamilton. A sample of Chinese sugar cane syrup was exhibited by J. Easterbrook, East Flamboro', and Mrs. Lawry, of Hamilton, was sole competitor in bread. Many other objects of interest might be specified, did our space admit. Wagons and carriages of superior workmanship, saddlery and harness work, and the large realm of the fine arts, furnish ample scope for enlargement. But we have already transcended our limits, and can only add a brief

SUMMING UP.

The Provincial Exhibition which has just closed has, on the whole, fulfilled the promise of success with which it opened, and has been, in some respects, decidedly the best ever held in this Province. More complete arrangements, better accommodation, and an improved system of superintendence, have characterized this year's Exhibition, and very few complaints had occasion to be made. The officers of the Association deserve much praise for the satisfactory and efficient manner in which they managed things. They had no small difficulties to contend with, some of an unexpected local nature, but by prudent and prompt action all were overcome.

The provision made for strangers was more than usually complete, and we believe but little inconvenience was suffered. Just prior to the Exhibition, there was danger of the Royal Hotel, the largest and best in Hamilton, being closed by the Sheriff, but fortunately Messrs. Murgidge & Co. averted that calamity by purchasing the establishment at the eleventh hour. Their spirited preparations and unremitting attention made a large multitude of guests very comfortable. Almost the only drawback to the Exhibition was the wet weather on Thursday. This must have seriously lessened the receipts. Still, on the whole, the pecuniary returns have been very fair. Even on Thursday, 7,500 quarter dollar tickets were sold, which with 4,500 on Friday, 2,000 on Tuesday, and 13,000 on Wednesday, brought up the total number of quarter dollar tickets for the four days to 27,000, realizing nearly \$7,000. In addition about 1,000 members' tickets were sold at \$1 each, besides as many more issued to local agricultural societies. The receipts of the Association during the present show have thus been very much better than at Kingston last year, though falling far short of the receipts at Toronto in 1862.

Report of the Judges on Mowers and Reapers.

Even since the mowing and reaping matches, which took place in July, and were fully reported in our columns, much curiosity has been felt to know the award of the judges in reference to the machines then submitted to the test of actual work. This award was, by the direction of "the powers that be," reserved until the Annual Exhibition should come off. Accordingly, it is now accessible to the public, and will, doubtless, be read with much interest, especially by competitors and their immediate friends. By comparing the conclusions arrived at by the judges with the opinions expressed in our columns, just after the occurrence of the matches, it will be seen that the views expressed by us are confirmed in almost every instance.

REPORT:

In presenting our report on the trial of mowers and reapers, we think we may fairly congratulate the Association on the success of the trial on this occasion. It is hardly twenty years since the first reaping machine was made in this Province, and now, at this trial, there were machines from twelve different makers, while several of the largest manufacturers of these machines have not sent any; and, further, that though there was considerable difference in the quality of the work done—it was all well done—the machines, as a whole, wrought well—no breaking down, no total failures. The utility to the farmer of

well-constructed reaping and mowing machines can scarcely be over-rated, as they assist him at the busiest season of the year, and in the most laborious work of the farm. By their aid he is enabled to perform various important agricultural operations, much more thoroughly and at the same time more speedily than he could formerly do by hand, thus rendering him in some measure independent of the uncertain supply of labour, which in some places is so difficult to procure.

We are well aware how difficult it is to form a fair estimate of the merits of the different machines, seen only when new from their shops, and tried, as they were on this occasion, under the most favourable circumstances, both as to the ground and the crops, for doing good work—we may safely infer that a machine that did not work well on this occasion could not be expected to do good work under any other circumstances.

In the class of single mowers there were seven entries. Only four of them made their appearance on the ground, when, after seeing the quality of the work done and the time taken to do it in, and their respective draughts tested, giving as careful consideration to the whole as time and circumstances admitted, we award the first prize to No. 4, the Ohio Junior, made by James Hall, Oshawa; the 2nd to No. 2, Hubbard's mower, made by Billington & Forsyth, Dundas, and the third to No. 1, Wood's mower, made by J. Watson, Ayr.

In the class of single reapers there were eight entries; six of these were tried on the ground. After seeing all the reapers cut twice round the field, all that the number of machines to be tried allowed us time to do, and having had them tested for their draught, and carefully examining the work done, as well as the construction of the machines, we award the first prize to No. 2, Ayr reaper, made by J. Watson, Ayr; the second to No. 3, made by Billington & Forsyth, Dundas; and the third to No. 4, Brinkerhoff's self-raker, made by James Hall, Oshawa.

In the class of Combined Reapers and Mowers, there were fifteen entries, twelve of which were tried as mowers, and ten as reapers. It was in deciding on the respective merits of this class that we experienced most difficulty, as, while one machine did very good work as a mower it was not so good as a reaper, or one that reaped very well was not so successful as a mower, and this difficulty was further increased by our finding some machines entered both as single reapers and as combined machines, and that other machines were not the identical ones that have been used at the former trial for mowers. After having seen them all cut twice round the field, and their draughts having been tested, and taking into consideration their qualities both as mowers and reapers, we award the first prize to No. 8, Ball's Ohio, made by L. & P. Sawyer, Hamilton; the second to No. 9, Ball's Ohio, made by James Hall, Oshawa; and the third to No. 12, Ball's Ohio, with a self-raking attachment, made by Palmer & Grant, Grimsby. We would further recommend No. 13, Excelsior, made by J. Scott & Co., Dundas. This machine has a very simple but ingenious invention for dropping the sheaves by a kind of spar platform, delivering the sheaves in very neat order directly behind the machine. Should this machine prove, on further trial, to be substantial, and the tilting platform be found to work as well in all ordinary cases as it did in the very favourable circumstances we saw it work in, it promises to be a very useful invention.

All the machines both as reapers and combined machines wrought with reels, and with the exception of the Excelsior just noticed, were all constructed to deliver their sheaves on one side, so as to allow the machine to go round again. Without the sheaves being bound up, though this in many cases is an advantage, yet the sheaves put off at the side are in general not near so neatly laid for binding as they are when put off directly behind the machine, though there was a great difference in the manner the sheaves were laid off, it seemed to depend more on the skill or strength of the raker than on any difference in the form of the machines. All the combined machines, with one exception, cut a much greater width of grain than grass.

In reference to the trial of the draughts of the several machines, we may state that less dependence was placed on them than otherwise would, from the fact that the dynamometer used on the second trial failed after several of the machines had been tested, and that the second one used evidently gave a very different measure of power; and further, we are bound to add some attempts at imposition were made at this part of the trial. Good bridles, strong lines, and well-fitted neck-yokes seemed to be trusted to as much as firm whiplashes. We would suggest that further and more continuous trials are required to test satisfactorily the exact relative draught of the several machines, and that at any future trial when being tested for their draught, all the different machines should be tried with the same driver, and the

same span of horses employed expressly for that purpose. Such trials will prove very useful both to farmers and to machine makers. The farmer sees the different machines at work, and chooses the one he thinks most suitable for his purpose, and makers seeing his machine at work sees any defects or weak points that may be in it, and has amendments and improvements suggested to him. Such trials, too, should impress on makers the necessity of seeing that there is a little more care in the making up of his machines, and seeing that every part is as perfect as possible before it leaves his shop. If this was attended to it would prove more satisfactory to their customers, and in the long run profitable to themselves.

Grand Provincial Ploughing Match.

"The Grand Provincial Ploughing Match in connection with the Provincial Exhibition," took place on Tuesday last. The field selected for the match was situated on the farm of Mr. Hugh Morwick, lot No. 42, 3rd concession of the township of Ancaster, rather more than a mile south-west of the village of Ancaster, and nearly eight miles from Hamilton. It was the nearest site to the Exhibition which could be secured—taking the requirements of level ground, clean soil, &c., into account. The judges appointed were Capt. Shaw, of York county; Mr. John Renton, of Glandford; and Mr. Walter Riddel, of the township of Hamilton. The field, by the time the judges had arrived on it, presented a lively scene. For half a mile on either side of the road leading past it, was lined with carriages, light and heavy. An immense crowd of people had gathered—probably from two to three thousand; though much larger estimates of the numbers were made. The attendance included both sexes and all ages—though farmers and farmers' sons of course made up the bulk of the gathering. The "setting of the poles," or marking out of the "lands," had been nearly completed; the ploughmen had got themselves in readiness for commencing operations; and a few minutes after the judges had made their appearance sufficed to get the match started. The field contained about fifteen acres of fine level sod; the soil was a sandy loam, remarkably free from stones, and just the thing needed, except that it was, perhaps, a trifle too dry for the clean cutting which is essential to good ploughing. The quantity of ground to be ploughed by each was, as near as might be, one sixth of an acre, and consisted of turning one crown ridge and one open furrow—equalling in all a "land" of seven yards in width and rather more than twenty rods in length. The time allowed was two hours, being at the rate of an acre in twelve hours. Each ploughman was required to drive his horses himself, and was debarred from touching the furrows with his hands and from having any assistance save in the "setting of the poles." The ploughing was required to be at least six inches in depth, and not more than one inch of an "under cut" was allowed.

There had been seventy three entries for this match, fifty-three ploughmen presented themselves and joined in the competition. The competitors were from all parts of the country—some coming a long distance; though of course a large proportion was from Ancaster and adjoining townships. Among their teams were some fine stout farm horses, but there were also many teams which were certainly far from being superior animals. The ploughmen, taken altogether, were physically a fine lot of men. Among the ploughs used there were only three or four wooden ones. The iron ploughs were of different varieties; a few of them were provided with devices for clipping the sod on the edge of the furrow, in order that the grass might be more completely covered when the furrow was turned. Some did this by means of a chain attached, and others by means of a "clipping" coulter. Nearly all the ploughs were of Canadian manufacture.

The work began at twenty minutes to one o'clock. The arrangement was that after doing six furrows, the ploughmen should report themselves to the Secretary, and have their time noted. A resting spell was then allowed until twenty-seven minutes to two o'clock, after which work was resumed and the "lands" finished—the time being again noted. Owing to misunderstandings and other causes, this rule was not very strictly observed, and some confusion was the result.

During the progress of the work the keenest interest was manifested in it. The immense crowd of