

## The Ontario Provincial Winter Fair.

**F**OR many years the Ontario Provincial Winter Fair has been a popular institution, but the one held in Guelph on December 11th to 14th, 1900, far surpassed those of former years, and came nearer than ever to the level of that great fat stock event of Great Britain, the Smithfield Show, after which it is now deservedly named. The first Provincial Winter Fair was held in Toronto in 1883, since which time it has been held in different cities and towns of the Province. Owing to the lack of proper accommodation and facilities in these places, the management thought it advisable to have a suitable building established in some central place, to be the permanent home of the Fair. The people of Wellington County decided to erect a suitable building in Guelph, making the Royal City the future home of the Fair, and the results have justified their efforts in a highly satisfactory way. Under the present management are united the Guelph Fat Stock Club, the Cattle, Sheep and Swine Breeders' Associations of the Dominion; the Ontario Poultry Association, and the Dairymen's Associations of Eastern and Western Ontario, all together forming the great Provincial Winter Fair.

The purpose of the Fair is to encourage among stockmen more skillful breeding and feeding, to bring in closer touch breeders, feeders and buyers, to establish a sale centre, and, if possible, to demonstrate by practical tests the most profitable types of stock to raise, together with the best systems of management.

The Fair building is conveniently located on the market square, to the west end of the City Hall. It is a stone structure, built in the form of an L, having a length of 310 feet and an average width of 130 feet. The interior presents a splendid arrangement of exhibits. The greater part of the ground floor is occupied by the exhibits of cattle, sheep and swine, while the remainder is taken up by the killing room, dressed carcass room, lecture room, judging space and an area of 3,000 square feet for the accommodation of the dairy cows. The whole upper storey which is 300 feet long and 50 feet wide contains the live and dressed poultry, the pets, and the poultry men's supplies.