

amongst farmers promotes a knowledge of farming, and when it is well known that this is so, we are rather surprised that farmers' associations are not more favorably considered by the generality of farmers than they are in some places at present. At the formation of the East Oxford Association, Mr. Alexander, who was subsequently appointed its President, delivered an admirable address on the benefit of Farmers Associations.—*Colonist*.

Provincial Exhibition.

The Annual Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association, will be held in Toronto, on the 21st, 22nd, 23rd, and 24th of September. Extensive arrangements have been made to ensure a display of the produce and industry of the country, commensurate with the extraordinary increase in its population and wealth, since the last Exhibition held in this city four years ago.

The Local Committee in their address to the Citizens of Toronto express their confident expectation that the Ontario, Simcoe and Lake Huron Railroad will be opened, and the Locomotive in operation as far as Bradford, by the time fixed for the fair. A very large number of visitors from all parts of Canada and the United States is looked for, and (for the purpose of affording every facility to strangers to procure suitable accommodation) the Local Committee have announced their intention to keep a record of all Houses of entertainment in the city and Environs, as also the extent of accommodation each possesses and the charges for the same.

Premiums to be awarded by the Provincial Agricultural Association.

For Agricultural Reports of Counties in Upper Canada, for 1853. Open to general competition.

For the best County Report, (Wellington and Hastings excepted,) - - - - -		£20	0	0
2nd	Do - - - - -	15	0	0
3rd	Do - - - - -	10	0	0
4th	Do - - - - -	5	0	0

These Reports, in addition to the usual information required respecting the condition of Agricultural Societies within their range, should describe the various soils of the County; modes of Farming; value of land; amount of tillage and average of crops; breeds of live stock; implements and machines in use; methods of preserving and applying manures; sketch of past progress, with suggestions for future improvement. The manufacturing and commercial condition and capabilities of the County should likewise be stated, together with any other facts that would illustrate its past history or present condition.

All statistical information should be condensed as much as possible, and when practicable, put into a tabulated form. The main object of each report should be to afford any intelligent stranger that might read it, a concise, yet an adequately truthful view of the Agricultural condition and Industrial pursuits of the County. While all unnecessary particulars are to be avoided in the preparation of these Reports, completeness should as much as possible be kept in view.

The Reports must be sent in to the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, accompanied by a sealed note containing the name and address of the writer, on or before the 1st of April, 1853; and no report will be received after that date. Such reports as obtain premiums will become the property of the Board.—*Agriculturist*.

FOREIGN.

Accidents in Mines.—Not less than 6000 of our fellow-creatures have been destroyed in the mines during the last ten years. Some of them have been shattered to pieces in the mine—projected against the sides of this terrible piece of ordnance; while others, out of its immediate range, in another part of the workings, have been instantly poisoned by the gaseous productions of the explosion. Others, again, have been drowned in the depth of the mine, and some have fallen many hundred feet and been bruised to death, while many have been crushed under tons of fallen roof, and the very likeness of man been destroyed.

At this juncture, as if guided by a special Providence, a strong and national society is preparing to make this subject its peculiar care. Practical and scientific men, as if anticipating its increased necessity, held a preliminary meeting in Westminster, on Wednesday, last week, to form a Society for the preservation of life from explosion and other accidents in mines. It was there resolved that a society having these objects in view, should have its seat in London, and its ramifications in every mining district.

We have the names of some of the first practical and scientific men of the day, as well as of Members of Parliament, who are prepared to support this Society. In London we have a concentration of the science of Europe, and the influence and the power of the kingdom, that will tender to the mines all human means and appliances suited

for their dangerous condition; while practical knowledge and experience from the mines will offer to science the elements for experiment and calculation. Thus collecting on each other, and proceeding hand in hand, they will bring to light a better and more secure mode for working our dangerous mines. Science, thus led by practical knowledge, enabled M. Jars, the French academician, to discover the laws of the natural ventilation of mines, and their dangerous condition at certain seasons. So led, Sir Humphrey Davy and Mr. G. Stevenson discovered the safety-lamp; and so led, Professor Bischoff, of Bonn, detected bi-carburetted hydrogen in some of the continental mines, that rendered the safety-lamp in them an instrument of danger. It was this which discovered that the same safety-lamp became a source of explosion in the hands of the miner, when passing through an explosive atmosphere of more than 3 ft. a second. It was this combination of science and practical knowledge that has given to the mines their various means of ventilation—the furnace, the fan, the ventilating-pump, the elevated chimney, and the steam-jet. It is this which has enabled us to penetrate nearly 2000 feet into the bowels of the earth, through quicksands and feeders of water, some of them 6000 gallons per minute, and to extract therefrom the minerals so important to the individual man and to the country. It is this combination that is the hope of the future.

A national society for the miners, inspired by humanity, and so influenced and guided, cannot but be productive of the most beneficial results.—*Mining Journal*.

Railway Statistics.—The length of railway open at the end of 1851 was 6390 miles; end of 1850, 6621 miles; and end of 1849, 6032 miles—showing an increase in mileage in 1851 over 1850 of 269 miles, and end of 1850 over 1849 of 589 miles.

Passengers.—The number of passengers conveyed on railways in the United Kingdom for the half-year ending the 31st Dec., 1851, was 47,509,392; for the corresponding period of 1850, 41,087,919; and for the corresponding period of 1849, 35,073,672—showing an increase in the half-year ending the 31st Dec., 1851, over the corresponding period in 1850 of 6,421,473 passengers, and for the half-year ending the 31st Dec., 1850, over the corresponding period of 1849 of 6,014,217 passengers.

Accidents.—In the half year ending the 31st December, the number of persons killed was 113, and 261 injured. There were 8 passengers killed and 113 injured, from causes beyond their own control; 9 passengers were killed and 14 injured, owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 30 servants of companies or of contractors were killed and 17 injured, from causes beyond their own control; 32 servants of companies or of contractors were killed and 11 injured, owing to their own misconduct or want of caution; 33 trespassers and other persons, neither passengers nor servants of the companies, were killed and 9 injured, by crossing or walking on railways. There was one suicide.

The Gold Fields of Australia.—The Victoria gold fields still engross the chief attention of fortune-hunters, and really the outmovings appear to be immense. In five months—say, from October, 1851, to the beginning of March, 1852—the Victoria diggings yielded the enormous amount of 653,270 ounces of gold, which is valued at £2,319,10910s., or nearly \$10,000,000.

The Bathurst and Turon diggings, which have been longer and more extensively worked than those of Victoria, have yielded up to March nearly 1,000,000 ounces of gold; the actual exports to March 20 being 1,125,317 ounces. These diggings yield as plentiful as ever, and new localities, abounding in rich deposits, are being met with in abundance.

In Van Dieman's Land gold has been discovered, but we have little more than the announcement. Large parties had gone out in different directions, with the view of prospecting.

Statistics.—In England, in the six years 1839 to 1844 the average number married annually was 1,516 in every 100,000 persons, composed of equal proportions of the sexes; whilst the greatest deviation in excess from the average was only 51, and in deficiency only 74, in the whole six years. The same singular uniformity was remarked in the number of persons married at different ages, in the proportion of men at one age with females at another age, and even between the conditions of persons marrying, viz.:—bachelors with spinsters, bachelors with widows, widowers with spinsters, and widowers with widows. The proportions are shown by tables to differ in a very slight degree in several successive years, and at different periods of age. Other kinds of observations may be pointed out, in which the action of the will is observed to be in such strict accordance with a general law, that calculation, though it might be at fault in a few cases, would be almost absolutely correct in predicting the results in a large population. The crimes of which persons are accused vary in their nature according to the age and sex; but during the twenty years in which they were registered in France, and during which the number accused was about equal to that of the males registered in Paris, the