

The Field.

Agricultural Productions at the Provincial Exhibition.

THE Agricultural and Horticultural productions were exhibited in a spacious shed erected for the purpose near the Crystal Palace Building. For various reasons it was late before they were collected together, and before they were well in place the judges had to commence work. During the time they were thus occupied on the second day of the fair, all other visitors were excluded from the building, and it was not till some time on Wednesday that their task was completed. By that time the crowd of visitors was so great that a leisurely examination was not practicable. It is only possible therefore to give a general account of this department.

The display of grain, as was to be expected from the character of the past season and harvest, was excellent as regards the quality of the cereals. It is to be regretted, however, that there is not greater competition in what is the main business of every farmer. The premiums, especially those of the Canada Company, and the Association's prize for the best twenty-five bushels of wheat, are on a liberal scale, yet, if we are not mistaken, there were very few competitors for these prizes. This is the more to be regretted, inasmuch as the larger quantity required gives really a better test of the quality of the crop, and we are not sure that it would not be a great improvement on the present system to substitute rewards for the best field of any produce, in place of the best bushel, or the best eight or twelve samples. A market gardener can raise tremendous roots on a single rood of land, by an amount of culture and expenditure of fertilizers which the farmer could scarcely imitate on the wider scale of his acres. We would not, however, disparage the good sample in limited quantity. To say nothing of its being the most convenient, if not sometimes the only practical, method of display and competition, these experiments on a small scale teach us what can be done by labor and manure, and point the farmer in the right direction towards success in his more extended field. Still, we think an addition might be made with advantage to the present list of prizes, and awards made for the best field of any crop, the best orchard, or the best cultivated farm.

The recent Exhibition afforded evidence of the capabilities of the country for wheat raising, the samples of this grain being most of them of superior quality. Mr. John Hamilton, of Strabane, was well entitled to the honor of winning the Canada Company's prize for the best twenty-five bushels of wheat. He gained also the first prize for the best two bushels of both white and red fall wheat. The berries in all the samples were remarkably fine, plump, even, and of good color. If such grain were exclusively used for seed, our wheat returns would soon show a very different result from that of recent years. The second prize given by the Association was gained by Thomas Turnbull, of South Dumfries, for twenty-five bushels of Diehl wheat, which compared very favorably with any in the Exhibition. J. McEver, of Hamilton Township, who last year obtained this prize of the Association, has the third awarded to him, for twenty-five bushels of Soules wheat. Six years ago, we are informed, he purchased sixty-seven lbs. of seed wheat, and obtained as the produce in the following year four and a-half bushels, which he again sowed, and from the yield he gained the Association's second prize. In the next year (1866) he gained the third prize for this same variety; and in 1867 was again successful with it in obtaining the second prize, while the produce of the same seed obtained in other hands the first or Canada Company's prize, the grain having been put out a little greener than in Mr. McEver's field. We would congratulate him on his success, and trust that he will go on, not perhaps with the same seed, but with the same perseverance and careful culture, till he has gained the first place, which he has hitherto failed to reach. There were other good samples of fall wheat exhibited. Joseph Rymal, of Hamilton, obtained the second prize for two bushels of white wheat, scarcely at all inferior to that shown by Mr. Hamilton. It is, however, unnecessary, and

would occupy far too much space to specify individual samples, especially as the prize list already published indicates in a great measure the meritorious exhibitors. The samples of spring wheat, notwithstanding the drought, seemed up to the usual mark.

The barley was good, nearly all of a bright colour, though some of it was lacking in weight. That shown by Allan Bond, of Storrington, was especially fine. There was not much competition in winter rye, but the samples were good.

The oats did not seem up to the usual standard, though some of the bags, both of the white and black variety, were, considering the season, very fine.

The samples of peas showed less of the effects of the long drought than would be expected, but there can be no doubt the yield per acre would tell a different story.

Of field beans there was only a small but fair show.

There were some really fine samples of Indian corn, some of the yellow varieties being especially worthy of note. Some specimens shown by Thomas Eastbrook, of Flamboro, and H. J. Brown, of Niagara, were particularly good.

The display of field seeds of various kinds was very limited, though this is a department that deserves every encouragement. It is one of great importance, and by no means the least lucrative field of agricultural enterprise. Mr. A. Thompson, of East Flamboro, obtained the first prize for the best bushel of timothy seed, and Mr. John Smith, of Burford, for clover seed. Samples of Alsike clover were shown by the President of the Association, T. Stock, Esq., of Waterdown, and F. M. Thomas, of Brooklin—the latter gaining the first prize. C. Holt, of Whitby, is another diligent cultivator in this department, and gained prizes for turnip, carrot and mangel wurzel seed.

There were fifteen bales of hops exhibited, for the best sample of which W. H. Bailey (of London) gained the first prize.

The display of field roots was, though not large as to quantity, really magnificent and astonishing in the size of some of the specimens. Mr. W. Burgess' display of mangel wurzel especially deserves emphatic notice. His success in raising these gigantic roots is due, we understand, to the application of night soil to the crop, and farmers as well as market gardeners should take note of the unappreciated value of this too much wasted fertiliser. The Chinese and Japanese should teach the "barbarians" of Canada a lesson in this respect. There were other splendid samples of the several varieties of mangolds, but none equal, taken altogether, to the collection of Mr. Burgess. In turnips, purple top, green top and skirvings were also exhibited. The grey stone and yellow Aberdeen were also represented, though slenderly as regards the number of exhibitors. T. Stock, Esq., of Waterdown, was among the prize takers.

Field carrots, especially the white Belgian variety, were shown whose dimensions would seem to belie our recollections of the protracted drought. We are sure they could not have been raised during the past season without special care in the preparation of the soil and the after culture. The same remark applies to the display of parsnips and of sugar beets, of which Mr. Burgess, amongst others, showed fine specimens. There were a few good samples of chicory root. Mammoth squashes, as usual, attracted the astonished gaze of the passing visitor.

A few good specimens of broom corn were exhibited, and one especially good sample by T. Eastbrook, of Flamboro.

The Canada Company's prize for scutched flax was awarded to H. Willoughby of Otonabee, and that of the Association to H. Calcott, of Monaghan. The Canada Company's prize for hemp was not awarded, as the specimens, though good in quality, were not up to the required quantity.

The display of potatoes, though very meritorious, considering the season, was below the standard of former exhibitions, and this falling off was especially noticeable in the department of garden vegetables.

In the same department were shown some good samples of oil cake by Lyman & Co., and a few barrels of bonedust of various degrees of fineness were exhibited by Travuski, Bros., Hamilton.

Implements at the Exhibition.

THE space allotted for agricultural implements was ample, and mostly on the open ground, though a few were collected in a shed, erected for the purpose. Altogether, there was a larger and, perhaps, a better display in this department than has ever before been brought together at a Provincial Exhibition. In most of the sections there was considerable competition, while some articles stood alone, not having been contemplated in the prize list, and shown

as extra entries. In some sections, again, the competition was small, or *nil*.

Near the main entrance to the show grounds was the space allotted for Reapers and Mowers, which were shown by themselves—the other agricultural implements being displayed to the north and west of the building. Among the Mowers and Reapers, II. A. Massey sent from his extensive works at Newcastle a beautifully finished combined machine (Wood's patent); also a separate Reaper and Mower. These are all well known to the agricultural community of Canada, and the high appreciation in which they are held may be gathered from the fact that they have now been manufactured for several years in Canada, and that last year alone Mr. Massey made upwards of 500. For a still longer period they have been favorably known in the United States, where they take the lead, more than 23,000 having been made last year. Those manufactured by the Newcastle works gained first prizes at previous Provincial Exhibitions of 1863, 1866 and 1867; and at the World's Exposition at Paris last year, Wood's reaper gained the highest distinction, and distanced all others in competition. An excellent mower and reaper was shown by John Watson, of the Ayr Foundry, with a single reaper from the same place. Benjamin Bell, of St. George, sent a combined Mower and Reaper, with F.A. Ball's Ohio attachment for mowing. The reaper can either be used as a self-reaper or not, at pleasure. It cuts six feet in width, but the draught is said to be comparatively light, having been found under 200 lbs. at recent trials. John Scott, of Caledonia, was another of the numerous competitors in this section, and also sent a mower, and combined machine. The wheels in this are wider than most other machines, by eight inches, and great steadiness is gained in consequence. John Forsyth, of Dundas, exhibited two single mowers, and three combined machines on the Ball's Ohio principle, with some improvements of his own. Mr. Collins, of Guelph, showed his patent grain harvester. F. W. Glen, of Oshawa, from the Joseph Hall Works, showed the Dick's self-reaper, a combined mower and reaper, also a Wood's self raker. Yales & Co., of St. Catharines, exhibited a "Cayuga Chief" combined mower and reaper; also a mower, and a third implement with a self-raking attachment. In these reapers the pole is connected to the machine by a hinge, which relieves the horses' necks from considerable weight. They are also constructed with a revolving action to the finger bar, by which they can be made to cut close to the ground, when desired, or the points of the fingers can be raised up so as to clear rough ground and cut higher. This change is not effected by raising and lowering the finger bar and sickle perpendicularly, but by giving it a rotary movement on its axis, so that the points chiefly are elevated or depressed. Haggart & Brothers, of Brampton, showed a Ball's Ohio Reaper, with Dodge's self-raking attachment; also, a combined implement without the self-raker, and a simple mower. The rotary motion is also given to the finger bar in these machines. L. D. Sawyer & Co., of Hamilton, exhibited two combined machines, and also a mower. Lawrence & Co., of Palermo, had a Ball's Ohio combined, with self-raker, which is noteworthy, among other excellencies, for an improvement in the adjuster for raising the finger-bar, which is done by a wheel and axle instead of a lever, and considerable power thereby gained. Paxton, Tate & Co., of Port Perry, showed the Marsh Harvester, a machine which has been fully described in the CANADA FARMER, and of whose merits we entertain a high opinion. It was to us a matter of surprise that it was not in some way distinguished in the award of the judges. The successful competitors—and the remark just made is no way disparaging to them—were Messrs. Massey, Glen, Haggart, Lawrence, Yale and Forsyth.

There was quite an imposing array of threshing machines, and second to none among these was Abell's splendid and beautifully finished thresher and separator, which has already gained such distinction, and given the Woodbridge work a high reputation in this department. The machine has been so often fully described before that it is scarcely necessary again to advert to its advantages. The side delivery of the straw carrier is peculiar to it. The guarding of the gearing and coupling is almost complete, and in this respect the only machine that rivals, if it does not eclipse it, is Hoggert's. The whole is a model of good workmanship and well-contrived machinery. The power used is Pitt's power, and the shaft that goes through is furnished with couplings at each end, so that the machine can be run from either side. Mr. Abell was again the winner of the first prize.

Haggart and Bros. showed an excellent machine with several recent improvements introduced, consisting chiefly in contrivances for economizing