

held in Toronto, in 1866, \$12,712 was offered; there were 6,279 entries, and \$10,288 were awarded. Last year, at London, \$13,428 was offered in premiums; there were 7,649 entries, and \$11,459 59 was awarded; so that last year the amount offered was more than 12 times that at the first exhibition, the number of entries six and a half times more, and the amount awarded was more than ten times that given in 1830. These figures give a very faint idea of the real work, or good, accomplished by the Association. It cannot be estimated. Canada would have been far behind in the race of improvement but for the labours of this Association and its branches throughout the country. The inspiration of new ideas and modes of thought in agricultural and mechanical art has been so vast and varied that the mind is almost lost in contemplating it. The results of the impetus thus given can never be even approximately estimated; and our exhibitions, it is safe to say, have been more successful than any of their kind on this continent. For many years I have attended the exhibitions of our neighbours, and they have been good displays of agricultural and mechanical products, but ours have excelled them. Now I do not say this in a spirit of egotism or partiality, but it is a fact that there is a thoroughness and completeness about our shows which can be met no where else in America. I had the honour, as one of your representatives, to attend the New York State Fair last week. It was a very good show indeed, but the whole number of entries was only 1,741—surely a small number for a State so large, populous and wealthy as the "Empire State." They must arouse or we shall outrun them in the race of agricultural improvement.

In speaking of our present position as an Association, I wish to give you, in as narrow limits as possible, an abstract of our finances from January 1st, to Sept. 26th:—

## RECEIPTS.

Balance on hand 1st Jan., 1870.....	\$1,649 97
Prizes unpaid and returned.....	12 00
Miscellaneous sources.....	791 54
Rents of Hall and shops.....	900 00
Government Grant for 1870.....	10,000 00
Rents for Booths to date.....	1,510 00
	\$14,863 51

## PAYMENTS.

Salaries.....	\$1,323 32
Board expenses.....	1,206 75
Miscellaneous (payment to Glackmeyer, \$1,000, etc.).....	1,397 87
Printing and Stationery.....	502 84
Legal expenses.....	229 19
Exhibition.....	229 00
Prizes.....	13 00
Veterinary School.....	550 00
	\$5,544 97
By Balance.....	9,298 54
	\$14,843 51

So that on the 26th of last month we had a balance in hand of \$9,298 54. The Denison matter is still in the Court of Chancery, and will soon be disposed of. I may say that we have ample security for the whole amount not in dispute, and also, that

since the security was given, it is estimated that the property held has advanced in value not less than 25 per cent. Fault has been found with our management. Now, gentlemen, we have no claim to infallibility; it is human to err; but we claim that whatever errors may have occurred, they are those of judgment, not of intention. We point with pride and satisfaction to the present Exhibition as incontestible evidence of the good which has been accomplished through the instrumentality of the Agricultural and Arts Association and its branches throughout the Province. It has been suggested that the management of the Association would be better in the hands of the Government, for the time being. My belief is exactly opposite. In the first place, it is not the business of the Government to engage in such matters; it is the business of the farmers and mechanics of the Province of Ontario, and theirs only. No other men can come and manage it so well; they can, at least, manage it to their own satisfaction. Our experience of such matters in the past does not justify the abandonment of the management of this Institution. Since the formation of a Bureau of Agriculture in 1850, has there been in any one instance a farmer placed at the head of it? Except in two or three instances, gentlemen of the long robe have occupied the position. What would the Attorney-General for the time being have said had we proposed to place the Crown Law Department in the hands of a farmer? Yet we have permitted a position, which, if it be of any importance at all to us, to be regularly occupied by men who were ignorant of agricultural pursuits, and of what the agricultural interests of the country demanded. And why has this been the case? Simply because the *political necessities* of the party in power for the time being must be met. And so it would be were the Association to be managed by a Government. It would be made a political machine whose character and complexion would change with the party holding the reins of Government, whatever that might be. It is insulting to the farmers and mechanics of Ontario to tell them that they cannot manage their own business. If the Council of the Association, now or at any future time, are in your opinion not doing their duty, send other men to represent you. This can easily be accomplished; but do not permit the influence of our Association to be ruined, and eventually its existence to be destroyed, by alliance with this or that political party. In the management of this institution, we have steadily abjured politics; if we had not done so, we would never have accomplished anything. This is common ground, on which we can all meet; and it is refreshing to have such a rendezvous. Let us say to every political meddler, no matter who he may be, "This is sacred ground." I have felt it to be my duty to make these observations, from certain ominous hints which I have heard, so that you may be prepared for the emergency should it arise. Should these be mere rumours without foundation, then the warning can do no harm. We admit to the fullest extent the right and duty of the Government to require the strictest account; but if complete vassalage be the terms on which we are to have our annual grant, then we shall say to the Government:—"Keep it, we can sustain our association ourselves." And, after all, whose money is given to aid in its sustenance but mainly the money of the farmers and mechanics of Ontario? And if they choose to have a portion of their own money devoted to the development of the two great arms of