

breakages caused them to be abandoned.) Some alterations are made in this new one, but they do not overcome the difficulty. When we see it properly worked, we shall be pleased to give you our opinion of its efficiency. We do not think the owners are justified in calling it a new machine. Mr. Carter richly deserves to be rewarded whether this is efficient or not, for he has labored for years at inventions of different kinds. The ditcher made a great racket and was kept in motion and placed in the most conspicuous place; consequently it drew much attention.

The fact is that many of the exhibitors from other towns, cities and townships are dissatisfied with the Torontonians, who they consider are attempting to extract more money from the public exchequer than they are justly entitled to, and are trying to monopolize. Not only does this feeling exist in towns and cities, but the farmers of the country consider the attempts to check outside agricultural exhibitions, whether in the township or county, or other city exhibitions, have emanated from that centre, and that for selfish purposes. To do this effectually every means have been used to induce the railroads to carry visitors cheaper to Toronto than to any other exhibition. Free tickets of admission have been scattered broadcast over Ontario to those who have influence or power; free tickets for a big feed provided, at which the Grange Order was depended on for aid, the Provincial Board of Agriculture invited; the School of Agriculture supplied the speakers.

The greatest work was to have been done at the grand stand. At the horse ring the grand stand was crowded with thousands; the ring was surrounded with the mass. The hurdles were set ready for the jumps, the band was trying to charm the audience, and just before the trial of speed, the hurdle jumping and lady riding, the great oration was to take place to incorporate the township and all other agricultural exhibitions for the benefit of Toronto. The speakers' platform was well covered with well-primed speakers, M. P. P.'s, etc., etc. To give it an apparent agricultural countenance, the Master of the Dominion Grange was to give the first address. A few minutes showed the audience what was up. They would not hear him nor any of the other speakers. Thus the prepared resolutions were lost, despite the big feed and big preparations.

To add to this deplorable disaster, posters had been put all over the ground calling a meeting in the City Hall in the evening. The Mayor of the city, the Master of the Grange, Prof. Brown of the Model Farm, and many other magnets were announced as the speakers. Despite all their persuasive powers, the immense crowd in Toronto, and the fine hall, the chairman had to apologize for the meagre attendance. We counted 58 at one time and at another 73; at no time were there 200 in the hall. The Mayor spoke highly in favor of Toronto as the agricultural hub; the Master of the Grange had his say; Mr. Brown did not appear, having attended the Canadian Shorthorn Breeders' Association meeting, which was in session at the same time; but Mr. Mills, the Principal of the College, and Mr. Johnston, the former Principal, both gave very useful addresses. Resolutions recommending the expenditure of more public money under the name of agriculture were passed.

Mr. Johnston suggested the propriety of establishing a Farmers' Alliance. It is our opinion that such an organization, if it could be kept out of any ring, would be the best and most useful institution in Canada, not only for farmers, but for the country generally. We hail with pleasure anything we consider would be for the real interest and benefit of the farmer and his family, and believe a Farmers' Alliance, if properly managed, would do good.

**The Provincial Exhibition—1882.**

The inhabitants of Kingston and the farmers in that locality have exerted themselves to secure the Exhibition. They were, by means of liberal subscriptions and in other ways, prepared to give every encouragement, and promise to furnish every accommodation necessary for exhibitors, and are willing to pledge themselves to furnish ample sleeping accommodations for visitors. This last clause is a most important one, as neither Ottawa, Toronto nor London has ever yet properly attended to this requirement.

Kingston has many just claims that should be considered. First, she erected the first Crystal Palace in Canada for the accommodation of the Provincial Exhibition. Second, the inhabitants of this locality are entitled to have it, as they pay their proportion of taxation for its maintenance. We are unable to give a lucid reason why Kingston has been slighted by the Provincial Association for so many years. She has always been ready to pledge her support and furnish accommodation. We should like to know from any one of the old members of the Provincial Board why Kingston has not been treated honorably by them. Has it been for a political censure? Has it been for the purpose of gratifying the whim of an individual that so much of our money has been spent in Ottawa? The first time when held in that city, as an agricultural exhibition it was a worse failure than it ever had been in Kingston; and the second time Kingston was slighted and the exhibition held in Ottawa.

The whole association has become so demoralized that it will take a series of years and a thorough change in its management to restore the confidence the Province once had in its managers. We feel quite satisfied that very great changes must take place in the acts of our legislature in regard to agricultural affairs. We must deal with matters as they are, and the present Board and the delegates have to select a place for the Provincial Exhibition for 1882. Let it be Kingston—let Kingston fulfil her promises to the letter, and let us unite and try to restore the shattered bark. The Provincial Exhibition has done good work when under proper management, and can do good service yet if the directors would throw pomp and politics into the fire and try and act honorably and justly toward the farmers of the Province.

There are some parties who desire to use the name "agriculture" for the purpose of advancing local or personal interests. It is to be regretted that such parties have too often been able to gain the ascendancy over the real practical farmers. In our public expenditure under the name of agriculture the object should be to do the greatest good to the greatest number. Despite all the cheap excursions at low rates given by the railroads, there is comparatively few farmers who attend any of the large exhibitions who will travel over 100 miles, and only a very few who will go 50 miles unless they have their expenses paid either as delegate, judge or prize winner.

The Provincial Exhibition, if continued for the benefit of farmers, must be a itinerant exhibition, and further, with the large grant it has so long enjoyed, it should ere this have been a self-sustaining, honorable and wealthy institution, and have been able to disseminate ten times more valuable information than it has done. The fault has not been with the institution, but with the managers of it.

No agricultural exhibition that we are aware of stands as high in the estimation of the world as the Royal Agricultural Exhibition of England. It receives no Government grant; it requires no expensive buildings. The whole exhibition is held under canvas tents that are put up and transported to any locality that may be deemed most suitable. It travels all over England, and you cannot tell two years ahead where it will be held next. This institution is managed for farmers and by farmers. It has rolled on for years, gaining honor and doing good; no allurements foreign to agriculture are allowed to detract from its utility.

When in Prescott recently we noticed an American agricultural exhibition bill, large, colored and illustrated. On it an agricultural hall was shown, cut of horserace, etc.; but the points that appeared the most impressive were the picture of a wheelbarrow race, occupying nearly a quarter of the bill on one side, and an illustration of a bag race, the men being tied up in the bags, on the other. Although these foolish games may attract a crowd, and may draw money, you may depend that it is at the expense of our agricultural interest. There is sufficient in agriculture to make these exhibitions attractive and useful without bag races, blindfold races, wheelbarrow races, fire eaters or any other nonsense.—[London Exhibition Supplement.

**On the Wing.**

Not having visited Brockville and vicinity for many years, we deemed it judicious to spend a few days there. We are pleased to report that the farmers in that vicinity have better crops this year than for many years past. The drouth during the past three weeks, together with the great heat, has dried the moisture out of the land to such an extent that fires have done much damage to many farms. Some farmers have had their crops and buildings destroyed. One man we saw informed us that he had not a rail left on his farm. These are very serious losses, but in some localities we hear that the fire is running over large tracts, burning all the vegetable mold and the surface soil to the depth of several inches, and sometimes eight feet. As this destroys the fertility of the soil, it takes many years to bring it into good condition again. When the soil is destroyed the farmer's bank is broken. When the fires burn the soil we think it a much greater loss than when buildings, a year's crops or fences are swept away. The latter can be restored, but the fertility of the land may never be restored.

**ARTIFICIAL MANURE.**

On the docks at Kingston we noticed farmers unloading lots of rubbish-looking rock. Some of it is of a grey color, some brown, some bluish, and some of a dirty white. This rock is called "apatite." To the inexperienced one would think this of no more value than granite or any other stone, but by chemical analysis this rock is found to consist of a most valuable plant food. To make it available for the rootlets it has to be crushed through massive and powerful crushers, then it has to be ground as fine as flour, and boiled through the dusting sieves. In this state it is only half prepared. It then has to be thoroughly saturated with sulphuric acid, which softens all the substance, and makes it the strongest plant food known. But it cannot be applied in this state, as it would pack and become as hard as a rock. It now has to be dried; even after this it would absorb moisture sufficient to cause it to pack and become hard. To prevent this, another very valuable powder, has to be added. This powder is imported from Chicago, and is made from the refuse of the slaughter-houses of that city, consisting of the bones, blood, offal—in fact, all the refuse matter. This is thoroughly dried in kilns, then ground into powder and sold to those who wish to fertilize their land. It sells at a high price. A portion of it has to be mixed with the superphosphate, to prevent the particles from adhering to each other. It is this animal production, which is mixed with the ground rock, that causes the strong and disagreeable smell always found in superphosphate. This is the most valuable fertilizer known, when it is procured in a pure and unadulterated state. There are people that will do anything for money, and no farmer can tell whether he has real, genuine superphosphate or not; and it is one of the easiest things to adulterate, as a small quantity of the genuine article will emit smell enough to infect many tons of plaster, and chemical analysis alone can tell whether your superphosphate is adulterated or not. The cost of the genuine superphosphate is \$32 per ton. This appears to be a high price, but we are assured it cannot be made pure and genuine, and allowing a living profit, at a less price. It requires a great deal of work, and the ingredients are all expensive. Of course, this price puts it out of the reach of the average farmer. In fact, it requires much more knowledge and skill to use superphosphate profitably than some farmers possess. It is like steam power. One farmer chained down the safety valve and went up; another neglected to put water on the spark arrester