

When we turn to the exported manufactures of Britain, what do we see? Cottons rising from twenty-three millions in 1852 to sixty-one in 1866; linens from four to ten; woollens from nine to twenty-two; and silks from a million to a million and a half. Let us try to think of 2,575 millions of yards of cotton goods—the quantity exported last year; or of stockings and socks sufficient to afford a pair apiece to more than eleven million persons?

Of the export of metals some idea may be formed by the simple statement that the exported iron for last year alone exceeded in value £25,000,000 sterling. From 1858 to 1866, gold and silver to the value of 253 millions were imported and 217 exported, showing an excess of imports of thirty-six millions.

The shipping returns tell the same story. The ships entering and clearing, always increasing in number and tonnage, and always a larger proportion of them British, notwithstanding that foreigners have unlimited freedom to engage even in the coasting trade.

The amount of British spirits still retained for home consumption is still distressingly large; yet, compared with 1852, in spite of an increased population, there is a diminution—the amount being last year twenty-two-and-a-half millions of gallons, while in 1852 it was twenty-five millions.

Perhaps some persons are foolish enough to imagine that the amount of emigration from Britain will sensibly diminish the population. Let them be comforted. They may rest assured that, even though themselves emigrants, they are not missed. While three millions of people have, during the last fifteen years, left the British isles, there is nearly that increase to the population which remained.

Far be it from us to say that there are no dark spots in the present condition of the Fatherland, or to make one exaggerated statement about her prosperity and her prospects. The most enthusiastic admirer of Britain and British institutions acknowledges and deplores many evils still requiring to be remedied, many hindrances to progress yet to be removed. But that there has been steady progress in all which constitutes real national greatness, in the more immediate as in the more remote past, is unquestionable; and it is no little satisfaction to all who wish well to the best and highest interests of humanity, the world over, to be able with perfect truth to say—"There is life in the old land yet." Britain's work is not done; Britain's sun is not even declining, far less about to disappear, and Britain's power for good—a power not to be estimated by mere statistics—was never so great as at present, even though she has many detractors, and though not a few who ought to know better and act differently, seem to glory in the thought that, like the empires of the past, she is about to fall, never to rise again. The time for that may come, but the youngest of the present generation is not likely, we may safely say, to see signs of its approach, even though Thomas Carlyle talks frantically about "shooting Niagara," and much smaller men, at not so great a distance, settle themselves very complacently in order to have a good view of the catastrophe.

Crop Statistics.

It is very important and desirable that we should have year by year trustworthy returns of the crops. The utility of such statistics must be obvious to every reflecting mind. But how to get them is the difficulty. We suggested some time ago that Government should make every postmaster a statistical agent, and require of him periodical returns. We still think this is as feasible a method as could be desired. Of course payment should be made for the extra service thus imposed. It need not be a very troublesome affair. Certainly it would not be if each farmer were to make a return to his post-office of the crops put in at seed-time and the estimated yield at harvest. How much of a task would this be? A very small one if every farmer would keep, as he ought to do, some record, account-book, or diary as to his operations each season. Many would, no doubt, exclaim against it as a piece of Government tyranny if it were made the duty of every farmer to report his doings twice a year, but it is no more than is required in some other departments of business annually, and in every line of productive industry

whenever a census is taken. And how much patriotism has that man who is unwilling to spend a few minutes in putting down on paper a memorandum of his sowing and reaping for the public good? Among other advantages of trustworthy statistics there is this that touches every farmer's pocket and nerve, that it would rid the grain market, to a great extent, of that fitfulness and uncertainty which render it always more or less of a speculation to sell a load of wheat. If we knew what quantity of grain had been sown all over the world in spring, we could judge approximately by the season what the ingathering would be, and the harvest returns would give a sufficient idea of the amount of grain in hand both to regulate the markets and form a guide to the seller in disposing of his produce. As it is, we may make shrewd guesses on certain data, but how often these guesses prove wrong everybody knows very well. So far as Canada is concerned, we have at present no system of getting these desirable returns. Our Bureau of Statistics does us no good in this respect, and will do us none unless we get in some way an organized corps of informants who shall regularly supply the facts. We have reason to be much obliged to the Grand Trunk Railway Company for giving us every fall the only returns available, but if a business corporation existing for other purposes can furnish at its own expense such an amount of valuable information, collected by its station-masters, it shows how easily some Government provision might be made for doing the thing more thoroughly and on a far wider scale. We hope this subject will attract attention, and that some effectual means may ere long be taken to supply a deeply felt want.

Judges at Shows.

We most heartily agree with the following remarks, which we take from *Bell's Messenger* of the 16th ult:—

We really cannot consent to assist correspondents in their complaints against the decisions of public judges of agricultural stock. If agricultural shows are to be maintained in anything like respectability, the appointed judges must be encouraged and supported. They are for the most part, we believe they are invariably, men who would scorn to compromise their honest convictions for any conceivable consideration; but being neither infallible in matters of taste nor so little accustomed to the ways of practical wisdom as to disown the necessity of what is called giving and taking, or, in other words, of working together harmoniously, judgments unacceptable to lookers-on will occasionally be given. We often wonder that men of character and professional competency, who are generally men of delicacy of temperament, can be prevailed upon to undertake the anxious and fatiguing labours which devolve upon the judges of high-bred stock at our principal shows; and instead of incurring censure for not always doing right, it would be well if they were more commended than they are for making so few mistakes.

THE PRIZE LIST.—Our present issue contains the Prize List of the recent Provincial Exhibition as officially corrected. It takes up a large amount of space to the exclusion of other valuable matter, but everybody feels an interest in these awards, and it is important to have a permanent record of them for preservation and reference.

ENGRAVINGS OF PRIZE ANIMALS.—Our readers will doubtless wonder that we have not so promptly as usual furnished engravings of the animals that took prizes at the recent exhibition. It requires not only the eye of an artist, but the eye of a stock-breeder, to sketch such animals correctly. Very few persons have both these eyes. Mr. J. R. Page, of Sennett, N. Y., has on former occasions done this work for us with great skill, but being absent in England at the time of the Provincial Show, we could not obtain his services. He has now returned, and though it will be considerably more expensive for him to travel to one and another of the successful exhibitors; to make drawings, we hope in this way to some likenesses of prize-taking animals ere long

Agricultural Intelligence.

Tour in Lincoln and Welland.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER:

SIR,—On Wednesday, the 9th of October, I left Toronto by the good and expeditious steamer bearing the name of that city, to attend the annual exhibition of the Electoral Division of Niagara. The weather was somewhat threatening and showery, nevertheless, the good old town evinced unmistakable signs of unusual life and activity. The show being confined to the town and township, the number of exhibitors and visitors was much larger than I anticipated, and certainly the exhibition as a whole, especially the fruit and grain departments, was highly creditable to the skill and industry of the farmers and fruit culturists of that beautiful and interesting section of Ontario.

The show of live stock was held in a field close to the town, and though in point of extent it was not large, yet, as regards quality, it must be regarded as satisfactory; and, considering the severity of the drought, the stock was in excellent breeding condition. There were several good specimens of farm and-carriage horses; the former, perhaps, a little too light for the effectual working of heavy soils, which abound in this section. A few good pure-bred Durhams and Devons were on the ground; the latter, though small, clearly indicated fine breeding. The Devons I find are not making headway in this district, but they are much liked as working oxen. The grades, as a class, were certainly superior, having mostly a large strain of Durham blood, adapted alike for the dairy and the shambles. Many of the sheep, almost exclusively Leicesters, were wonderfully above par, and indicated careful breeding. Pigs were few, but good; mostly of the smaller breeds.

The other departments of the show were most conveniently arranged in two capacious rooms of the Court-house; fruit and ladies' work in one, and the agricultural productions in the other. The display of fruit was magnificent, and considering there were no hot or green-house productions, superior to anything I have seen anywhere before. I have no space to particularize, but the apples and open-air grapes were superb, possessing a richness of flavor one could hardly expect in a season which is generally regarded as not the most favorable to the full maturing of fruit. I noticed some very fine specimens of the quince, a fruit that does not ripen well far north of this parallel. Messrs. Brown and Miller, who have of late years prosecuted fruit culture on a large scale with signal success, were among the principal contributors. The roots and vegetables were also very fine; and I can also state that the various kinds of grain, of which there was a considerable amount exhibited, were of good quality and generally pure. A good farmers' dinner was got up the evening, and was well attended; the President, David Thorburn, Esq., occupied the chair. The President for the division, Angus Morrison, Esq., was present, and the evening was very agreeably spent in the interchange of sentiments relative to the advancement of the agricultural art.

Fruit culture has been very much improved and extended along the Niagara river since I had last tended along the river minutely examining the country, ten or a dozen years ago. The drive from Niagara to Queenston and indeed to the Falls, is most delightful and the fragrance of the fruit blossoms in lightful and describably agreeable. I learnt here and there in the district, that the extension and improvement of fruit culture that have taken place in the last few years are due in no small degree to the skill and zealous exertions of the late deeply respected Judge Campbell, whose services were untriflingly important work. The number of summer visitors to the salubrious town of Niagara is yearly increasing.