

AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL HALL.

This department was better represented than the Toronto Exhibition, perhaps owing to its being a little later in the season; the show of roots is not often surpassed, also grain was a good display. The fruit was of excellent quality and large in quantity. Among the new varieties we noticed Mr. Beadle's, of St. Catharines, new grape, the "Fessico." It is a nice flavored grape but small, a light colored grape, thin skin, but, apparently, sufficiently tough to bear shipping. Of the decided merit of this new grape we are not yet ready to judge, its appearance, however, indicating a valuable addition to the many good varieties now under cultivation.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS.

MANITOBA PRODUCE.

The Manitoba exhibit was the centre of attraction to visitors to the fair, and Mr. Acton Burrows and attendants, Messrs. Keith and Riddell, were untiring in giving all information in their power to those anxious to learn about the country. The exhibits are arranged in an admirable manner. They were brought in a car specially provided by the Canada Pacific Railway. At the end of the fair some of the exhibits will be sold, but the majority of them will be taken to England by the Canada Pacific, to be exhibited there to attract immigration. In former years it has been very difficult to excite the interest of Manitoba farmers to such an extent as to get them to collect their produce to exhibit in the older Provinces during the harvest, but the show this year is such as they may well take pride in. It is collected from within a district of two hundred and fifty by one hundred and fifty miles, the sections represented being about Portage La Prairie, Gladstone, Rapid City, Tobacco Creek, Rock Lake, Boyne Settlement, St. Andrew's, St. Peter's, Stonewall, Winnipeg, etc. The exhibit of virgin soil is a new feature in the Manitoba exhibits. Formerly it was shown in small glass tubes. Here it may be seen in sod a foot square, as taken from the ground. The railway companies in Manitoba were not pleased with the produce forwarded, as they claimed they were not fair samples of the production of the country, being taken before harvest and while they were not yet ripe. Some farmers were not a little surprised to find timothy among the exhibits, the general opinion being that it could not be grown on prairie land. That exhibited was obtained from the Boyne settlement, where the crop is said to have been considerable. A large variety of wheats were shown, with the flour taken from them. At the time of year at which this article was sought it must have been exceedingly difficult to obtain such an exhibit outside of Manitoba. Farmers who viewed the wheat shown unhesitatingly assent to the oft-repeated statement of the superiority of Manitoba as a wheat-growing region. Although the wheat samples exhibited were introduced into the country only three years ago, its growth has been most satisfactory, and in many cases it has visibly improved by the change. Mr. Riddell states that the land is more adapted to wheat than corn growing. White Russian wheat is shown that has attained a height of five and a half feet, the straw of which is hardy and excellent and the berry plump and firm. Mr. Keith states it is the most popular in the Province. Another specimen is converted Scotch wheat, cultivated from a spring to a fall wheat by continuous sowing. This comes from the Selkirk exhibit, and includes red and

alsike clover, three feet high, and New Zealand oats standing over five feet six. The exhibit of fruits are small, and go to show that Manitoba can in no way compare with Ontario or any of the other Provinces in that line. Altogether the exhibit of the Manitoba products formed a very important feature of the Exhibition.

BUILDING MATERIAL.

Norris & Co., of Kingston, showed a large display of building material, and took a number of first prizes. Their firm stands high among builders.

GENERAL REMARKS.

The exhibition, had the weather been good, would have far exceeded those of previous years, but the elements were against it, and hence nobody should be blamed. It will probably be some time, however, before the association take the exhibition again to Kingston, as there will be a heavy financial loss incurred this year. If taken to Guelph next year the chances are that a splendid show will be seen. The objection against this place as not being large enough to accommodate the people, is removed by the fact of there being so many convenient towns around where visitors can easily reach for lodging, &c. The fact of the "Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Farm" being located there, will be an inducement for many to attend that they may also see this at the same time, and it has occurred to us that many visitors might be accommodated during exhibition there, students are away at that time, and there are about one hundred rooms that might as well as not be occupied. We feel a good deal of interest in the success of the association, and trust that next year may give a more prosperous and satisfactory result.

MARTIN'S AMBER WHEAT.

Wheat is one of the leading crops, not only of this country, but of the whole world, and more is dependent upon the wheat crop for retaining or promoting national prosperity throughout the world than upon any other one thing or all other things combined. A failure of the wheat crop in some countries is cause for national despondency. The failure of the wheat crop throughout the United States would be a national calamity, and its effects would be felt not only in this country, but throughout the civilized world.

It is in fact the foundation of all our national prosperity and regulates, to a great extent, the price of other commodities. The price of all manufactured goods is controlled by it, by the laborer saying how much shall be paid him to enable him to purchase the staff of life. Much more might be said about its great importance and the wonderful influence it exerts, but it is not necessary, for there are none to deny the assertion that it always has been from the earliest ages, and always will continue to be the most essential element to the happiness and prosperity of the most powerful and the most thoroughly civilized nations on earth.

And now in view of the importance of the wheat crop, it follows that any improvement that can be made tending toward increasing the production or diminishing the cost of its production must directly interest every producer as well as every consumer. The wheat crop of the United States is the present year, about 650,000,000 bushels, grown on about 35,000,000 acres, giving an average yield of 18.6 bushels per acre.

Every year new varieties of wheat are introduced, extensively advertised, and largely sold, with results as valuable as their names. A number of

these have been real improvements and have taken the place of the varieties that had served their day and were worn out, but many more have sunk out of existence because unreliable in their results, and, unworthy of esteem, they could not command the confidence of the public. It is not to one of these ephemeral kinds that we would call the attention of our readers but to a variety that has since the year 1878 been closely watched and carefully tested, and is now pronounced by competent judges to be the most remarkable wheat ever introduced, namely, MARTIN'S AMBER. This wheat originated in the eastern part of Pennsylvania in 1878. It is of a hybrid origin, one of the parents being the old Mediterranean; the other is unknown. In its habit of growth, in several respects, it is quite different from any other variety cultivated. While young the plant lies spread out over the ground, affording a good protection to its own roots. It remains in this position until May, when it begins to stool out and grow very rapidly. It surpasses by far every other variety in the number of stalks it will send out from one grain in ordinary field cultivation. The introducer says three pecks of seed to the acre will give as good a stand as seven pecks of any other kind. This property alone, when this variety comes into general cultivation, will make possible a saving of one bushel on every acre now sown or about 35,000,000 bushels in this country every year a quantity, equal to about one-eighth the entire product. This statement is so extraordinary that it will likely provoke unpleasant criticisms from some parties, but what the introducer says is supported by testimonials from parties in southern Canada known to us, and we have no reason for believing the assertion is extravagant. It took the first premium at the Pennsylvania State Fairs, at Philadelphia, in 1880, and at Pittsburgh in 1881. The exhibit at these consisted of one half bushel of the wheat, a number of the heads, and a bunch of wheat grown from one grain, and attracted much attention.

The *Philadelphia Record*, in a long article about the wheat, says: "Since the fair opened the entire exhibit has been bought up in small packages by growers from this and other States."

The MARTIN AMBER is described as follows: The straw is of the average length, very bright, and stands up erect until ripe, when the heads incline somewhat, and although stiff enough to support the large heads, is pleasant to handle, being free from that brittleness which characterizes some wheat upon becoming ripe. The heads are beardless, filled out excellently, and run 4 to 7 inches in length.

The grains are of a beautiful amber color, good size, full and plump, with a very thin hull. Expert millers pronounce it a No. 1 wheat for flouring, and by reason of its very thin hull it makes but little bran, and yields a large return of flour of the very best quality.

The yield, with ordinary cultivation, is from 30 to 45 bushels per acre, and has yielded more with a little extra care and better cultivation. It ripens with the Lancaster and other standard sorts. Threshes and cleans very easily and perfectly, and generally weighs 63 pounds to the measured bushel.

A number of testimonials are given from prominent agriculturists, all speaking very highly of this new wheat, and we believe it is only a matter of a little time in which to make its merits known, when it will take a

high rank among the wheat growers of the country. It is being introduced by the popular seedsmen, J. A. Everitt, of Watertown, Pa., who has introduced a number of our best potatoes and other vegetables. He has issued a handsome circular describing it, which contains an illustration of a bunch of the wheat of seventy-five stalks—the product of one grain. Those who desire to know more about this remarkable wheat should refer to the advertising columns of this paper, or address Mr. Everitt.

SOME NOTES ON A FARMER'S EDUCATION.

At the Farmer's State Convention, held at New Britain, Conn., the leading topic was: "What the Farmer Ought to Know, and how he may Learn It." The following remarks are extracts from our notes taken upon the lectures and discussions.

The old view that anybody could be a farmer is passing away. Farmers are "looking over the fence" more than ever before; they observe, and imitate when it seems desirable. This awakening of thought has developed into the establishment of various agricultural schools, many of which have been unsuccessful, and for various reasons. Too much was expected of them; the teachers were not trained to their work, and the pupils, in many cases, have been educated away from the farm. The love for farming and farm life must be developed in the child. The home teachings mainly shape the farmer boy's future. Object lessons, instead of book lessons, must interest and instruct the young—and the farm with all its plants and animals offer the very best opportunities for this training of the powers of observation. Study nature and refer to books, and not study books and afterwards refer to nature.

The great lack in the farmer's education is system and balance. In no occupation is there greater demand for independent thought and accurate judgement. To obtain these he must read the best agricultural papers, establish and attend farmers' clubs, take part in the annual exhibitions, and in every way possible meet his fellow farmers, that by so doing he may increase his knowledge.

There is much work for agriculture to be done in the common school. The apparatus required is simple and cheap, and plants, etc., are always at hand. A text-book of the rudiments of farming could be put into every common school with great advantage to every child, and as Prof. Johnson remarked, we should then have "more broth and less dish-water in our schools." Scientific methods should be cultivated in youth; the method is as valuable as the facts. The only reason for this lack of agriculture instruction is the indifference of the people. Boards of Education and Boards of Agriculture should put their heads together and help to bring in this new dispensation. The village and city school should share in this work; the whole system leading up to the Agricultural College, where the highest and most thorough education can be obtained. As a stimulus and an aid in bringing about this system in agriculture education, schools of a few months duration, in the winter season it may be, might be held at various points. The nation is safest only when the youth are educated thoroughly—and agriculture is on a sound and permanent basis only when the boys, and girls too, are instructed in the elements of farming.—*American Agriculturist*.