

Fall Exhibitions.

COUNTY OF WESTWORTH AND CITY OF HAMILTON AGRICULTURAL SOCIETIES' SHOW. This exhibition was held on Tuesday and Wednesday, Oct. 8th and 9th. The first day was fine, but the second most unfavourable. Yet, on the whole, there was much reason for congratulation. The show of horses was ahead of that of any previous year, the number of entries being unusually large, and the quality of the animals good. In horses for general purposes there were no less than one hundred and ninety-one entries, and among them were some very fine horses. Of the entries, twenty-seven were span teams to harness, nineteen carriage horses in harness, fifty-five buggy horses, and twenty-five saddle horses. All these entries, however, can hardly be considered for exhibition purposes, it being a somewhat common practice with persons to enter their horses merely for the sake of getting them into the grounds. But the *bona fide* entries were large and very creditable, showing a steady progress in the improvement of horses in this county. In heavy draught horses there were twenty-six entries, many of them being large, powerful animals. As they were shown in the ring they presented a fine appearance.

In cattle the entries were large, and the animals good, the Durhams being apparently the most popular breeds. In Durham bulls there were twelve entries, including the Durham bull calves, and in cows and heifers there were twenty-four entries. In Ayrshires there were eight entries in bulls, and seven in cows and heifers. The animals in this class were much admired, being exceedingly creditable to the exhibitors. In Devon bulls the entries were but three, and in cows and heifers but five. In Galloway cows and bulls and bull calves there were ten entries, and in cows and heifers twenty-eight. Some of the Galloway cows were very fine. In other classes of cattle, grade cattle, oxen, and steers, there were thirty-two entries. The steady improvement in stock which these exhibitions show is in the highest degree creditable to the intelligence and enterprise of our farmers, and furnishes one of the most gratifying features of the agricultural progress of the Province.

In regard to pigs and sheep the show was good, although we cannot say that we admire the large porkers which seem so marked a feature of these exhibitions. The encouragement of the smaller breeds, such as find the best market from our pork factories, would be an object at which the Association should aim. They are certainly more profitable to the farmer, and would improve the reputation of the country for the production of bacon. In sheep, the Southwolds and Leicesters appeared to be the most popular. There were some very fine animals in the pens, and the competition was on the whole fair. Some very fine Merinos, notwithstanding that these fine wool sheep are not generally favourites. The great demand for the coarser wools during the recent American war may account for this. Possibly with the increased demand that will now spring up for finer wools, the Merinos may grow into more general favour.

The show of poultry was not as good as the rest of the exhibition, but few of the specimens bring up to the mark. Although, in accordance with the rules, prizes were in general awarded, yet in the more glaring cases, such as Cochins with top-knots, the judges requested to be exempted from recommending a premium. We did not envy the labours of these gentlemen, whose task was rendered more than usually unpleasant by the pouring rain, and the want of proper arrangement of the coops, which were promiscuously placed just as their owners had brought them on to the ground. Some dissatisfaction was manifested by disappointed exhibitors, one of whom especially was disposed to give trouble, though the judges took the trouble to point out the deficiencies in several cases. We were rejoiced to see the right spirit in an exhibitor from Hamilton, who, when the faults of his birds were fairly shown to him, replied, "I will take care to have better stock next time." This is the way in which the true object of these exhibitions will be accomplished. The judges were D. Call, of Hamilton, Lieut.-Col. Hassard, Secretary of the Ontario Poultry Association, and another gentleman, whose name we did not learn.

In the fruit department the exhibition was very much better than that at the Provincial exhibition at Kingston. We doubt whether any locality in the Province could produce a more excellent display in this department. In apples the show was peculiarly excellent. In winter apples, twelve of each, there were no less than sixty-one entries, and all of them so good that we cannot venture to particularize. In varieties of winter apples, six of each, there were nineteen entries, and in six varieties fall apples, eleven entries. In peaches there was some very fine fruit shown. In pears, fall sort, there were twenty-nine entries, and of winter varieties, there were

thirteen entries. In grapes the show was very fine. In purple, white, and other colours grown under glass, there were six entries; and in purple grapes grown in the open air, twenty-three entries, and in white grapes, open air, ten entries; and in grapes other colours, such as the Delaware, Rogers, Diana, etc., there were twelve entries. The exhibition of grapes bears testimony to the increasing interest in grape culture in this neighbourhood.

In grain the number of entries was fair, though not very large; but the specimens of grain were fine, the wheat being a fine plump berry. The barley was a very fine sample, the season having been very favourable for the quality of this cereal. Other grains were fairly represented.

The roots and vegetables were most excellent, so much so that the judges deemed it proper to append a special note of recommendation to their report. Considering the dryness of the season, an exceedingly unfavourable one for root crops, we have never seen so fine an exhibition. It was in every respect superior to that at Kingston.

IMPLEMENTS, &c.

Class 30 was in many respects quite deficient. One would have thought that there would have been a splendid competition in some of the sections, such as iron and wood ploughs, grain drills, land rollers, fanning mills, horse rakes, farm carts, drain drills, &c., for the prizes offered, but the fact is there was not a single entry of either of these articles. The many manufactories of the city and county so busily engaged in the producing of these agricultural requisites owe it to the country at large that their manufactures should be in competition at these exhibitions.

Altogether the exhibition was the best ever held in this county, and would do credit to any district. We doubt whether, by any county show in the Province, it has ever been excelled. In all the departments which belong properly to an agricultural exhibition, it was not inferior to the Provincial shows of a few years back, and we cannot but congratulate the association upon its success. The rain on the second day undoubtedly prevented many hundreds of persons from attending it, and marred greatly the pleasure of those who did attend. But in spite of this, about four thousand persons were admitted by ticket, in addition to the large number admitted on members' tickets, as exhibitors, caretakers, &c. We think the association would act wisely if they had their exhibition a week earlier. They would run less risk of bad weather, and in other respects the advantage would be quite equal.

TORONTO ELECTRO-MECHANICAL DIVISION SOCIETY.—The Fall Show of this association was held in the Music Hall and other apartments of the Mechanics' Institute, on Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 23rd and 24th. In consequence of the Crystal Palace and adjoining premises, the usual show grounds of the Society, being occupied by the military, there was no display of stock this year, and the exhibition, in consequence, lacked a chief portion of its interest in the estimation of agriculturists; but the horticultural and other departments were so well filled up that the exhibition, on the whole, was highly successful. The display of vegetables and fruit, in spite of the disadvantages of a dry season, was extremely creditable. A finer collection in point of quality could hardly be obtained anywhere. The show of grapes particularly was deserving of notice. In this section, Mr. Gray, of Toronto, and Mr. Philip Brown, exhibited a very fine collection of grapes grown under glass. The Hon. D. L. McPherson was also a successful competitor in the same class. There was besides a good display of open air grapes—sufficient to convince any one of the fitness of the Canadian climate for the culture of this important fruit. The display of roots was small, as might have been expected. The show of grain was also limited in quantity, but contained some good samples.

SOUTH RIDING OF OXFORD AND DEREHAM.—The Union Exhibition of the South Riding of Oxford and Dereham Agricultural Society, took place on Thursday and Friday, October 3rd and 4th, at Tilsonburg, and was, on the whole, a decided success. The weather was all that could be desired, and the Exhibition in many respects superior to those of former years. The attendance on the first day was not large, and the prevailing opinion seems to be that one day is quite sufficient for the exhibition. The second day was the day of the show, as then visitors had an opportunity of inspecting all that was exhibited. The attendance on that day was somewhere between 3,000 and 4,000, and the funds of the Society must have received a large increase. The samples of grain exhibited were decidedly superior to those exhibited last year. The white and red wheat shown was of a really excellent quality. The display of fruit was good, especially the apples. E. V. Bodwell exhibited some choice pears. Owing to the dry

weather this season, the roots and vegetables were not so good as in former years. A good sample of flour was shown, and some excellent home-made bread. This department generally showed an improvement over former years, with the exception of spring wheat, which fell below former years; although the samples of winter wheat were superior. In the department of Agricultural Implements, &c., we noticed a snow gate, the invention of Capt. W. James, of Springfield. By means of a lever the gate can be easily raised as the snow accumulates. The number of entries of horses was very large—being upwards of 130; the display was very good, with the exception of mares and foals for carriage purposes, which was rather poor. There was a large show of thoroughbred cattle—an improvement on last year. Some good Durham cows were shown; the two-year-old and yearling heifers were particularly good. The display of sheep was very creditable; though we would like to see farmers generally pay more attention to this branch. The show of swine was superior to that of last year. The show of poultry was not very good. The cheese exhibited was of excellent quality. Mr. H. S. Loeoe exhibited a superior article and carried off the first prize. On the whole we can congratulate the Society on the very creditable display they have made this year in nearly every department. After the Judges had completed their work, those who remained to the close collected in front of the Hall to listen to an address by C. E. Chadwick, Esq.—*Ingersoll Chronicle*.

VICTORIA.—The Fall Show of the Victoria Agricultural Society was held on Thursday and Friday, Oct. 11 and 12, and we are sorry to say that the weather was most disastrous to the success of the Exhibition. However, the display made was very creditable to the County, and we believe the amalgamation of the Horticultural and Agricultural Societies tended materially to enhance the interest taken in this year's show. Considering the late season, the Horticultural Department was well supplied, and attracted considerable attention. The Ladies' Department also presented a very creditable appearance, a considerable quantity of beautiful needle-work being displayed. Mr. Charles Foley's magnificent collection of stuffed birds added considerably to the appearance of the Hall. There was also a very good variety of fruit. On the whole the Hall presented a beautiful appearance, thanks to the indefatigable efforts of Messrs. Thirkell, Secretary, Beall, Gregory and Wood, who worked assiduously to have the affair pass off as successfully as possible. The Vegetable Department could not be surpassed at the Provincial Exhibition. Messrs. Goodfellow, Ellis, Calvert and Wood being the principal exhibitors. The display in this line was really splendid. The inclemency of the weather seriously affected the show of Horses and Cattle, but there was an average attendance. Mr. Hamilton had on exhibition a splendid waggon, beautifully furnished, also a buggy, cutter, and ploughs, which were got up in a manner creditable to the town of Lindsay. We believe the durability of Mr. Hamilton's work is equal to that of any other establishment in Ontario and consequently his implements, etc., are in good demand. We also noticed a handsome grain cradle by Mr. Samuel English, of Onemec. Mr. John Haisley's Saddlery establishment was represented by a couple of sets of splendid harness. After the labors of the day, the Directors and Judges, about five o'clock, repaired to Boynton's Hotel, where a sumptuous dinner was prepared for them.—*Victoria Warbler*.

NORTH HASTINGS.—The annual Fair and Cattle Show for the North Riding of Hastings was held at Huntingdon, on Wednesday, Oct. 9th. The Exhibition on the whole was creditable, though not equal to what it should have been for a large and wealthy agricultural county like North Hastings. Blood cattle with a pedigree were not represented, but there were some fine grades. The show of horses was very good, though thought not to be so extensive as that of last year. There were, however, a number of noble animals exhibited, and some young stock which bid fair to rival any in the county. We are glad to see that our farmers are paying attention to the breed of their horses, and that the different classes are becoming more accurately defined. In sheep, the show was not large, though there were specimens which prove the interest taken in procuring the best of stock, and one or two which would have compared with those of our best breeders in the South. Too much attention cannot be paid to this branch by our agriculturists. In swine the competition was very limited. There were some very fine varieties of summer, fall, and winter apples, and pears. A little more attention to the culture of these fruits would pay well. The dairy was better represented than upon former occasions in North Hastings, and some excellent samples of butter were shown. The cheese was far superior to that exhibited last year, showing