

Agricultural Exhibitions.

We all believe they have been beneficial to farmers, both as an incentive to improvement and also as a holiday and a day of amusement. The rapid march of progress and the increase of wealth have given more leisure to farmers and a greater desire for recreation. It is a natural desire, and it is always more agreeable if we can combine business with pleasure; but there exists a danger in the combination, that is, that as the pleasures are more attractive and cheering to the young in particular, to what extent should they be amalgamated with our agricultural exhibitions.

We look up to the Royal Agricultural Society of England as the best conducted agricultural exhibition we have ever seen. There the masses are only interested in the agricultural products of the country. No horse racing or any other outside attractions are to be seen, and the prizes awarded there have a world-wide reputation as being genuine and merited. In every department great interest is taken by exhibitors and spectators sufficiently to ensure a monstrous gathering wherever it may be held. Despite this as a pattern, we almost despair seeing our agricultural exhibitions as perfect as we would wish, and as the outside attractions are so looked upon by the majority of the people, it would be but folly for us to attempt to set up a cast iron standard in opposition to the public feeling. We must take things as they are, and try to make the best of them.

We deemed it our duty to be present at the election of officers of the East Middlesex Agricultural Society, which took place in the Court House, in the City of London, on Wednesday, January 16th; also of the election of officers of the London Horticultural Society, held in the City Hall on the evening of the same day. From these two boards the officers of the Western Fair will be elected. This Fair is one of the largest and most important independent agricultural exhibitions in Canada. The attendance at both these meetings was unusually large. The county meeting was composed of a fine lot of the most enterprising farmers in the riding. The election went off most harmoniously and in good order, and a good working body was elected. But the fun was in the evening, at the City Hall, where the members of the Horticultural Society were collected. It was known that some of the members had not been acting satisfactorily for years past, that they had formed a ring, and by various means had always been able to get votes sufficient to have themselves re-elected. Some of these members were looked upon as leeches and drones to the association. Some of the city merchants adopted a plan to turn them out and elect fresh men. Money was plentiful, and plenty of people that never took any interest in horticulture before were suddenly strongly interested; the consequence was that the hall was filled with horticulturists. The old members had their supporters there in unusual numbers, and the scenes that ensued were most amusing. Red tickets had been printed but not delivered; these were to be held up by the voters. Ballot tickets had also been prepared. There was a strong contest as to which should be used. The red ticket system was adopted. The hissing, hooting and disorder, as the different speakers desired to make remarks, was unprecedented at any similar

meeting. One would have almost thought the people crazy. Some sharp and cutting remarks were made. One speaker said that he was not there with a pauper's ticket in his pocket, as many of them were. The result was that an aider of the new party stood on the platform and raised a red ticket as a signal, and the hall bristled with red. Immediately a remarkable coincidence occurred, which should not be overlooked, namely, that one of the officers had been nominated for an office in the County Board, and there the blue tickets were held up *en masse* against him (as blue tickets were used at the County Board), and only two blue tickets were held up for him. Yet at the city meeting the hall bristled with red tickets for him. There exists a fear among some of the old steady, practical farmers, that attempts are to be made by the citizens to wrest the agricultural grounds and the fair out of their hands, and to take control of the management of the exhibitions themselves, and that the farmers are to be subservient to them.

It is claimed by some that the cities can offer larger prizes, and that will draw the farmers; and citizens, being business men, can conduct the exhibition in a better manner, also they can and will put more money into it, and make it more attractive. There is much room for improvement. All will admit that the exhibition has been a grand success in the past, and it is popular with the farmers and visitors; and as a purely agricultural exhibition it stands unsurpassed in Canada—perhaps on this continent. The business men in the city may have done a good service in rejecting some members that may not have acted as they should have done; now they have a responsibility that, any one must now see, rests on their shoulders. We trust and believe that the readers of this who have taken a live interest in the Western Fair will not be overthrown by those who take no interest or delight in agriculture, or those who never have once been to an exhibition outside of the city, or read anything in regard to their requirements or management.

On the Wing.

On the 22nd we took a trip to Mr. Hugh Love's farm, Kippen, Huron Co. The attendance was very large. His reputation as a reliable stock breeder and importer being unsurpassed in this respect in this county. This drew a large concourse of the best farmers in the country, many coming from a considerable distance. The sale was well conducted, and much better prices realized than we have seen at any previous sales for months past, despite the failure of the wheat crop last season.

THE POULTRY EXHIBITION.

On the 23rd we paid a visit to the poultry exhibition, Toronto. The number of birds exhibited was not as large as previous years, but the quality was claimed to be better than at any previous occasion. One of our subscribers in British Columbia had written to us, being desirous of procuring bronze turkey eggs, but the only exhibitor of this class would not dispose of any eggs. There was no particular new feature in any department. We made enquiries for the Scotch Greys, as we have heard them highly spoken of. There was none on

exhibition. The London poultry men carried off the lion's share of prizes. Mr. A. Bogue took 66 prizes out of 70 entries. He was the largest exhibitor. Mr. O'Neil took 47 prizes out of 48 entries. Indeed, it was hard to find a pen without a prize ticket on. The show was a financial success; the association being able to pay off a debt of \$300, standing against it. The exhibition will be held at Guelph next year.

THE MODEL FARM.

On leaving the exhibition we went to the Rossin House; here we found numerous members of Parliament spoiling for the fray. Many of the members spoke to us on various subjects; the most vexed question appeared to be with regard to our remarks about the Model Farm. Many considered we were wrong, or had been too severe in our criticism. We replied that we had only done our duty; in fact, were we to censure it, we could do so with more vigor than we had yet done. Mr. Awrey, the member for South Wentworth, desired us to give full explanations. We replied if three members of Parliament requested us to do so we would comply with their request. This gentleman together with Messrs. Jno. Dryden, of South Ontario; McCraney, of Bothwell; Ballantyne, of Perth, desired us to do so. We feel we have undertaken a task too large to be sufficiently explicit in one issue of this journal. To be brief, our opinion is, and has been, first, that the College was commenced for the purpose of giving a place to a political partizan, now dead. The moving of the grounds from Mimico to its present site was also for party purposes, the management having been the apple of the eye of another partizan. The first professor was chosen from the United States for special purposes. It was found necessary through his improper management to give him a heavy bonus to clear the country. The third professor felt so dissatisfied on finding the state of affairs that he jumped into the stream and tried to drown himself. The Rev. F. W. Clarke found it necessary to vacate his position as soon as he got it. Mr. Johnson, like a sagacious rat deserting a sinking ship, abandoned this institution. If you continue to endorse the plans that have been adopted in endeavoring to suppress what we believe to be the truth, and perverting facts, you are setting such a pattern before the eyes of farmers that the moral instruction is of ten times greater injury to the country than any benefit that may be derived from the College. We further believe that this College has, by checking private enterprise, done more injury than good, and that the enormous sums expended in publishing and disseminating such immense quantities of literature to bolster up the institution, to shield its errors, and to make it appear popular, have not been judicious expenditures, and intentionally tending to shut down on private enterprise. Farmers have been led to believe by the experiments at the Model Farm that beef raising will not pay. The best authorities on the dairy interests state that the reported tests of this institution are incorrect. No really valuable deductions that we are aware of have as yet been brought forward from this farm. The experiments are of such a varying, and changing nature that they have served