

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION OF ONTARIO

was held at Kingston from September 18th to 23rd. This exhibition has not been such a financial success as it should have been. This is accounted for principally by the partizan feeling of members who have been and some who are now connected with the Board of Agriculture and Arts. This body is not united; some have actually wished to see a failure in Kingston, and have worked hard for the private organization of Toronto. That Association has done its utmost to destroy the Provincial Exhibition. They allured the visitors from the east, and have attempted to raise discord in the west, and by some means the collision of the two Provincial Exhibitions has been brought about. Various reports are circulated in regard to this, but the facts furnished us by Mr. Wade, the Secretary of the Ontario Exhibition, are these, namely: He wrote to the Secretary of the Quebec Exhibition, weeks before they had appointed their time, and informed him of the time appointed for holding the Provincial Exhibition at Kingston. We trust this bungle, whether intended or not, will be traced to its proper source, but there are so many who disregard truth, that perhaps the farmers will never know who to blame.

The exhibit of cattle at the Exhibition has been pronounced the best that has ever been assembled at an Exhibition on this continent. Some of the inferior, and even the prize animals that had been exhibited at Toronto, were sent home to the farms, far better animals having been shown at Kingston. The sight of the cattle alone ought to be ample remuneration to any one attending this Exhibition. Mr. Whitfield, the greatest exhibitor of cattle in Canada, had left his second quality of stock in Montreal.

The weather was much against the success of both these exhibitions, the rain falling in torrents and deluging everything, making the roads very muddy. In fact, in Montreal a young tornado swept over the grounds, tearing down fences, demolishing many ornaments, ripping the flags to shreds, blowing all the tents down, breaking the glass of the main building, completely deluging the implement building and damaging the goods in the main building. The tornado was not quite as bad at Kingston, but the continued wet prevented many from attending, and drove thousands from the grounds. This undoubtedly tended to diminish the receipts of both the exhibitions materially.

THE SOUTHERN COUNTIES EXHIBITION

was held at St. Thomas from the 19th to the 22nd Sept. From some cause it was not attended with the same success that had been experienced in former years, probably from the proximity of the Western Fair. It might safely be said that almost without exception the various classes were inferior to last season, especially in live stock, which did not approach that of last year, either in quantity or quality. Poultry was very poorly represented. As might have been expected from the high character of the neighborhood for fruit and vegetable raising, the display, considering the season, was very excellent. The dairy exhibit was also good, Mr. Andrew Miller, of Yarmouth, taking four first prizes in butter. The chief attraction was the Caledonian games, which drew a large crowd to the grounds on Thursday, 21st, but on the other days the attendance was thin.

THE WESTERN FAIR,

held in the city of London from Sept. 25th to 29th, has been pronounced by Americans and others to have been the best really agricultural exhibition held this year, either in Canada or the States. Larger assemblies of sight-seers have been assembled to see horse-racing and other outside attrac-

tions, but the Americans that visited this exhibition say that at no exhibition held in the States has there been such a fine display of matched carriage horses, driving horses, and heavy draught. In the exhibit of sheep the display has been admitted to have been the best ever held on this continent. In fruit, grain and roots it was the best held in Canada. In Canadian built carriages, wagons and agricultural machinery it has also surpassed any other exhibition. The implement exhibit at Toronto was nearly equal to it. The display of horned cattle was not equal to the displays made at Kingston and Toronto. Montreal had a much finer display of Ayrshire cattle than any of the western exhibitions; also the display of polled Aberdeen, and in some classes of Durhams and Herefords, and heavy and saddle horses, Montreal exceeded the western exhibitions. The weather was very fine during the London exhibition, and the attendance was very large, far beyond what was expected, as there were four large exhibitions held during the same week, namely, Brantford, Hamilton and Belleville. As the ADVOCATE is published for the benefit of the farmers of this Dominion, it would be acting unfairly were we to publish a list of the prize takers at any one of these exhibitions without publishing the lists of those taking prizes in each Province. In each Province there were some exhibits that surpassed those in other Provinces, therefore we prefer to leave it to the gainers of honors to proclaim them when desirable rather than to fill the readable space in this journal with what can be of interest to but few, and will merely notice the more prominent exhibits.

CENTRAL FAIR AT HAMILTON.

In the western district of Ontario the exhibitions were so plentiful that not less than three exhibitions, Hamilton, London and Brantford, were held upon the same dates. This must have had an effect upon each of the three fairs. The different managers might easily so have arranged matters to prevent this clashing, and would have allowed some prominent exhibitors to be present at more than one of the fairs. The Hamilton Central was one of the most successful that has been held in that city; the crowds that thronged the grounds were more numerous than the directors had hoped for. The exhibition on the whole has been a great success. The grounds were in excellent condition. The arrangements of the main building were very creditable. Not only was the number of exhibitors larger than at former shows, but the displays were fuller and more attractive. In the horticultural buildings there was a splendid display of flowers and fruits. In this department Hamilton fully maintained her prestige of former years. Nigh to this building was the exhibit of potatoes, turnips and other roots, which was very fine. There was also a numerous exhibit of poultry. The show of agricultural implements included the exhibit of many of the prominent manufacturers. In live stock there were some excellent animals in all branches, and noticeable among them were the Jerseys, which attracted much attention. The entries of horses in all classes were numerous, and some of the animals possessed excellent points. The horse ring was in capital condition. It was the centre of attraction, and was surrounded all day long by large crowds to witness the judging of the various animals, and the racing, &c.

Taken altogether the fair was a success, especially in a financial point, and the management deserve praise for their efforts, and must be congratulated upon keeping this a strictly agricultural fair.

THE SOUTHERN FAIR, AT BRANTFORD,

we regret, was not as successful as might have been desired. The directors in future should endeavor to avoid holding the fair upon the same dates as

its more powerful rivals at London and Hamilton. The exhibit in the main hall was inferior to that of previous years. In the horticultural department the exhibit would have been very poor if it had not been for the plants furnished by the Young Ladies' College. Fruit, roots and vegetables were fairly represented. The display of agricultural implements was not so numerous as might have been expected from Brantford being the seat of so many large manufacturing establishments. The entries of live stock were not numerous, and there was nothing notable in the exhibit, which was disappointing. The attendance was only poor.

QUESTIONS ABOUT THE FAIRS.

A few great questions should be openly and fully discussed during the coming winter, and every independent, thoughtful farmer should be able to express his own opinion regardless of the opinion of any partizan or leader. The questions we open our pages for discussion on are these: Should township exhibitions be maintained or abandoned? Should the Provincial Agricultural Exhibition be maintained or abandoned? Should agricultural exhibitions be maintained for agricultural purposes? Should horse-racing be encouraged at agricultural exhibitions? What class or kind of amusements should we encourage to attract the farmers, farmers' wives, sons and daughters to agricultural exhibitions? What class should we elect to manage agricultural exhibitions? What should entitle a person to an office in connection with agricultural societies? Should officers or judges who have wilfully acted improperly be exposed? Should any regulations, by-laws, or Acts of Parliament be passed to prevent improper men being placed on the boards of directors? What should be considered proper or improper acts for a candidate for office? Should character be considered when electing a person to any office connected with agriculture? Should we endeavor to elevate the morals of the agricultural class? Why did not the western dairymen hold their fair at the same time that the Provincial Exhibition was held? Why did the President of the Industrial Exhibition attempt to take undue advantage over a competing exhibition? Why did he insult a plain, practical farmer when asking for his rights? Why did he and some of his associates pretend to deny the fact that they attempted to injure the Provincial Exhibition; also that they have taken possession of the property that justly belongs to the farmers of Ontario, and have refused to give them their just rights in recompense? Why has there been a combination to elect officers of the Western Fair from among citizens to the exclusion of independent farmers, and men who have never been known to take any active part in agriculture, and who have acted in a very questionable manner in positions held by them?

We believe this series of questions will bring forth discussions in which every farmer and his family should be interested, and in which many will take a part. It is by open, free discussion that correct opinions are formed, and as knowledge is power, power implies wealth; therefore we believe every one who interests himself in these questions, and is able to discuss them calmly and reasonably, will gain an ascendancy over those who prefer darkness to light. Thus we trust if you do not take an active part in the discussions verbally or by letter, you will find hints and helps that may and will do you good in the remarks that will follow relative to the above questions. And as this journal is for farmers to talk to farmers, each one has an opportunity to add some facts or suggestions of utility that may be of benefit to his fellow toilers. Ask yourself the questions—Is there not some good, useful hint or suggestion that I can give? Shall I still hide my light under a bushel? Have I not some talent hid away? Let us be up and doing.