

General Illustrated News

Vol. IV.—No. 15.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1871.

{ SINGLE COPIES, TEN CENTS.
{ \$4 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE.

AGRICULTURAL, INDUSTRIAL AND ART EXHIBITIONS.

The "annual fairs" are now nearly over; at least the two great Provincial ones are past. One of these was held at Quebec, the other at Kingston, and both have proved pre-eminently successful. The spirit of competition, which is one of the best incentives to industry, has full play at these annual gatherings, and much good is done by the mere stimulation of the desire to excel. There can be little question but that these exhibitions do develop much waste of energy; that sometimes a large cabbage, or a mammoth squash, a prize calf or a premium pig, may represent an amount of care and expense altogether disproportioned to their actual value; but, nevertheless, though the forcing process may sometimes be encouraged among people who resolve, at all hazards, to get a prize, yet, even their efforts are productive of much good as pointing out the limits of profitable breeding and cultivation. It cannot be wise to produce a prize pig of many hundreds of pounds at a cost of twenty cents per

pound, when pork is worth less than fifteen. It is so throughout every department of industrial and mechanical labour; hence it frequently happens that the costly product—that which has no commercial value proportioned to its cost—carries off the prize. In spite of this we heartily endorse the following remarks from the *Montreal Gazette* as regards the benefits which these annual assemblies confer:—

"When the first Provincial Exhibition was held in the Western Province at Toronto in 1846, the entries were only 1,150 in number, and the total amount awarded in prizes was but \$1,100. Pass over ten years, and in 1856 we find an Exhibition held at Kingston with 3,791 entries, and a sum of \$6,799 distributed in prizes. After another decade had flown, a Provincial Exhibition was held in Toronto in 1866 with 6,279 entries, and the sum of \$10,288 awarded in prizes. Even this result, however, was surpassed by the one held at Hamilton in 1860, when there were 7,532 entries, and the sum appropriated for prizes was \$12,946.

Besides these great Provincial Exhibitions, with their

"thousands of entries, one city after another has had, or is having, its annual show, agricultural, horticultural, and industrial. The result of these displays has been eminently satisfactory. The entries have, as a rule, been more numerous than heretofore; the articles exhibited have been more excellent after their kind; the exhibitors have been more painstaking; the crowds of visitors have been greater and more enthusiastic; and wherever a fair has fallen behind the expectations formed of it, there has been some ground for presuming that to occult causes connected with the management or the locality was the blame attributable, and not to the falling off or absence of interest in these occasions. In short, all the accounts which have filled the columns of the Dominion press during these busy September days, indicate very clearly that amid the great diffusion of information at the present day, the knowledge bearing upon the more successful cultivation of the soil has not been neglected. We would go further and say that the improvement of methods of agriculture, of stock-raising, of fruit-growing, and other



THE QUEBEC PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.—FROM A SKETCH BY W. O. O.