

valent to arguing that a Provincial Railway would be of no use unless it were all made within his own grounds. Selfishness is useful in the small transactions of life, but in public undertakings nothing is more mischievous.

#### THE WEATHER, CROPS, &c.

Halifax, 12th August, 1867.

In last month's number (8th July) we spoke of the genial weather which the country was then, and had been for some time, enjoying—warm sunny days alternating with frequent showers. The number was scarcely issued when we received from Cape Breton accounts of the crops having been well-nigh burnt up with drought, and immediately afterwards, just as the Peninsula farmers commenced their hay-making, a deluge of rain opened upon us, which continued till the end of the month. A good deal of early and heavy hay has been got in in bad condition; but in localities where haying was not commenced till the end of July, none has been lost. The hay crops have been remarkably heavy throughout the whole Province, except probably Cape Breton. Soon after midnight of the 2nd-3rd Aug., a southern gale opened upon us, which for some time blew with the force of a hurricane. The newspapers are recording marine disasters on our shores; but on land likewise much damage has been done. The storm calmed down about day-break, and the sun rose upon a scene of confusion, fences blown down, trees shivered and thrown across the roads, barn doors and the roofs and ends of many barns blown out, apple trees bereft of their young fruit and their foliage as well, Indian corn literally uprooted, and its long ribbon leaves torn into threads, the vines of cucumber beds twisted up like sheaves of pease straw, hen-coops blown out of sight, and the occupants left sitting in sheltered corners, ricks of raked hay scattered over the fields again, and the whole surface of field and garden strewn with the *debris* of the storm. It is remarkable that notwithstanding the damage done to green crops, we have not seen any wheat or oat fields that have suffered from the wind, although it is stated that in Prince Edward Island the grain fields have been injured.

Since the storm, we have enjoyed warm clear weather, hay is being carried rapidly into the barns in fine condition, and grains and green crops are making rapid growth.

#### DESTRUCTION OF MR. STANFORD'S BONE MILL.

We regret to have to chronicle a calamity that must be regarded as a misfortune to farmers as well as to the individual more immediately interested. On the

morning of 7th instant the extensive TANNERY and the BONE MILL at Three Mile House, belonging to Jas. Stanford, Esq., were burned to the ground. There was insurance to the extent of \$8000 upon the Tannery, but the Bone-mill was not insured; probably it may be possible to put the castings together again. It is said that the fire must have been the work of an incendiary, and we hope that effective steps will be taken to discover, if possible, the miscreant. In our rural districts much crime goes unpunished and unheard of. A vigilant force of rural police scattered over the Province would exercise a most beneficial influence in deterring from the commission of cowardly crimes, as well as in affording the means of bringing criminals to justice.

#### DEATH OF THE AMERICAN COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE.

The Hon. Isaac Newton, who has for about six years occupied the prominent position of Commissioner of Agriculture, died at Washington on 19th June. He was brought up as a farmer, and instead of becoming tired of his employment and trying his fortune at something else, he devoted himself to the interests of agriculture, and sought to make himself and his fellow farmers a power in the Republic. He pressed upon successive Presidents the importance of establishing a national Department of Agriculture, and at last, during the reign of the martyr President, 15th May, 1862, an Act was passed, and Mr. Newton was appointed to organize and preside over the new department as Commissioner. The department, and its chief officer, were subsequently the objects of very severe, and we may add, not over-courteous criticism, in the American newspapers and agricultural journals. Personally we knew nothing of Mr. Newton, or his fitness for the duties he undertook; but the handsome volumes, and monthly reports issued by the department will compare favorably with the publications of any Government Board, or Agricultural Society, in the civilized world. We must therefore, in candour, give credit to Mr. Newton for the possession of organization-capacity. An Act that passes through Congress or any other mill, is not necessarily perfect; some of the chaff is sure to stick, and if the Act was faulty, as was alleged, all the more credit is due for the successful working of it.

#### THE ONTARIO EXHIBITION.

In September next will be held the Grand Annual Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association of Ontario, (known in olden times as Upper Canada). The place fixed for this year's exhibition is Kingston. No doubt there will be a number of visitors from Nova Scotia, and it would not be amiss if some of our farmers and fruit growers would take with them a few samples of our produce, and try to beat the Ontarians on their own ground. The following synopsis of arrangements we quote from the *Globe*:—

"The prize list for the approaching Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association, has been published for circulation. The Exhibition, by the system of rotation adopted since the first formation of the Association, takes place this year at Kingston on the last week in September, commencing on the 23rd of the month, and lasting till Friday, the 27th, inclusive. The local committee in that city have been at work for about six weeks in putting their buildings in a state of proper repair, and have, we understand, made considerable progress already towards the completion of their work. The prize list in the agricultural department exhibits no marked change from that of last year; but a prominent feature, though not a new one, adopted some two or three years ago, is that which permits the competition of exhibitors from all parts of the world. The development of Canadian agriculture and manufactures is observable in the gradual abolishing of restrictions on exhibitors until now the world is invited to a contest of skill with our Canadian artisans and farmers in their different spheres. For the last two years a gradual increase in the number of foreign exhibitors has been observable, and where these have proved the masters, their success has proved of benefit to our home producers in stimulating them to additional exertion, and has led to many valuable improvements—especially in some of our most prominent manufactures. The amount of money offered for prizes remains at about the same figure. Some unimportant alterations have been made in the details of a few minor classes of the agricultural productions; but the only one of any prominence is that regarding the Prince of Wales' prize of \$60, which is this year given to the best pen of Cotswold sheep, consisting of one ram and five ewes, not over two shears. A change in the rule regarding the shearing of sheep, has also been adopted—the Committee of the Association appointed to revise the prize list having adopted a resolution requiring sheep on exhibition