

## County of Wentworth and Hamilton Annual Exhibition.

THE Annual Show of the Wentworth and Hamilton Agricultural Societies was held on the 11th and 12th of October, at Hamilton. The exhibition was, as a whole, a very creditable and satisfactory one. Not having attended on any previous occasion when the Wentworth and Hamilton Societies held their show, we cannot say how the exhibition just held compares with its predecessors, but we imagine that few if any of the local shows held throughout the Province have been in advance of it. There was a very fine display of horses, most of the classes being well represented, and the ring in which their fine proportions and splendid action were exhibited was constantly surrounded by a crowd of admiring spectators. The cattle department was well filled, there being no less than 127 entries. Of these, 44 were Durhams, the chief exhibitors being Messrs. Stock, Weir, Ely, Russell, McDougall, and Douglas. About the same number of grades were shown, and some of these were very superior animals, evincing to how high a pitch our native stock may be brought by judicious and continuous crossing. Ayrshires, Devons and Galloways made up the balance of the entries in this class. There was a fair display of sheep and pigs, but we forbear particularization. In poultry, the leading varieties of fowls were represented, and there were ten entries of ducks and geese. A few pigeons and a pair of rabbits were also shown. In the implement department the exhibition was rather meagre as to the number shown, but the samples were of excellent quality and superior workmanship. Ploughs, harrows, mowers and reapers, grain-drills, cultivators, fanning-mills, horse-rakes, and grain-cradles figured in this department. Seed-drills, for sowing artificial manures along with grain, were shown by Messrs. Clayton, of Whitby, and Walker, of Brampton,—a description of implement which it is desirable should come into much more general use. In grain and seeds, the show was very fine, comprising wheat, barley, peas, oats (white and black), rye, buckwheat, Indian corn, white beans, vetches, flaxseed, timothy, clover (common and Alsike), turnip, carrot, mangold, and onion seeds. In some cases, the samples were unusually good. The potatoes formed a fine collection, but we have seen larger at other shows this fall, especially of the kidney sorts. The field roots in general were very good, but the turnips were not quite up to some we have seen elsewhere. The horticultural department of the exhibition was well filled. Finer apples and pears it would be hard to produce anywhere. Three plates of good-looking peaches were shown, and a like number of well-grown quinces. The grapes hardly did justice to the fame of Hamilton and vicinity as a vine-growing district. The garden carrots were magnificent, so were the cabbages and Scotch kale. We saw the best assortment of tomatoes we have ever beheld in Canada. The capsicums were in wondrous variety and number, so much so that one might imagine that even the gardeners had been preparing to pepper the Fenians. Finer onions we never saw. There were immense garden squashes and very fine citrons. Domestic manufactures of considerable variety and good quality were shown; among them fulled cloth, coloured and white flannels, mitts, stockings, and coverlids. Sewing machines and one of Lamb's knitting machines were exhibited in actual operation. Dairy products mustered exceedingly well, there being twenty jars of packed butter, thirty baskets of fresh butter, and a number of good looking cheeses. Home made wines, preserves, canned fruits, sugar-cured hams and bacon, mixed pickles, tomato, mustard and sauce, flour, and specimens of bread-making, displayed themselves beside the dairy products. In the Fine Arts, we observed several good oil paintings, portraits, &c. Conspicuous among them were Mr. Gourlay's cattle pieces, and Mr. Davidson's picture, "Duncan Grey cam' here to woo," which attracted much attention at the Provincial Exhibition.

## South Wellington Agricultural Exhibition

We had the pleasure of attending the above-named show, but having received an account of its leading features, as compared with previous exhibitions, from Mr. George Murlon, the effective secretary of the association, we prefer inserting that gentleman's communication, rather than any description we might otherwise have given. We can testify to its essential correctness in every particular.

"The Union Agricultural Exhibition South Wellington, was held in the town of Guelph on Tuesday and Wednesday, the 9th and 10th of October. This has been the first year that the townships have been induced to amalgamate with the County for the purpose of holding a joint exhibition, and I think any one that attended it will pronounce it a complete success, and a great improvement on the old method. The number of entries amounted to 1,250, which is a large increase over any previous year. There were 105 of horses, which as a whole were pretty good; still they show that the farmers of this county do not take the same interest in breeding them that they do in the raising of cattle and sheep. The show of cattle, sheep and pigs could not be beaten at any County Show in the Province. Durhams, Herefords, Galloways, Devons and Grades, many of them having taken prizes at the late Provincial Exhibition, were on the ground, and certainly did credit to the County of Wellington, not only in numbers but in quality. The entries of cattle amounted to 160; 58 of these were Durhams. The other distinct breeds were well represented, but the grades were in full force, no less than 27 cows being exhibited, besides heifers and calves. They showed very careful breeding, many of them being equal in appearance to the thorough breeds. The sheep were pronounced by all to be the best ever seen in this part of the country. Leicesters, Cotswolds and Devons numbered 116, really all first class animals. Many of the lambs were said by good judges to be the best they had ever seen. The show of pigs, both large and small breeds, was excellent,—many of them were very superior animals. I will now give you some few facts about the other departments of the Exhibition, which was held for the first time in the Agricultural Hall, a spacious building and well adapted for its purposes as an Agricultural Hall and Drill Shed combined. The chief feature of this part of the show was the magnificent display of butter and roots. There were 36 entries of butter for exportation, and 50 of fresh. Certainly, Mr. Editor, you must allow that the farmers' wives of Wellington did their part towards the success of the exhibition. I cannot say much for the cheese, the number of entries being small and the quality not first rate. The show of grain was as good as could have been expected after such a wet and backward harvest. The spring wheat was very good, but the fall not equal to what we have seen before. Other grains were well represented, and of very good quality. But when we come to the roots we find such a display as may challenge any county in Canada to produce their equal. Turnips, potatoes, carrots, onions, &c. &c., were in profusion and of the very best quality. The entries in turnips numbered 58; potatoes 94, and carrots, 61. I must not omit to mention that Mr. Thomas, of Brooklyn, was at the show, and interested the people much by proving how easily bees may be managed by the use of his moveable-comb hive."

## County of Russell Agricultural Show.

Though we had not the pleasure of attending the above exhibition, we give editorial prominence to it, because it presents a feature or two worthy of being universally adopted by our Agricultural Societies. It was held in the village of Metcalf, and we learn from the *Ottawa Times* that the attendance was large, and the weather all that could be desired. Indeed our contemporary waxes quite eloquent in his account of the human portion of the exhibition, as the following little extract will show:—

"In these days of pale cheeks, drooping eyes, and fatiguing waterfalls in our cities, it is a luxury occasionally to catch a glimpse of ruddy cheeks, flowing tresses, and the sprightly innocence of rural beauty, such as flash among the 'sinewy toilers of the soil' at the annual gathering in Russell."

The usual display of stock, grains, roots, vegetables, and other products was made, and at 1 o'clock on the second day of the exhibition, the assembled multitude

was called to order, and a number of essays and addresses were delivered in their hearing. Three essays on "The importance of agriculture," were read by Messrs. McNab, McEwen, and McTavish. Next followed two lady essayists, Misses Kennedy and Perkins, who dilated on "The requirements of a good farmer's wife." The prize list was then read, after which several speakers addressed the assembly. Dr. Grant spoke at considerable length, and in a most practical common-sense way. The following passages from his address are so good that we quote them for the benefit of our readers:—

"What we needed at present was a more extended agricultural education—an education which would enable us not only to comprehend mechanical rules and all established practices, but the reasons upon which they were founded. Labor was the chief source of national and individual wealth, and the greater degree of intelligence we could infuse into it, the greater were the returns we might expect. Within the past few years science had contributed greatly toward the advancement of every art and every department of industry, and there was no art which owed more to science for its prosperity than that of agriculture. Farming must be reduced to a system, that like law, medicine or mechanics, it might be studied both theoretically and practically by those who entered upon it. It must be interwoven with our ordinary education, and paid special attention to in our schools. How valuable is a knowledge of the constituent parts of the soil, of their combinations and the elements of fertility they might lack, of the chemical composition of the plants we might wish to produce, their habits and food they require. All such knowledge must give its possessor a vast advantage over those less informed. Failure in growth might be thus frequently guarded against, and various means devised to improve modes of culture. Thus to the scientific agriculturist such knowledge was power."

"The principles of agriculture once thoroughly understood, would be found as invaluable as the principles of chemistry, mechanics or astronomy. Farmers might live, grow rich, and all that, without considering the issue; yet it was a well established fact, that those who cultivated the highest, employed dressing most skillfully, who farmed most scientifically, that is least by arbitrary rules, and most by experience and intelligence, were the very men who made their farms most productive. The cultivation of the soil carefully followed up would afford ample room for the rising generation to exercise both their mental and physical powers. Was it wise, then, or prudent for so many tillers of the soil to send forth their sons to other pursuits and retain upon their soil not enough of skilled labor or wealth to develop its resources? Was it wise or prudent for so many of the rising generation to leave their old homes and residences to seek for riches in foreign lands, while fortune waits to smile upon them at their very doors? To those who long for riches he would say, cultivate the soil properly and it will yield an ample return without seeking for wealth either in the auriferous mines of Australia or California. No man was dwarfed upon the farm for lack of room to develop what was in him. It was the school of all manly qualities and a wide field for their exercise, and in so far as the country was concerned,

The rudiments of empire here,  
Are firmly set and sure,  
To form as one a British power,  
From sea to sea secure."

We have often regretted that so fine an opportunity as is afforded by these gatherings for directing attention to the principle and facts of practical agriculture, is not turned to better account. The delivery of essays and addresses like the above cannot fail to set people thinking and to send them home with better impressions of farming as a business, and with resolves to do their part toward raising it to the position it ought to hold in public esteem.

THURBER'S ROYAL ANTI-FRICTION METAL.—We call attention to an advertisement in the present number of the above article, and from the high testimonials acquired by the enterprising proprietors, we commend it to the notice of farmers, steamboat proprietors and others, who have machinery and rolling stock to be cared for. Amongst the advantages of this description of metal are the following:—Their density is sufficient to support any weight or stand any velocity applied to it in connection with Brass, Composition or Iron as the base. Their durability will equal any metal in use, and the cost is much less.