

5. Miscellaneous duties referred to them, principally in connection with the Entomological, Fruit Growers', and Dairymen's Associations.

3. *B. Non-Exhibition Purposes.*—So far as these are concerned, the financial management cannot be impugned. The Herd Book is a financial success. For 1880 the receipts were \$1,230.32, and the expenditures, including Mr. Denison's salary, half the total expenses of postage and stationery, and its own printing, \$1,215.79. In 1879 the receipts were \$1,697.90, and, on the same basis, the expenditures \$1,409.03. The office expenses, though high in 1880, are yet not extravagant, and the insurances are reasonable. The sum of \$106.05 is a very small one wherewith to pay the travelling expenses of the two gentlemen who ran over half a dozen counties inspecting prize farms; whilst the value of the essays as contributions to our Canadian agricultural literature is out of all proportion to the sums given in prizes.

4. *A. Exhibition Purposes.*—Here the financial management has not been successful. By the tables given, it will be seen that on the Exhibition of 1880, as a financial speculation, the Industrial, paying \$22,500 in prizes, cleared \$3,000, whilst the Provincial, paying \$13,500 in prizes, lost in round numbers \$10,000. And this is not counting a cent for Council expenses. On the same basis, the loss in 1879 at Ottawa was \$13,277.49, and at Toronto in 1878 it was \$3,512.55. And the basis is quite equitable, for it is identically that on which all District Exhibitions have to be managed.

5. *C. Council Expenses.*—By referring to the second table, those will be seen to be, for 1880, the sum of \$3,341.20, but of that amount \$1,257.40 is entered as belonging to 1879, those expenses, adding in the above amount, were \$4,294.06; in 1878, \$4,129.50; and in 1877, \$2,344.30. The latter year was the first under "The Agricultural and Arts Act."

III. *REASONS AND REMEDIES.*—Your space and my time will permit me but to indicate these. So far as *B. Non-Exhibition Purposes* are concerned, no fault can reasonably be found; but financial reconstruction is required, it will be seen, in *A. Exhibition Purposes* and *C. Council Expenses*. The problem has been faced by the Council of the Association, but the root of the matter has not been reached by them. Let us glance at the factors of the problem. Looking at Table I. it will be noticed that the receipts of the Industrial are far greater than those of the Provincial. Now, whilst the dignity and special ends of the Provincial would not perhaps allow the Association to use all the means which are used by the Industrial to draw, yet it is evident more must be done in that direction than has formerly been attempted, whilst the system of free entry to all members who are exhibitors needs careful consideration. Examining Table II., it will be seen that *B. Exhibition Purposes* includes the four items of "Prizes," "Exhibition Expenses," "Printing, etc.," and "Salaries." Now, it is unfair to compare the two as has been done, and say that to pay \$22,445.24 in prizes cost the Industrial \$2,182.80, whilst to pay \$13,476.50 cost the Provincial \$11,997.97; or, to pay \$1.00 in prizes cost the Industrial 40 cents, whilst the payment of a similar sum cost the Provincial 90 cents. The Exhibitions are about the same size; the divisions, departments, classes, and entries are about the same in the two; there are almost as many assistants required by the one as the other, and it costs no more to write a cheque for \$25 than one for \$15. Still, in size, number, and economy, the balance, small though it be, is in favour of the Industrial; and we must therefore proceed to examine the items mentioned under the heading "Provincial." This part has already been this year handled, I understand, by a Committee of

the Council. The first item—"Prizes"—will not stand any reduction, ought indeed to be increased. The second is mainly made up, as all Exhibition *habitués* know, of the expenses incurred for the services of gatekeepers, caretakers, judges, and secretary's and treasurer's assistants. The same Committee claim that these have been brought down to the lowest point compatible with efficiency. The report of 1881 will show. It should, perhaps, in all fairness here be stated that these expenses show higher in 1880 than in any previous year, the sum of \$1,100 being paid in Hamilton for motive power. In the meantime, the questions of experts for judges, and the propriety of caretakers, etc., being selected from the district in which the Exhibition may be held, are worthy of consideration. "Printing, etc.," cannot well be decreased, for advertising, etc., pays here as elsewhere. Some special contract must have been paid in 1880, as this item on the basis already explained was in 1879 but \$1,723.38; \$1,634.38 in 1878; and \$1,428.92 in 1877. "Salaries, etc.," is an item which has this year been decreased by some \$700. Seeing that the Treasurer gives bonds for \$25,000, which from a guarantee company at 1½ per cent. are worth \$375 per annum, it may be said that Mr. Graham, receiving \$400, now gives his services, like the treasurers of the District Exhibitions, gratuitously. A permanent secretary who is a responsible man cannot be asked to live in Toronto on less than \$1,200 per annum, and from many years' acquaintance with the new secretary, who is both able and efficient, I am sure he is worth more than that sum. But there is not sufficient for a permanent secretary to do. I will take the liberty, in considering the question of the existence of the Association, to point out what in my opinion should be done to increase his work, so that not more than half his salary should be charged to the Exhibition, even should it be \$2,000 per annum. On the whole, we are assured that "Exhibition expenses" will be lower this year than ever—lower than those of the Industrial. As I have said, the reports of 1881 will show, but the effort in the direction of economy is worthy of encouragement.

Lastly, there are *C. Council Expenses*—the expense of keeping up the Council of the Agricultural and Arts Association. This matter has likewise been attended to by the Committee mentioned. The members are now paid their travelling expenses at eight cents a mile one way, and \$3 a day for each day actually in session. They are in session three times a year, and during the whole time of the Annual Exhibition. Certainly the amount individually received cannot begin to pay the members for leaving their business to attend to the work of the Association, and hence their chagrin at finding their Exhibition not as certain a financial success as others must be greater. But there are far too many members in the Council for the work there is to do. There are now 27 in all—13 elective and 14 *ex officio*. The idea of a Board of 27 men, whose expenses have to be paid and service at least indemnified, handling an Exhibition that can compete financially with any one managed by a few directors working *con amore* for the good of a particular district, and giving their time and services gratuitously, is simply preposterous nonsense. Doubtless every man of the 27 has done his best to help on the work of the Association, but there is no necessity for 27 men to do it. Their number should be lessened, and that can only be done by an amendment to the *Agriculture and Arts Act*.

In conclusion, even their best friends must acknowledge that the financial management of the Agricultural and Arts Association has not been an unqualified success. An important cause for that want of success has been, it is said, the failure of receipts owing to the growth of District Exhibitions. But even then it is evident, from the con-

sideration of the subject in this letter, that there has been also wanting that fresh vigour and vigilant economy which alone can make financial management successful. It has arisen, doubtless, simply from want of attention to causes; and now that a movement has been made in the right direction, it is to be hoped that it will be as thorough and complete as the nature of the case requires. Of course, it must never be forgotten that the object for which the Provincial Association holds an Annual Exhibition is, not that it may be a paying speculation, but that the agriculture of the particular district in which it is held may, by the example, rivalry, and emulation thereby awakened, be greatly stimulated and improved. But whilst this is being done, there is no reason, if an amendment to the Act be obtained, and vigour and a spirit of economy are brought into active exercise in increasing the receipts and decreasing the expenditure of management in the ways indicated, why the Provincial Exhibition should not be carried out, if not as a great financial success, yet in such a way that the loss certain to be met with in some sections in which it must be held, should be almost if not altogether counterbalanced by the gain obtained by it in others more fertile, more populous, and, agriculturally speaking, more advanced.

There are many in the Province, however, who assert that this is impossible, that the good which the Provincial has in the past accomplished is now being more effectually done by the District Exhibitions, that the necessity for itself as for its existence has gone, and that, as the speediest way to the abolition of the Association, the Legislature should withdraw from it the Provincial grant. But, as I have already, Mr. Editor, transgressed altogether too far on your space and good-nature, I will reserve the consideration of this question for a future communication, and subscribe myself,

Yours faithfully,

WM. JOHNSON.

Toronto, Oct. 14th, 1881.

MR. ROBT. STEWART, while at work on his farm just outside of the village of Hastings one day last week, unearthed an elk's antler of an enormous size, its length in a straight line being three feet four inches, the base measuring 10½ inches in circumference.

When putting up his stove for winter a Colborne farmer found a potato plant of vigorous growth in the iron heater. By some accident a potato was thrown into it in the spring, and sprouted in the novel "patch." The little "murphies" were formed at the root, and looked rather odd growing in the air—there being no soil.

THE medals of the Ontario Agricultural and Arts Association for the best managed farms in District No. 2, comprising the Counties of Essex, Kent, Lambton, Elgin, Middlesex, and Oxford, were awarded as follows for the present year: Gold medal, William Donaldson, North Oxford; 1st silver medal, James Fisher, East Middlesex; 2nd silver medal, Alex. Dolson, East Kent; bronze medal, James Smith, North Middlesex; bronze medal, T. Parks, South Essex; bronze medal, James Smyth, East Kent.

HENRY G. VENNOR writes: "I predict for Great Britain a very severe winter, preceded by a cold, wet autumn. This cold weather will set in unusually early, and the Clyde, Thames and other rivers are likely to become firmly ice-locked. The heavy snow-falls this year bid fair to keep on the other side of the Atlantic. On this side the winter is likely to be, to a very considerable degree, open and mild, but between the periods there will in all probability be a few brief but intensely cold "dips," the first of these probably occurring toward the close of November, and the entry of December."