

No Brown
Refused

THE MONTHLY FARMERS' ADVOCATE

PERSEVERE AND SUCCEED

VOLUME V.

DEVOTED TO THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE COUNTRY.

NUMBER 10.

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Editor and Proprietor.

LONDON, ONT., OCT., 1870.

\$1 Per Annum, Postage Prepaid.
Office—Dundas St., opp. City Hotel.

The Farmer's Advocate

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Agricultural Exhibitions and Fairs.

The origin of these highly useful institutions we cannot undertake to give, not being able to place our hands upon any reliable authority containing such; and it does not occur to our memory of having met with any notice of them in reading of ancient times—which leads us to believe they did not then take place. We have numerous accounts and allusions to the games engaged in by the athlete and gladiators who contended to the death for the plaudits of the spectators, and the wreath of laurel with which the victor was crowned; also the Tournament, with all its display of beauty, valor and chivalry, forming an attraction which gathered together all classes of the people, to witness the combat and to award to the conquerors of the day the praise and honor of the nation.

These days of chivalry existed when the people were under a chronic state of war, feudalism and strife, and however much adapted to the times in which they held their sway, and to the cultivation of a military and warlike spirit, did but little to consort with a more peaceful age.

The Agricultural and Art exhibitions belong to more peaceful times, are calculated to the promotion and stability of peace, and in fact can only be held during times of peace. The good resulting from them in this point of view is incalculable. But they are also productive of other good results: affording to the manufacturer an opportunity of vieing with his compeers in the inventing and completing all manner of machines and fabrics, and filling the workshops with skilled artizans and workmen of every degree. These inventions again become of use, and are wanted by the ever-growing wants of the country, in the lessening of manual labor, the cheaper production of all that is necessary for the convenience and comfort of the people, and adding to the general prosperity and wealth of the nation; while they also stimulate the farmer into friendly rivalry with his neighbors in rearing and bringing forward the best stock and the best roots, fruits and grain the land will produce.

The greatest and most successful of all Exhibitions yet held was that which took place in old London, originated by the late Prince Albert, who labored in his time to encourage and promote industry in art, science and labor of every kind. This Exhibition did much to stimulate the people of all enlightened nations in the pursuit and furtherance of peaceful objects; and no doubt but our annual Exhibitions tend much to the same happy object. We hope they will continue to increase in excellence and in influence for good throughout the country lying in their train; an increased desire among all classes for the progress and advancement of all that will add to the happiness of the people; to the general welfare of industry and trade throughout all its varied forms.

When the meetings are held and applied for their avowed purposes, they cannot fail of bringing to full fruition these legitimate fruits. It becomes us all, then, to give every encouragement and aid to our numerous agricultural exhibitions and fairs, in order that they may be crowned with success, and subserve the objects hinted at. We trust those about to be held will excel all others that have yet been in the Dominion, and that they will be conducted so as to give general satisfaction, and that everything calculated to mar, or likely to injure or hinder their usefulness, will be kept in the back ground. We rely upon the judges awarding the prizes only to those who are fully entitled to them, and being actuated by a spirit of impartiality and candor in the performance of their difficult task, and that all attempts made by any party to the turning of these valuable institutions, aside from their only legitimate purpose, be put down as soon as discovered, by the voice of the people.

They ought to stand alone in all their simplicity, and only used for what their name imports, not being entangled with the trappings of party politics; and as they have no creed, but are perfectly free from all sectarianism, so let them not have a single shade of political hue. Neither is it desirable that any other doubtful attraction be introduced with or along-side of them. Whatever that may be, it cannot be but hurtful to their success. They are complete of themselves, needing no unseemly patches in order to their improvement. Let them stand alone, and keep away from intermeddling with the prin-

ciples they involve and are inherent to them, and they cannot fail to prosper and do much good. But once allow political views and feelings, or anything else extraneous to their nature, to intermix with their management, you then introduce elements altogether foreign to their purpose, which cannot and never will amalgamate for good, but will prove the bane and ultimate ruin to exhibitions. It is neither more or less than an utter perversion and prostitution of these exhibitions and fairs when it is attempted to use them for such purposes, and we call on all who value them to aid us in endeavoring to keep them clear from such contaminations.

It would have served a good purpose had our Agricultural Board instituted a general trial of implements and machines at a suitable time of the year. Such trials would be of great interest to the farmer, and also to the several exhibitors, and an unerring guide in enabling the judges to come to a proper conclusion as to the merits and capabilities of the competing machines. Nothing equal to ocular demonstration for carrying conviction to the mind. We hope this will be the case ere long, having broached the same before.— We leave it to the proper parties for putting it into shape and practice. In order to show the beneficial effects of these institutions, we quote the following statistics from *Bell's Messenger* (old London), which goes on to say, and not without truth, that the Royal Society's Shows have developed in a most remarkable manner the resources of British husbandry, and made an indelible mark in every district where they have been held. We quote the remark because we would wish to see our exhibitions conducted on the same principles of management, and producing the same effects here, and whatever differences may exist between them now, might be greatly lessened if the spirit that excites to competition, the determination to excel, a lively and active interest existing among farmers, and the liberal support extended to them by persons and places, not engaged in agriculture, were as marked and enduring in this country as in the old:—

THE ROYAL SOCIETY'S SHOW.— The Show of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, just held at Oxford, derives some interest from the fact that its first exhibition was held there thirty-one years ago, and this is its first return to the place

where its shows were then inaugurated.— The contrast between the display of 1839 and that of 1870, of course excites remark, and is summed up as follows: "In 1839 the total number of animals were 406, and the total value of the prizes awarded, including two for seed wheat, was 830*l.*; while in the present year we have about 440 cattle, 550 sheep, 192 pigs, and 203 horses, giving a total of 1,385 animals, among which prizes are awarded to the amount of nearly 4,000*l.* But in the department of agricultural machines the contrast is still greater. In 1839 there were only 22 exhibitors, who managed among them to exhibit 72 implements; on the present occasion 386 firms are represented by miles of implements, meeting almost every conceivable want on every variety of farm."

Seed and Politics.

Question: is there in the halls of our Legislature a single active, live or influential member who devotes any attention to the seed of the country? Have you any farmers there? or are they all swallowed up in the large public expenditures which are now being made? Where can we obtain information? Is there no one to add half a column of information? Can any one inform us which variety of wheat has yielded the largest average return? Many expect us to be able to inform them correctly, from our little costly and unaided experience. We say unaided, because we have to pay for it all, directly or indirectly, from our own pockets, or by our own labors, therefor. Our means of knowledge are limited; and what is worse still—even after we have obtained any information that might be of value to our numerous readers, and are willing to go to the expense of posting such up throughout the country—our government will not allow us to do so unless we pay them four times as much as any common newspaper is charged for sending it through the post office. Since issuing our last paper, Mr. Stephen White, of Charing Cross, gave us some information. He is a large and practical plain farmer, and is among the few farmers who represent the agricultural interest at the agricultural board of which he is a member.

The wheat which he has given us information about is called the *Scott wheat*. It is a bald, white-chaffed red wheat, and has yielded 30 bushels per acre—about three times more than the average of the wheat in this county. It has succeeded