

to be opened under the provisions of an Act which authorizes the Board of Agriculture to hold, every third year, or oftener if they think fit, a General Provincial Exhibition of Agricultural and Industrial products, animals and domestic manufactures.

The range of this Exhibition is therefore, by the provisions of the Act, more limited than that of any Exhibition, except the first. The second and third included not only what are known as domestic manufactures, but various others in metals, wood and leather; also Indian work, besides minerals, fish and furs, the productions of the fine arts, and even Provincial literature. So that instituting a comparison between the different Exhibitions it is necessary, if we would understand the actual growth and progress of the industry now exhibited, to eliminate from the records of previous Exhibitions about one-third of the entries, which refer to objects not included in the present.

Of the value of exhibitions like this there can be no question. Their influence for good has been felt in every country where they have been introduced. The annual exhibitions of England—of the different States of the Union—of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, have been closely connected with the improvements in agricultural operations which have taken place in these several countries. The exhibitions of Ontario are now conducted on a splendid scale. The entries at the first of these in 1846 at Toronto did not much exceed 1,000. The field and garden vegetables displayed were not beyond the capacity of a single building to hold, and that not a very large one. From that period to this I understand there has been an annual exhibition in one or other of the large agricultural centres of Ontario. In a speech made on a recent occasion by the then President of the Board of Agriculture of that Province, who, bye-the-bye, is at this moment the President of the Senate of the Dominion, he declares that in agricultural and horticultural productions, and in quality of stock, the Exhibitions of Ontario have no superiors on this continent. From 1846 to 1872—a period of 26 years—the interest in these Exhibitions has continually increased, and the entries, which in the first year were, as I have already stated, a little over 1,000, were swollen in 1872 to 7,714. As evidence of the improvement in a single branch of industry—the department of stock-raising—take the case of short-horned Durhams, the entries of which were, in 1846, from 25 to 30 only, while in 1872 they had risen, by a steady and gradual increase, to 269. A similar progress has taken place in other superior breeds of cattle. This marked improvement in the higher grades of stock is significant in a country which counts its increase of neat cattle in a single decade at somewhere about half a million. It would not be fair to trace *all* this improvement to the operation of Annual Exhibitions. Our own Province has made advances in every department of agriculture, notwithstanding the intervals which have elapsed between the different Exhibitions. In the very department to which we have alluded it has made a progress beyond what would appear by the re-