

an hour afterwards, water, and then oats, or other grain. By this plan water may be given without risk of cold, as the oats act as a stimulant.

### The Provincial Exhibition.

From the *Journal of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for U. C.*

The history of the Provincial Association in relation to our Annual Provincial Exhibition is full of interest to Canadians. It is the narrative of the rise and progress of a national institution from which immense benefits have sprung, and many more are expected for a long series of years to come.

The Provincial Exhibition is one of the tests for our improvement in all that relates to material wealth and solid progress. It is an examination of the state of our industry, intelligence, civility and knowledge. It enables us to compare our condition as a people with that of other nations; to discover in what respect we fail to rise to the standard of excellence at which others have arrived; in what particulars we excel; and how we may best improve the natural advantages by which we are surrounded, and to elaborate the disadvantages which are inseparable from our geographical position.

No event of equal importance to the Provincial Exhibition occurs during the year in Canada, of the field of politics; for good government rests at the head of all national interests, and we desire to be governed wisely and well in prior to all aspirations towards excellence in agriculture, art or mechanical skill.

Politics cannot be broached within the walls devoted to the objects of the Provincial Exhibition. All allusions in the annual addresses to subjects of a party or political nature are necessarily forbidden by tacit consent. Early in the history of the Provincial Association was the opinion given by the Hon. Adam Ferguson, on the 22nd October, 1846, at Toronto, where the Exhibition was held:—"I feel, gentlemen, more intensely than I can possibly express, our very existence, as a useful institution, altogether depend upon a firm and scrupulous exclusion of all such topics from the Board. Thank God, we have a great and magnificent exhibition upon which every man in Canada may depend, in honorable and patriotic competition, untroubled by party jealousies or strife; and most devoutly should we all pray, that party feeling and party intrigue, may never be known amongst

The first Provincial Exhibition was held in 1846, in October, 1846. It extended over ten days. The whole amount offered in prizes was nearly £400, and the number of entries was 1,150. Ten years later, the amount of prizes was £2,309, and the number of entries

3,791, or more than three times as many. It is curious and instructive to compare the thoughts and opinions of men at that period, based on what they saw around them, with the condition of things at the present day. The Hon. Chief Justice Robinson, now in the progress of events in Canada, where merit paves the way, Sir John Beverly Robinson, Bart., said at the first Exhibition, "There was no country possessing the advantages—advantages almost limitless—that Canada does. Looking to the great waters at her feet, and the innumerable rivers leading thereto, and the water power afforded, he would ask, where was the country that could boast of like advantages with Upper Canada? Even with London and other towns far removed, the inhabitants had the advantages of good plank roads, by which the produce reached the great waters, on whose surface it was to be borne to Europe."

The Association began its existence boldly—it relied upon the country it was to serve. It has served it well, and well has it been sustained. It commenced its career wholly without funds, relying upon members' fees and on "contributions," particularly from County Societies, to enable it to pay the premiums offered by itself, and the expenses incurred in its own nourishment and growth.

In the second year of its existence, the annual Exhibition was held at Hamilton, when not less than 550 more entries were made than in the previous year, and premiums to the amount of £750 offered; but the Association found itself £300 in debt at the close of the year, but still full of hope. Col. E. W. Thomson, the President of the Association, a household name among farmers in Upper Canada, spoke in the annual address of the near completion of the internal water communications in the Province; but, he continued, "railroads, plank and macadamized roads must follow in every direction." He saw the necessity of progress—manufactures accompanying progress in agriculture—for he warned farmers of "the necessity of cultivating flax and hemp and the finer kinds of wool." Lord Elgin, with eloquence so natural to him, said of our country at that meeting: "Canada springs at once from the cradle into the full possession of the privileges of manhood. Canada with youth's elasticity in her tread, has the advantage of all the experience of age. She may avail herself, not only of the capital accumulated in older countries, but also of those treasures of knowledge, which have been gathered up, by the labor and research of earnest and thoughtful men, throughout a series of generations."

When three years old, the Association determined to hold their Exhibitions at Cobourg, and notwithstanding their indebtedness, they offered prizes to the amount of £775, and extended the time the exhibition was to last to four days. In