

FINANCIAL SUCCESS.

HAMILTON, Sept. 27th.

The exhibition came to a close to-day, after another day of that exceptionally fine weather for this season of the year which has prevailed every day during the week. Never before, we believe, in the history of these exhibitions have the meteorological conditions been so entirely favourable. Both financially, which is of great importance, and in other respects the show has proved a great success. The receipts during the week have been as follows :

Monday and Tuesday.....	\$ 801 87
Wednesday.....	5,059 57
Thursday.....	5,925 00
Friday.....	777 52
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$12,563 96</b>

For purposes of comparison we give also the receipts for last year at Kingston, which were as follows :

Monday and Tuesday.....	\$ 278 42
Wednesday.....	2,983 44
Thursday.....	2,695 05
Friday.....	278 42
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$6,235 33</b>

The above figures afford a strong argument for the holding of the exhibition as far eastward as Kingston as seldom as possible. When it was last held in Hamilton, four years ago, the total number of paying visitors who attended it was about 14,000 less than the receipts for this year represent, and yet even then they were about 10,000 more numerous than last year.

ANNUAL MEETING.

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS ;

The annual meeting of the Agricultural and Arts Association was held this evening, about 300 delegates being present. Stephen White, of Chatham, on taking the chair, read the Annual Address, as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,—One year since, on an occasion similar to this, we enjoyed the privilege of listening to the address of my predecessor. How short that time appears when looking back on the past. Then, we were assembled at Kingston—the point farthest East at which these annual gatherings have as yet been held ; now we are brought into direct communication with the citizens of this ambitious city of Hamilton, which, I believe deservedly, ranks first among the manufacturing centres of our vast Dominion. Our fairs here have ever proved a success ; and when I look over our grounds on the present occasion, I feel that the farmers, mechanics and others who have contributed to this vast collection have indeed something of which to feel proud, and may well rest assured that they are contributing to the building up of that national prosperity and greatness to which we may justly look as the boast of our prosperity. We have great cause of thankfulness to a kind and beneficent Providence for continued peace and prosperity ; and although the drouth in the early summer affected the crops in some localities to a considerable extent, and the West has suffered severely from the ravages of the Colorado potato beetle, which has now

become one of the worst enemies with which we have to contend, yet the labour of the present year generally has proved so productive and remunerative to the husbandman that we have plenty and to spare, and all are blessed with ample to provide the necessities and comforts of a home. The cultivation of flax is increasing in extent, and is marked with decided success, so that those who have advocated its introduction have every reason to anticipate that it will soon rank among our staple productions. As our country becomes more opened up, we see the greater necessity of providing green food for our stock, particularly cattle, during the summer months, when the grass has become parched and dried up by the hot weather ; the experiment of sowing broadcast, or thickly drilling Indian corn at different times during the season, so as to be cut and fed to them, has been tried with success, and is likely to prove a great boon to the dairymen. The results of our labours for a short twelvemonth have been brought together and openly exposed to view, and let those who see be judges of the fertility of the fair Province of Ontario, and of the ability of her sons in yet forming the nucleus of one of the strongholds of the British Empire, or, if need should arise (which I pray may never occur), of forming the centre of a great and prosperous independent nationality. Our motto is "defence, not defiance," and, as was said by my predecessor, although ready on any and every occasion to resist oppression, we have nothing to gain from, nor do we desire, an aggressive policy. Our aim is to promote the peace and goodwill, the wealth, intelligence and happiness, of nations. The drainage now being carried on in the Western Peninsula, by opening up the natural water courses, and in some cases cutting artificial ones, is producing a marked and growing effect. Lands which heretofore were totally unfit for cultivation and worthless, with the exception of a small growth of wild grass for pasture are rapidly being brought under the influence of the plough, and are found to be the most fertile, productive and remunerative, thus amply rewarding the proprietor or tenant for any costs he may have incurred in their production.

In looking over the past few years, I can not but observe the many changes through which we have passed and are passing ; one of the principal of these is in the manner employed in carrying on the operations of the farm. He who hires farm labourers now can seldom obtain native born young Canadians or Americans, farmers' sons bred up in their fathers' farms and at home in all the minute of farming, such as were the hired men on our farms a few years ago. Nor is it any less difficult in most sections of the Province to obtain a farmer's daughter as the hired girl either for housework or dairy. To obtain skilled labour now-a-days is in fact one of the greatest difficulties to be contended with in carrying on a farm. Fortunate indeed is it for us that so many labour-saving machines were introduced before this great want had become so great. I do not wish it to be understood that I fail to appreciate our indebtedness for vast individual and national prosperity to the strong arms and stout hearts of our foreign immigration ; but that class of labourers require a long and patient teaching before they are capable of managing our machines, of handling our teams or of understanding our system of farming generally. Yet these men are apt to expect the wages of our first class Canadians. Besides, as a general rule, unmarried men of that class are unsettled in their habits, roving, and with no local ties to bind them, ready to leave for trifling causes

or small inducements of higher wages. The question is becoming serious ; but how is it to be avoided ?

The most feasible system appears to be that of encouraging the employment of married men and building suitable places on the premises in which they and their families can reside ; thus they become permanently settled and feel that they have a home of their own ; their interests become more and more identified with ours, and our influence is more directly brought to bear upon them and their growing families, so that they much more rapidly develop into Canadians and citizens. By this means they not only board themselves but we can frequently avail ourselves of the much needed household assistance, thereby also relieving our detached wives and daughters. If such a system were generally introduced I believe all parties, and especially the labourer, would be better satisfied and permanently benefited. Another very pleasing change is found in the constant improvement which is taking place in the country. The dense forest is fast giving away, and where only a few years since the hardy pioneer could with difficulty find the means to furnish scanty subsistence, we now find the thrifty farmer with his land cleared and well tilled, his humble dwelling replaced by one more suited to his present wants and comforts, his outbuildings being renewed or extended to meet the requirements of his increasing stock, which is every year becoming more valuable by importation and direct crosses with pure blood ; his orchards, now approaching maturity, supply every want with the choicest varieties of fruit, and he begins to think the pleasure derived from looking at a few shade or ornamental trees will amply reward him for care and cost of providing. In short, he just begins to feel a self-respect and independence which more properly belongs to him than any other calling. There is another change which, though not productive of emotions of pleasure, yet demands more than a passing notice. I refer to the growing aversion exhibited by many of our young men and boys to honest, manly toil, the tendency to leave the farm for the whirl and excitement of the city uncertainties of the professional or commercial life. The very term "Commerce" seems to carry with it a kind of magic spell, and they forget that it is rarely one in a hundred who succeeds in his speculations and accumulates a fortune ; yet some agency or patent right ; in short, anything that demands travel or produces excitement, has a fascination for the young man that seems irresistible, and we frequently meet sound, able-bodied young men peddling the country over with some simple little contrivance, with an energy that would do honour to a better cause. Commercial pursuits are over-valued because they lie more upon the surface and are open to observation, but he who is successful has often, nay, always, to toil and labour far more unceasingly than the agriculturalist. This can only be counteracted by making home pleasant to them, and so educating them that work on the farm shall not be considered mere drudgery but an intelligent use of the resources of nature. Nowhere else do intelligence and taste so readily ripen the conceptions of the mind into utility and beauty. Go to the towns and cities and you will find that a large majority of those who went there as country boys, instead of achieving wealth and fame, have attained to less than they would have enjoyed had they followed their agricultural pursuits, and many are rapidly sinking into the lowest depths of degradation and misery. I have very great pleasure in being able to