

Editorial Notes — The Government Farm.

(Continued from page 185.)

With D. Guthrie, M. P. for Wellington Co., accompanied by a Scotch gentleman, editor of a paper in Paisley, Scotland, we ascended to the top of the house. The scenery is very pretty from this spot, as it commands a very fine view of the town of Guelph and surrounding country; but scenery will not fill a hungry stomach, and neither would the Government Farm, if wages were paid from it, if we might judge from this outlook. The fields appeared brown or sere, except the turnip crop; this field appeared to have great blanks on it, and most of the turnips looked blue instead of green. The grass in front of the building showed from its browned and sickly appearance that the drouth had effected it much worse than it had effected the land on Mr. Gibson's farm. A good, rich, green bite could be found in London Township, but on the Government Farm it would be hard to find a green blade. The drouth has been as severe at one place as the other. A piece of Lucerne appeared the most luxuriant crop growing; this plant may prove to be of use to the country.

This visit has confirmed our former conviction, that the site has not been well selected. No one pretends to claim it to be a first-class farm now, but before purchasing it was all O. K. If cost is to be considered and good land is wanted, we believe it would not cost the country half as much to purchase good land and erect good buildings as it will to manure this land and get it into a good state of cultivation.

Young men may gain knowledge they would not otherwise obtain. The fall session of the College will open on the 1st October. There are some vacancies, and any farmer's son can, with great advantage, take the course, if he will conform to the rules and attend carefully to the lectures and instruction of the Principal and staff, as the Principal intends giving farmers' sons the first opportunity to enter the institution.

We particularly wished to know the results of trials of seed that we had forwarded to this institution for trial and reports, but we failed to gain any important information regarding them. There is a book kept, but there is room for great improvements regarding information about seeds.

The Government is importing stock for this farm. Among other importations, are the polled Aberdeen cattle and the Windsor pigs. We are not aware that either of these breeds of stock are now in Canada. They intend keeping five different classes of cattle and eight of sheep. From experience we know this will not be profitable. It may or may not be more beneficial to the country than attaining perfection in one line.

We trust our friend the Paisley editor visited other parts of the western province and of the County of Wellington before forming an opinion of the appearance agriculturally of Ontario.

The town of Guelph is more rapidly improving than any other town we have seen. A very fine block of stone buildings is in course of erection. The Government is also expending a large sum for erecting a Custom House and Post Office. The cedar swamps about Guelph that were formerly despised, are now the most valuable lands; they will grow grass, and grass is King for making the princely roast beef for which Guelph has long been celebrated. The Central Exhibition is to be held here, beginning on the 2nd October.

Provincial Exhibition.

This Exhibition, which has just closed in Hamilton, has been a grand success in some respects. The weather has been fine and a goodly number of visitors have attended. The display of agricultural implements has exceeded that of

any previous exhibition; there were twelve steam engines on the ground. The sheep display excelled any ever before held in Canada. The show of horses, cattle, swine and fruit was very good. The stock men, mechanics and fruit growers who aided this exhibition deserve the thanks and support of all, as all must be benefited by the improvements made, or high standard maintained in the above departments; there has been a greater weeding out of anything inferior from exhibition than ever before.

The display of seeds, dairy products, flowers, vegetables and roots was not equal to other exhibitions; in fact, the Board of Agriculture, we believe, have neglected their duty in not paying proper attention to the prize list, or we should see specimens of their Gold Medal wheat; these we could not find, neither could we find the Seneca or Clawson, nor the Silver Chaff varieties. Surely the most valuable varieties of spring or fall wheat should be seen at such an exhibition. The Canada Company's prize has again been awarded to the wheat that has caused greater loss to our farmers than any other variety. Perhaps some member of the Board or some reader could explain why this should be.

In passing through the Horticultural Department, our attention was drawn to a very important display made by Mr. S. McLaughlan, of Burford P. O., Ont. It consisted of a display of wheat, oats, barley, corn, grass, cabbages, beets, turnips, potatoes, &c., &c., from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The wheat was of good quality and was grown on land on which wheat had been continuously grown for upwards of 58 years in succession. The Early Rose potatoes were much larger than any on exhibition, grown in Ontario. We asked Mr. McLaughlan who paid him for his trouble. He said no one; he did not even expect a prize; he brought the products with him at his own expense, and devoted his time in giving accounts of that province. He should be rewarded in some way, as such an exhibition and description as he gave would tend to direct the attention of those seeking homes towards that most fertile part of our Dominion. He also brought specimens of the soil, which would please every farmer that saw it.

We consider it our duty to call attention to anything that we believe to be wrong, or on which improvements may be made. We shall make other remarks. They are not written to injure the Provincial Exhibition or members of the Board, but for the benefit of the yeomen of our country.

We expected to have seen many foreigners here, but were disappointed, as we found a rather less number than usually attend this Exhibition than when held in this western part of Canada.

The Board sent four of its members to the Centennial expressly to look after the interests of this institution, but what have they done? We know what they have not done. They did not make arrangements with the railroad companies to grant visitors from the Western States excursion tickets good for thirty days, with the privilege of stopping at Hamilton and seeing our great Exhibition, either on their way to or from the Centennial. Had this been done, and cheap excursion tickets granted from Philadelphia and return, and the attention of strangers at the Centennial been called, as ought to have been done, to our Provincial Exhibition, we might have had many hundreds, perhaps thousands of Americans and other strangers, as many from even California and all the Western States would liked to have seen our productions. Perhaps it might have done as much good as all the money we have expended for the American Exhibition. This we think the greatest omission.

The lack of seats for the tired sight-seers was an error or oversight. One or two thousand feet of

plank would have cost a mere trifle, but not a seat could be found anywhere, except on the ground. The filth from the cattle stalls should have been removed daily; farmers would have taken it away without cost to the Association. The exhibition ground was infested with those yelling, bellowing quacks who claim to cure all the ills that flesh is heir to, mend a crock, or sell brazen jewelry. We do not consider the admission of this class of exhibitors tends to elevate the position of this institution.

The several varieties of implements should be kept together; this would afford spectators a better opportunity of comparing one with another. The Exhibition building appeared to us to have more of a repulsive than an attractive look both inside and out; the outside was surrounded with rubbish and litter, and lacked paint or whitewash; the interior lacked cleanliness and order.

The conglomeration of things appeared to us to have reached its climax when we entered the main building; the mass of visitors were crowding and crushing from opposite directions, and no one attempted to keep them going in one direction.

Perhaps our visit to the Centennial has spoiled our taste for such mixtures. This may do you all some good; some may grumble at these remarks, but they cannot gainsay them. Let us hope that they may lead to improvement.

Every year there is some improvement to be seen at these exhibitions. This year our attention was more taken up by a new reaping machine; it is called the Royce Reaper, and is made by Green & Co., of Waterford, Ont. This machine is much lighter than any of the machines now made; the lightening of it is occasioned by abandoning the old complicated machinery that drove the rakes, and substituting a new light and efficient rake weighing about 150 lbs. less than the old one. We had thought that our reapers were as complete as they could make them. Every farmer and nearly every manufacturer admired this new reaper, and a great consideration is that this machine can be sold for \$90. This is a vast reduction from the prices we have been accustomed to pay. Another noticeable feature in this exhibition is the absence of the herds of many of our noted breeders of Shorthorns. We would like some one to explain the reason why neither the Hon. D. Christie, Hon. G. Brown, Hon. H. M. Cochrane, George Miller, John Miller, Snell, Stone, Craig, Gibson or Col. Taylor were not to be seen. Notwithstanding the absence of these noted breeders, the exhibition was about as good and useful as ever.

Orchard and Garden.—No. 8.

HINTS FOR THE MONTH, BY H. ORT.

Gathering the fruit will be the principal operation in the orchard this month, leaving the late winter kinds to the last, or as long as there is no danger from very severe frosts. The weather is very uncertain after the 20th of October, and all fruits should be gathered as soon after that date as possible. Attention is directed to some of the hints contained in last ADVOCATE respecting the careful picking out and sorting of all bruised, small and worm-eaten fruit. Fruit growers of experience will not need to be told how the mixture of inferior fruit greatly lessens the commercial value of the finer samples. As directed before, the fruit might be laid in heaps in dry outbuildings for a few weeks, when it will be good employment on cold and rainy days to pack away in barrels or otherwise in the cellar. A good fruit cellar should be so constructed as to allow a low temperature, almost to freezing, capable of being ventilated when necessary; but a cold draught, which cause shrivelling. It should have one or two wide

shelves for the fruit available, to place a convenient turned to grow as we all drunkennes

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