

many county seats for the Liberals in the general election now brought to a close. In the boroughs fair trade, promoted by the experienced artizans, who are well versed in politics, has won many seats for the Conservatives. But the Liberal victories in the counties far outnumber those of the Conservatives, who, without the Parnellite vote, are in a minority of 82 in the new Parliament. That minority almost exactly represents the number of Irishmen returned to support Mr. Parnell.

As might have been expected, the agricultural laborers who have for the first time exercised the franchise, have supported their unionist leaders. Mr. Joseph Arch, president of the National Agricultural Laborers' Union, and who is well known in Canada, and has visited your Province, has been elected by a large majority. He has defeated Lord Henry Bentinck in his own county, and this is certainly, from the agricultural laborer's point of view, a striking sign of the times. It has been aptly observed that "here, truly, is Gurth at last standing upon equal terms with Cedric, and overmastering him in a fair fight."

The cattle exhibition at Smithfield, London, has this year been a great success. Sir Chas. Tupper visited the show, and a large number of Canadians did likewise. In addition to the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's exhibits of grain and roots, some fine specimens of agricultural produce were shown by Mr. Stockwell, of the Island of Anticosti. A number of ranchmen from the Western States were at the exhibition, but the proposal to put an embargo on pedigree breeders of stock to the extent of 100 dollars per head, of animals sent from Great Britain to the United States, has had a very damaging effect upon that particular trade. The 100 dollars is to be the charge for entering British animals in the American herd book, the Americans themselves only paying one dollar for the like privilege. In the words of a dealer, the embargo means "death to the trade." In Herefordshire alone over one million pounds have been expended in the purchase of pedigree cattle by Americans during the past five years.

The arrangements for the Canadian exhibition in London next year are now being perfected. Nearly the whole of the material that was exhibited at Antwerp has been transferred to the exhibition building in London. The arrangements made by the High Commissioner have secured the whole of the best of the space for the Canadian section. Of course a space of this kind, nearly an acre and a quarter in extent, will contain a large amount of produce, but it is admitted by those who have a sound knowledge of the subject, that Canada has more varied resources than probably any other country, and it will be a great pity if the efforts of the Government are not supported by everyone in your Province. Not only in agriculture, for which London, Ontario, is already well known throughout England, but in petroleum and the products of petroleum, your people ought to be able to make a most interesting exhibit.

It is now almost certain that a measure giving Home Rule to Ireland will be brought before the new Parliament. It is a fight between them whether the Tories or the Radicals shall have the credit of introducing it. Mr. Parnell has played his cards well, and he can now almost dictate his own terms. If he can have his

way, one of the first acts of the Parliament in Dublin will be one for protecting Irish farmers against Canadian and American competition. That is the policy he has dictated in some of his recent speeches.

The Herefordshire cattle carried off the chief prizes at the great fat stock show at Birmingham. The extra prize for the best Hereford beast was won by Mr. Robert Workey, Sutfield, Aylsham, Norfolk, with a two-year-old steer. His live weight, sixteen hundred weight, eighteen pounds, however, was exceeded by two beasts in the same class, one, although two months younger, weighing eighteen hundred weight, two quarters, seven pounds. Mr. George Pitt's first prize three-year-old is of great size and substance, weighing nineteen hundred weight, two quarters, at three years and six months old. The Prince of Wales won the first and second prizes for Southdown wethers. The combined weight of his Royal Highness' first prize steer was five hundred weight, two quarters, four pounds.

Reverting to the condition of British agriculture, it may be stated that the markets are now overstocked, and in consequence the prices have fallen so low that the production of most articles can only be carried on at a loss to the producer. As a remedy for this state of things the farmer is advised to increase the production of his commodities, which he cannot do without increasing the cost thereof. Truly it is an absurd remedy, for it can only aggravate the evil; as by increasing the supply—the market being already overstocked—the prices of his commodities must further fall, and yet at the same time the cost of production is increased.

Farmers' Union—Railroad and Elevator Monopolies—Hard and Soft Wheats—Frosted Grain—Twine Monopoly—"Bill of Rights."

[BY OUR WINNIPEG CORRESPONDENT.]

The "Farmer's Union of Manitoba," whose fame has gone abroad as a power for good or for evil, closed its convention last night, lasting four days. Nothing can better show the power or influence of the Union than the bold bids of the party organs of this city for its support. To the credit of the Union, however, party politics have been subordinated to the best interests of the farmer.

For four days past have been gathered together from every corner of the Province, representative farmers, numbering at least one hundred. In the large hall in which they met they formed a body of farmers that few countries could produce. The subjects treated of at this convention were: "Railroads and the People. The C. P. R. Monopoly and the Pooling System as it Affects all Classes in Manitoba and the North-west. The Elevator Monopoly. Grain Standards. The Established Grades and Present Inspection of Grain. Five Wheat versus other Varieties. Stock Raising, Mixed Farming, Cheese Factories and Creameries. Review of the Present Position and Future Prospects of the Country." It can be imagined that a hundred of the leading farmers of the country meeting together and discussing these questions pro and con, would stir up some lively and instructive debates. It is edifying to hear such statements as: "Gentlemen, the great thing is to be always improving, never going back," from the

lips of the father of agriculture in this country, Mr. Kenneth McKenzie. A statement made by the same gentleman will show the extent of the elevator monopoly which the Union is fighting. The statement was that his son put into an elevator 1,800 bushels of wheat and had to give the elevator company 500 bushels of it for storage. Last year, by presenting a fair case and co-operating, the Union obtained from the C. P. R. a reduction in rates which actually put some five cents per bushel of wheat extra in the pockets of the farmer. They are now negotiating with the railroad for a reduction of rates on frosted grain. The rates that have been announced are such that it will not pay to ship frosted grain, and as there is over fifty per cent. of the wheat frosted, the result will be as Dr. Fleming, a member of the Union, informed me, that grain will be left in the country to rot. Unless they can get an important reduction of rates on frosted wheat, fifty per cent. of the product of the country will be totally useless.

Another item of importance that was brought up at last night's meeting is the supply of binding twine. A firm in the east has offered to supply the Union ten carloads of twine laid down at Port Arthur at the sum of ten and a half cents per pound. The dealers here have heretofore charged farmers from fifteen to twenty cents per pound, averaging perhaps sixteen or eighteen cents. When it is known that an ordinary farmer here will pay out fifty dollars a year for twine, it will be seen that the Union is doing a good work in breaking the monopoly on twine.

Another question brought up last night was the advisability of substituting for the Red Fife wheat a softer and earlier variety, such as White Russian, and thereby avoid the early frosts. The general opinion seemed to be that where the Fife could be grown with any degree of success it would be unwise to discard it altogether. This is the wheat for which Manitoba has become noted, the No. 1 hard, and which obtains so ready a sale in eastern markets.

The "Bill of Rights" which forms the political aspect of the question, created an animated discussion as to whether it should be made the test of membership, a few threatening to resign if it were. The majority, however, stood by the famous Bill of Rights that was drawn up at the Convention two years ago. It is well known how that Bill of Rights was adopted by the Provincial Legislature here and a deputation sent to Ottawa to present it to the House of Commons. The various clauses were thoroughly discussed at the late Convention and reiterated by resolution. They condemn the tariff as discriminating unfairly against this Province. They advocate the early completion of the H. B. railway.

It must be remembered that there are people in this Province who look upon the Union as a dangerous thing; especially the Secretary, Mr. Purvis, has been soundly abused. But it must be admitted that the power of the Union is felt, and that they have obtained important concessions for the farmers of this Province.

The annual meeting of the Union will be held in this city next January, at which the officers of the Company will be elected. It is proposed in future to have the Convention and annual meeting on the same day. Important business will no doubt be transacted at the next meeting.