

of America. There is a good collection of swine, but the grand exhibition of live porkers at Chicago, at which Ontario has now such distinction, thins the pig classes of our best specimens. There is an excellent show of poultry, surpassing in some classes anything of the kind we have ever had. It is evident that the "hen fever" is not abating among our fowl-fanciers. Never were such extensive, and it may be added expensive importations of choice fowl made as during the present season, and the coops on the show ground exhibit the results very strikingly. Even in some of the newer styles of poultry, the present exhibition would do no discredit to Birmingham itself. Dark Brahmas, Houdans, and Creve Coeurs are in respectable force, and of high excellence.

The field products testify to the peculiar character of the season of 1871. Grain is full, plump, clean and bright, while roots are under size and pinched looking. Finer wheat, we never set eyes on, and never desire to, for surely it could not be better than samples now on exhibition. The turnips are far below the usual mark, owing to the bad weather at and for some time after seeding. Field carrots are better, having got a good start before the drought. The potatoes are astonishingly good, considering the season, and that splendid new variety the Early Rose, is the leading sort, having evidently become thoroughly established in public favor. The show of dairy products is good. The horticultural department is no great things except in the fruit display, which, next to the stock, is the best feature in this year's show. Of apples, pears and grapes there is really a magnificent array. The peach display is also creditable, considering our rigorous climate. A few good plates of plums are also to be seen, but they ripened so early this year as to be almost out of season. Among the vegetables, tomatoes and capsicums are most conspicuous, both as to quality and quantity. The cabbage tribe is puny this year. Garden carrots and parsnips are quite as good as usual. Inside the Crystal Palace there is considerable unoccupied space. The sewing-machines and musical instruments are perhaps the most conspicuous features here. Guelph and Hamilton figure largely in these classes. Some fine collections of cabinet and other mechanical work attract much notice. Printing, lithography and bookbinding, are well represented. Copp, Clark & Co., of Toronto, have some really first class specimens of the lithographic art, while the book printing and binding shown by Hunter, Rose & Co., are very beautiful. No need now for authors to go to the old country to get their books published in the very best style. In the fine arts departments there is evidence of progress. Year after year shows that we are emerging out of the roughness and readiness necessarily of a new country, into a more aesthetic and refined national life. Specimens of needle work of excellent character are on exhibition, though these classes are for some cause or other, less full than usual. Some silk bed quilts are very beautiful. The hatters and furriers are here in force near to the ladies work, and show excellent collections in their lines of goods. A beautiful lot of pleasure boats and models are in harmony with the regatta spirit of the age, and are well nigh sufficient to decoy the most timorous land lubber to the water. Stoves, hollow ware, copper goods, bells, and a large variety of useful and ornamental articles, too numerous to mention, tempt notice, but must be passed over, at least for the present.

The arrangements for the ingress and egress of visitors are such as to prevent gate frauds, registering turnstiles being used for paying visitors, and separate entrances for privileged entrants. A post office and telegraph agency on the grounds form new and valuable conveniences. There is however no telegraphing done on the spot, it is merely an arrangement for expressing messages to and from the city offices, but the distance being considerable this is a very welcome provision.

Lt.-Governors Howland and Wilmot were on the grounds yesterday. Hon. Wm. McDougall was also present and became an extemporised judge on sewing machines, a hobby with him in former days, before Red River governorships loomed up. Mr. A. McKeen, M.P., Mr. Young, M.P., and other political celebrities were on the grounds, and discussions not strictly agricultural could be heard going on *sotto voce*, here and there. Sir John A. arrived in the city to-day, Lord Lisgar is expected this evening "the 'tother Macdonald" is looked for to-morrow. Things look auspicious for a good show notwithstanding the unfortunate London rivalry which is much to be deplored.

KINGSTON, 6 P.M., Wednesday, Sept. 27th, 1871.

Paying due respect to the order of time, a brief notice of the Fruit Growers' Association annual meeting, held last evening, will come in appropriately at the beginning of this communication. It was held in the Ontario Hall; and in the absence of the President, Mr. Rykert, M.P.P., Vice-President, filled the chair. Mr. Beadle, Secretary-Treasurer, read the minutes of last meeting, which were duly confirmed. He also presented a financial statement which showed a balance of \$542 in hand. A communication was then read from Rev. R. Burnet, President of the Association, expressive of regret that he could not be present. He had, however, forwarded the manuscript of his annual address, which, at the request of the meeting, was read by the Secretary. A vote of thanks was passed, in which the address was justly characterized as "able and practical," and a request made for its publication. The election of office bearers was then proceeded with, resulting in the re-election of the President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer.—Directors: Messrs. Grey and Leslie, jr., Toronto; J. E. Allen, Kingston; Holton and Mills, Hamilton; Burnett, Brantford; Saunders, London; Caldwell, Galt; and Arnold, Paris. No further business was transacted, and the Association adjourned.

To-day being the first great day of the Exhibition, it was a source of general congratulation that the weather proved propitious all through the forenoon, and up to about four o'clock in the afternoon, when a pretty heavy rain fell. It came too late, however, to do any serious damage, and a hasty scattering of the visitors—not a few of whom were unprovided for such an emergency—was the only result. The day's sight-seeing was well nigh over, and the rain, which did not last quite an hour, was a real boon,