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(Continued from page 263.)

**Agricultural and Horticultural Departments.**

Having in our October number treated fully upon those features which more properly related to Arts and Manufactures, we shall now proceed to notice the sister departments of Agriculture and Horticulture, so as to thus render our report a comprehensive though brief review of the whole Exhibition.

Commencing, then, with the "staff of life," it must be admitted that the show of grain, &c., was not as good as might have been expected. No doubt the wet harvest season has had a deal to do with the quality of our wheat barley and oats as regards *good looks*, but with all these allowances the number of *entries* was little better than half of what were made last year; while of the number entered, not a few failed to put in an appearance, so that the actual display was so much the more meagre. The wheat, even that which carried off the best prizes, did not strike us as anything very superior, perhaps the Spring wheat, especially of the Fye variety, was better than the Winter grain; and the barley seemed light in the hand and dull in colour. The oats, particularly the black, were good, and the harvest of 1866 will be remembered for its unusually heavy crop of oats; but the peas were very superior both in weight and quality, and assuredly carried off the honours in the department allotted to cereal productions. It is a coincidence worthy of notice, that the two chief prizes offered for wheat have both gone to the County of Simcoe, Mr. F. Barclay, Innisfil, carrying off the Canada Company's first prize of \$100, and Mr. J. Mitchell, Mono, the Association's first prize of \$40, together with another prize of \$10; this latter being a handsome and good article, superior probably, as a small sample, to anything exhibited. As a question pertinent to successful wheat growing, which by the way has retrograded rather than advanced of late years, it might be worth while to ascertain whether or not the two

samples of prize wheat under notice were grown on new or old land, and what were the peculiarities, if any, of their cultivation respectively. In barley, which, failing to rely upon good wheat crops, has now become almost the great staple of Canadian grain for exportation, the first prize, for two-rowed, was won by Mr. J. L. Patterson, Scarborough, and for six-rowed by Mr. J. Mitchell, Mono, who has thus proved himself as skilful in the growth of barley as of wheat. The prizes for oats were adjudged to Messrs. J. Pile, Whitby, W. Riddel, Cobourg, and P. Bartholomew, Markham; and Messrs. J. Shaw, Nissouri, G. A. Mather, Etobicoke, A. Glendinning and W. Forfar, both of Scarborough, divided among them all the prizes for peas. Other parties exhibited some good samples of peas and other grains, but we have not space to go into further details, except to notice in this connection some good samples, in class 40, of manufactured cereals in the shape of pot and pearl barley, oatmeal, buckwheat flour, Indian-corn flour, and last, though by no means least, our fellow citizen, J. Nasmith's excellent show of biscuits, the only article of the kind on exhibition.

The horses, though numerous and of superior quality, were exhibited under difficulties, occasioned by the rain on Tuesday, which debarred all attempts to parade the "high-bred cattle" before the Judges' stand; and by the miry state of the ring on the following day, which compelled the Judges' to "look over" the various competitors just the best way they could—according to circumstances. Owing to these "impediments" the mere "outsider," albeit he was the veriest horse-courser, had comparatively but a small chance of "nicking" the time when the "high-mettled racer," the powerful draught-horse, or the "steed of low degree" was "on show;" and consequently only a select few saw the horses to advantage, except on Thursday, when the splendid weather attracted a goodly muster of the "knowing ones" to "take stock" of what was then on view. In the class of "blood horses" the show was, as might be expected, small in number but they were good in quality, and an improving advance on previous years. We have always advocated a strain of "blood" in every class of our Canadian horses, as imparting activity and neatness to even the dray horse, and rendering our carriage and saddle horses handsomer and more serviceable. We hope to see the thorough-bred sire more and more encouraged as the only means of permanently improving our breed of horses. The Townships adjacent to Toronto have won much fame through the fine draught horses they have sent out, as witness the teams in Hendrie & Shedden's freight waggons,