

the area assigned to oats is upwards of 1,600,000 acres, equaling the combined portions allotted to fall wheat and barley, the next two highest on the list. This grain makes a wonderful showing, all things considered. The average yield of Ontario during the last decade was 35 bushels per acre. In other grains the straw is only taken in consideration as an index to its vigorous growth and freedom from disease, which has much to do with the production of grain. Oats differ in this particular, the straw of which is a product that materially assists in the feed ration of stock. Therefore, when two tons of straw to the acre can be produced in addition to the grain, it makes a marked difference in the value of the crop, and at once places this staple as one of great importance when cattle feeding is practised. Considerably over 100 varieties of oats have been tested at Guelph. The largest yields on the plots will in this case be exceptionally high. It is always an advantage to grow some early varieties of oats, partly to allow the harvest to be less hurried, which is of great importance when a large acreage is in grain. There are seasons like the present, when a later sort may have the advantage, although extremely late sorts ought to be avoided. The following kinds are among the earliest in cultivation, and have much the same characteristics, all being white, and belong to the branching varieties. The straw with these are also much the same, and are named as follows:—Canadian Plump, American Welcome, White Victoria, White Canadian, Pringle's Progress, Early Calder, Early Race-horse. There is nothing especial to note concerning these, and none will yield heavy, although they may be found to be suitable for some localities. The following are side oats. These are generally heavier in the head than the former, and should yield better, but certainly cannot be put down as the heaviest producers; they are white; amongst them we will name Rennie's Prize White, White Abundance, Cluster and Banner, Victoria Prize White, Magnet, White Poland. The straw of all is very similar; they ripen about the same time. These are spoken of highly by some growers, but we do not think they are at all equal to the following as heavy producers of either grain or straw, and amongst those to be accorded preference, in our judgment, is White Egyptian, which is well known. It is a good yielder, but is later, and has not as good a straw as the following, which are all very similar. The first of these is White Cave; it has a close, large head, being heavy, thin-skinned berry. This sort has a strong straw; in good land will average at least 4½ feet in height, and grows very close, the straw being very straight and free from rust; it is a good sort. Rosedale is later than the last named, but is a very handsome grower, with strong straw, large, close-growing head, and promises a most abundant yield. Early Gotheland, one of the latest introductions, is another beautiful sort, and has much the same qualities to recommend it. We could not help admiring it. It is believed to be one of the coming sorts for earliness, productiveness and good milling and good straw. All points considered, we think any of these are in advance of those previously mentioned. Black oats, which are such favorites for feed, are also represented by different groups, as in the white.

Of the branching sorts that are highly recommended from their success in comparison with others, there are four French varieties, three of which are so much alike they may almost be considered as one. These are the Black Etampe, Chenaile and Joannette. This oat grows very thick on the ground; to this its wonderful producing powers may be attributed. They form the densest crops that can be imagined. The straw is extremely fine, moderately stiff; will suit some localities very well, particularly as it seems perfectly hardy. The crop is very striking; the straw is short, and in this particular is defective, but as a grain producer it ranks very high if the soil is suitable. Black Houdan, another French

sort, is very similar to the three mentioned above, but is a little longer in the straw and a slightly more vigorous grower. Nubian Black and Black Champion are also very similar—each makes a thick, close growth, produces large, well-shaped heads; these should yield well in suitable localities. The straw is long and strong, and gives a heavy weight per acre.

Black Tartarian, an old, reliable sort that is very popular in many sections of the country, and more generally known than any other, has for years held a prominent place among the heavy yielders. The head is close—is generally termed a main oat. Wherever the soil is suitable it gives an immense product per acre; the straw also is particularly good, and the grain thin skinned, but the seed requires frequent renewing by importation, as it quickly deteriorates after the second year.

CENTRAL EXPERIMENTAL FARM, OTTAWA.

In our next issue will be published particulars of the grain tested this year at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, Ont.

#### Toronto's Great Fair.

A few days will see Toronto's Great Industrial Fair in full swing. Tens of thousands of the farming community will then visit the City of Churches, for to miss the great fair would be a loss no progressive agriculturist or stock raiser could afford. Everything has been done this year to make the exhibition a great educational institution, for no matter in what direction one may turn he will find something to instruct, and gentlemen ready and willing to impart information. For instance, the travelling practical dairy from the Guelph Agricultural College will have commodious quarters on the grounds. Some of the professors will be present and deliver lectures every day on that interesting theme, "The Dairy," and butter and cheese-making.

Then, again, the Ontario Creamery Association has arranged to have a practical man, Mr. Mark Sprague, of Amherstburg, in attendance. After the judging Mr. Sprague will explain to visitors "why" certain exhibits received first prize, and others second or third. Much valuable information can there be obtained, not only by butter-makers, but also by butter-users.

The new horticultural building, just completed, excels anything of the kind in the Dominion. It is fitted up on the most improved and scientific principles, and cannot fail to commend itself to all who know the requirements of such a structure. Those interested in the live stock department will be glad to learn that over eleven hundred head of cattle, sheep and pigs have already been entered, and as many horses. The cattle include all the best herds in the country. Amongst these may be mentioned the following, space not admitting of a more extended list:—J. & W. Russell, Richmond Hill; H. & W. Smith, Hay; F. A. Fleming, Toronto; M. H. Cochrane, Hillhurst; James McCormack, Rockton; W. Rolph, Markham; G. Osborne, Kingston; Oakdale Stock Farm, Pickering; W. J. Rudd, Eden Mills; Samuel Harper, Cobourg; James Drummond, Cote la Visitation; Thos. Brown, Montreal; A. McL. Howard, Toronto; W. A. Reburn, Ste. Anne Bellevue; A. C. Hallman, New Dundee; and Smith Bros., Churchville.

The Hon. Mr. Dryden, Minister of Agriculture, has intimated his intention of exhibiting his fine pens of Shropshire sheep. He will not this time compete for any of the prizes, however, and the animals will simply be entered for the purpose of exhibiting them.

Another interesting feature this year will be

the Ontario and Dominion Experimental Farm exhibits, and the collections promise to be most interesting.

The Walrond Ranch, away amongst the foothills of the Rockies, will send an exhibit of ranch-bred horses, including agricultural and heavy draught animals. During the exhibition Mr. F. A. Folger, of the well-known Rideau Stock Farm, Kingston, will hold a sale of between forty and fifty head of Holstein cattle. This is something the farmer should make a note of.

Every day the horse ring will present a scene of activity and amusement from morning till night, never before equaled at any fair on the continent. Among the sports will be the "Equestria," or English and Roman sports and pastimes of ancient days, introducing Thayer's troupe of wonderful horses. There will be chariot races, military sports and gladiatorial contests, tournaments of knights in armour, magnificently mounted, and superbly costumed and equipped.

The Great International Dog Show will gather together under one roof, some of the best known animals on the continent.

Very low rates will prevail during the Exhibition, and no better time for visiting Toronto could be decided on than during the fair.

In conclusion it may be stated that every building on the grounds will be crowded with products of the farm, factory, garden and orchard. Visitors will have their time fully occupied, and whether they are looking for amusement or instruction they will find every minute from early morning till dewy eve filled with just exactly what they are in search of.

#### The Exhibition.

From present indications the Winnipeg exhibition, commencing Sept. 28th, will be a complete success. While there has been more or less disagreement on some matters, the intense desire of the citizens of Winnipeg, as well as the leading men of all parts of the province, to have an exhibition, has thus far overcome all obstacles. The Canadian Pacific Railway has also come nobly to the assistance of the city by carrying exhibits both ways free of charge. In this respect the M. & N. W. road has not been behind, while the Northern Pacific, yet to hear from, will no doubt do the fair thing.

The prize list is certainly liberal in the leading departments that are of interest to this country, and no pains have been spared in securing judges fully qualified to pass upon the various classes. Cheap rates have been secured from the different railways, and it would seem there is nothing left undone that has been in the power of the directors to do to make the exhibition a success.

#### Glenboro Summer Fair.

To the Editor of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

Our Society held their exhibition of live stock on July 17th, a new departure for us, which was a pronounced success. There were over 250 entries of live stock, the quality of which showed a marked improvement over any previous year. Our Society has been at a great expense the past year, having erected a commodious building at an expense of some \$400. We hold a fall fair on November 6th—an exhibition of grain, roots, etc., manufactures and fine arts.

Faithfully Yours,

FRED. AXFORD, Sec-Treas.,  
Glenboro, Man.