

#### Our \$125 in Prizes.

The \$125 we offered as prizes in 1887 (and referred to in the August number, page 239,) for any new variety of wheat or other cereal, or any other new plant or vegetable, that on trial proves to be of more value than any of the old varieties we have already introduced, has not yet been awarded, nor any portion of it, although there are several varieties in competition that must yet be more fully tested before any award can be justly made. It is important that the competitive kinds really fill the bill, namely, that they are a new variety not yet generally introduced, and superior to the present known varieties.

We can point with honest pride to our introduction into this country of many new varieties of grain and vegetables, which have proved of great value to the country, and are not yet surpassed by any of the new sorts. All of our old varieties, which have proved so profitable in the past, were at first introduced in four-ounce packages, sent by mail, to persons sending in new subscribers. This coming season we shall introduce to you some cereals and plants, which we have confidence will give satisfaction. In future we purpose adding or giving the name "The Advocate" or "The Emporium" to each variety.

#### Our Agricultural Grants and Their Objects.

In other columns will be found a letter from the Hon. Chas. Drury, which should be carefully read. The amount of money which each society receives is plainly stated. By being conversant with these matters, our farmers can judge for themselves whether any one of these associations are giving value to the public for the money they receive. The benefits which may be derived from any of these societies are directly received by attending the meetings held under their auspices, and by reading their annual reports. The question arises, how far do the farmers benefit themselves by attending the various meetings? Some of the most intelligent make the most of these meetings; but the great majority do not. The most discouraging work we ever undertook was to try and interest farmers, and to get them to attend meetings called exclusively for their benefit. Several times this fall meetings have been announced by the secretaries of some of these associations, which met with no response and had to be abandoned. Now, this is altogether the farmer's fault. As matters now stand; whether you attend these meetings or not you have to pay for them, for directly or indirectly the farmers in Ontario pay the taxes. As Mr. Dryden shows in his admirable article, all wealth in this province must first come from the soil.

There is a very general objection raised to the manner in which the yearly reports of the various associations are issued; many of them not reaching the farmers for months after the meetings have been held. This objection could be remedied by enabling the agricultural press to publish at once the papers given on the various subjects. By this means these papers would have a very much wider circle of readers, and their influence for good would be much extended. By the present system, the yearly reports have a very limited number of readers. Because of the small attendance at the meetings of these bodies, and the limited number who read the yearly reports, the good accomplished by our associations is much less than it should be.

We have also received from Prof. William Saunders, a paper explaining the object of the Dominion Experimental Stations, but he did not send us a statement of the moneys expended on these institutions. We hope to be able to give these figures to our readers in a future number.

Since these large amounts are being yearly given to these various bodies, we will consider a record of their doings, as especially the property of the farmers. We will, therefore, give our readers such reports, papers, etc., from the various associations, as we think of value to our subscribers.

#### Maritime Correspondence.

The season has been a very trying one for farmers. So wet a haying and harvest is not remembered by that wonderful person, "the oldest inhabitant." Frost and flood has done an incalculable amount of injury. The root crops, however, will be pretty good, and the price of all kinds of produce is tending upward, so that those farmers who have anything to sell will get a good price for it. The New Brunswick government importation of horses and sheep were a good lot, and sold well, the two-year-old Clydesdale fillies bringing in the vicinity of \$400, and the Percherons, a year younger, bringing well up to that figure. The sheep also sold well, one Shropshire ram bringing \$100. The exhibition in Fredericton, except in horses, was not much of a show, and there was but one fine day out of the three. The New Brunswick Farmers' Association meets in Fredericton this winter, and will probably be more largely attended than usual, as the new regulations in reference to agriculture allow the different agricultural societies to pay the expenses of one or more delegates to the association—a course that was prohibited under the old regime. The subjects for discussion are not given to the public yet. St. John is moving to have a grand industrial exposition, or exhibition, next year. Toronto has been so successful in holding such exhibitions that St. John proposes to follow her example; and if the St. John men undertake it, they will make it a success if it can be done. County and parish exhibitions have been almost failures in many places this year on account of the weather. The Provincial Exhibition of Nova Scotia, held in Truro the last week in September, was very successful as an agricultural show; but in manufactures it was a failure. The manufacturers of the province said they were so driven with orders that they had not time to make an exhibit. The winter term of the Nova Scotia Agricultural School opened the 15th November, and there is a prospect of a large class. The government have bought a farm, and Professor Smith, who has charge of the school, expects to be able to combine the practical with the theoretical. Students are taken from any of the Maritime Provinces. Plowing and underdraining has been the principal work done at the Experimental Farm at Nappan this summer; and preparatory work, largely.

Prince Edward Island did not suffer by flood and frost, as did Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. In fact, the frost of September 6th, that did so much damage in the provinces and in the Eastern States, did not strike the island at all. They have had a long, wet season, but their crops were good, and they managed, somehow, between the showers to get the principal part of their grain harvested without much injury. And as the farmers there have a large amount of grain to sell, the rise in price, in addition to the good crop, will make it a good year for the Island.

#### The Price of Apples.

Numerous complaints have come to us from all over the country complaining that the apple crop has been and is manipulated by speculators to the injury of the growers. We have made a good deal of enquiry into the question, and found in this, as in many other instances, that the remedy is altogether in the hands of the farmers, if they will only act unitedly, vigorously and intelligently. Among the various replies to our inquiries on this subject is the following from Mr. P. C. Dempsey, of Trenton, which is so much to the point that we publish it in full. Mr. D. is in a position to know more of these matters than most men, and is one of those generous straightforward men who will give his honest opinion in public matters. Read his letter carefully and profit thereby:—

Your letter of the 9th inst. at hand. In reply I do not think one dollar per barrel for prime winter fruit is enough; but there is always some reason for paying such low prices. I know some farmers that always try to make their best fruit sell some trash they may happen to have. That is a great mistake; it would be better to graft the poor varieties with good ones, and grow nothing but the good ones, such as the market requires.

I will tell you what some men have done this season, and any person can draw their own conclusion: A Mr. — had a very fine crop of Fameuse; he wanted a high price for them; not being satisfied with any offer he got, he took them to Montreal, sold them there for \$1.50 per bbl. His expenses were 30 cts. per bbl. and 25 cts. for freight and wharfage; you will see he only had 95 cts. per bbl. for apples, his own expenses and labor. He told me that in order to get a big price for apples, a man must place fine specimens, and those that are well colored in the end of the barrel—no matter what the rest of the barrel was. This was the kind of instruction that he gave the farmers. I know another man who always packs and sells his own fruit, and has done it for many years past; he always calculates that the end of the package, when opened, can be used as an index of the contents; he could not be persuaded to pack any poor fruit in with good. Now, the result, he sold his Snows this year, f. o. b. for \$2 per bbl.; his Kings and Spys brought \$2.50; sold to the same parties.

Fruit dealers usually employ agents to buy and pack the fruit—paying them about 15 cts. per bbl.; they want to earn from four to six dollars per day. Now, in order to accomplish this, the work is done badly. I have seen some such work done. A barrel of Colverts was opened in my presence in Ottawa, that had been pressed so hard as to crush some of the fruit. Still, it was slack; the bad fruit would all go in a gallon measure—quite enough to spoil the whole package. I only mention one barrel, but there were others; the result is, the buyer lost money.

Now, Mr. Editor, I will not crowd upon your space, but the conclusion to my mind is, that the farmer should grow nothing but the best varieties of winter fruit; look after his picking, packing, shipping, etc., and he will save the many losses incurred through bad packing, assorting, and selling. Again, they should have in their possession the FARMER'S ADVOCATE, and the Canadian Horticulturist. If those two papers are well studied, any man can become posted sufficiently to handle his own fruit, etc.