

represented as on previous occasions. The Leicesters sustained their reputation, and there were some fine lots of Cotswolds. In Lincolns and Merinos, although the exhibit was not large, it was choice. The display of horses appeared to be as good as usual, but it was very difficult to procure satisfactory information about them, as the owners and keepers were hard to find in the immense sporting crowd. The dairying interests were well represented, and were rendered more conspicuous by the operation of two cream separators of different manufacture. With reference to agricultural machinery, the main features were the increased number of self-binders over that of last year, and a lesser number of the ordinary harvesters, the hitherto cumbersome machinery of the former having been considerably simplified and reduced in weight. Haying machinery showed a rapid advancement in the constructive conveniences of the machines and their labor-saving properties. In portable engines and threshing machinery there were numerous improvements, usually of a minor character.

#### THE WESTERN FAIR.

This fair was well patronized by the citizens of London, as well as by farmers from the surrounding counties. It maintained the reputation it has acquired of being one of the best agricultural shows in the Province. Manufacturers and many other exhibitors assert that they transact more business at the Western than at any other fair. If business people do not make a sufficient number of sales of their goods to induce them to exhibit, they must be wheedled into exhibiting by an increased prize offering. During the four days over 53,000 people entered the grounds, making the total receipts \$13,150; and this is an excellent showing when it is considered that the Provincial Exhibition was taking place simultaneously. Although some of our leading manufacturers and stockmen were absent, yet it is surprising how many, by their patronage, showed partiality to the Western in preference to the Provincial. The exhibit of stock had been, on the whole, larger than at Ottawa, and a large number of the Dominion prizes would have been gained by the stock exhibited at London. It is a pity that these two great exhibitions were held on the same week, as it tended to the injury of both in the form of exhibits; but it would make scarcely any difference in the receipts, as but very few farmers ever go such distances unless they expect to receive prizes or some payment for their trouble. London has always been celebrated for its exhibit of horses. This year the horse ring was made unusually attractive.

In nearly all the classes of horses the number of entries was considerably greater than last year; and the new classification made, distinguishing between imported and Canadian bred stock, had the desired effect of making competition keener. In Shorthorns the exhibits were remarkably good, the competition close, and the number of entries showed great improvement over last year. In Aberdeen Polls and Jerseys there was also a marked increase; while in Herefords, Ayrshires and Devons there was a considerable diminution. Holsteins were on the list for the first time, numbering thirteen. The showing in grades was little inferior to last year. The

decline in the number of Cotswold sheep was very notable, while the entries in Leicesters, Lincolns and Southdowns compared fairly well with last year's figures. In Shrops there were over 60 more than last year, and in Oxfords, Merinos and fat sheep the figures were up to the usual mark. It was not to be expected that the fruits could come up to the average owing to the unfavorable season, but the exhibits were choice. In vegetables the best authorities assert that there was the best exhibit ever displayed in the Province, both as to quality and quantity. In cheese, both white and colored, the exhibits were very creditable. In the fine arts the display was grand, and was remarkable for the number of new aspirants who are boldly pushing their way to the front.

Numerous complaints were made by farmers around the live stock sheds and horse stalls. It should be borne in mind that the number of farmers who come to the fair is every year increasing, and it should not be expected that every farmer is able to distinguish all the breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and pigs. It is getting to be almost an imperative necessity that they should be systematically stalled off into groups, according to their respective breeds, and the buildings so labelled that everybody can readily learn the breeds and breeders without resort to the inquisitorial habit. For those who go to learn, the best facilities for the acquisition of knowledge should be placed within their reach; otherwise the practical usefulness of the exhibition will soon be gone.

#### ONTARIO PROVINCIAL AND DOMINION EXHIBITION AT OTTAWA.

We left the Western Fair grounds in London on Tuesday afternoon, and arrived in Ottawa on Wednesday morning. The weather was threatening in the morning, but the afternoon was fine, and Thursday and Friday were as fine as could be desired. The early part of the week there had apparently been about the same quantity of rain as in London.

We were informed that 27 car loads of exhibition goods had been sent from Toronto to London, and 29 to Ottawa. The exhibition was considered a good one generally speaking. The horticultural display we consider superior to previous exhibits in this city. The stock generally was very good; in the Polled Aberdeen and in the Jersey classes we consider it the best exhibition ever made in Canada. Kerry and Shetland cattle were exhibited here; also a number of the West Highland cattle. The exhibit of Herefords was good, and a very fair display of Devons was to be seen. The show of Shorthorns was good, but we do not consider there was any very marked improvement in the display of stock. There was a good exhibit of Ayrshires. The show of sheep, hogs and poultry was good, but the number in many classes appeared small. There was space to spare for more stock.

The Governor and suite appeared the greatest centre of attraction while on the ground. The amusements absorbed most attention during the afternoons, leaving the mornings for the implement and stock men to attend to their business. There was a very good display of implements and a fair display of dairy products.

Having seen the four great exhibitions, we must endeavor to turn our attention to your advancement, if possible. There has been a general satisfaction among the recipients of prizes and among the recipients of honors and funds, but it appears to us that we never heard of so much complaining among competitors. There always has been and always will be some. The public is discerning, and when intentional slights are perpetrated it tends to the injury of the morals and prosperity of our general interests. There is a right feeling among the population demanding amusement and recreation. It is beneficial to young and old. Exhibitions of art, feats of strength and skill are pleasing, and many are highly instructive. It is still a debatable question to what extent the Government should undertake to entertain, instruct and amuse the people, and what tends to improve and elevate the morals of the public, and what tends to degradation. The little boy that wins 25 cents at a game of chance is led on to speculate, perhaps to gamble. The little boy that wins a cigar requires a drink. - But many of the side shows are neither demoralizing nor injurious, but highly beneficial.

There was great dissatisfaction amongst the exhibitors of machinery on account of the lack of accommodation conveniences, their goods being all exposed to the weather. There were also complaints of general mismanagement on the grounds. The manure was not cleaned away during the whole week. When it is considered that this fair is aided by both Provincial and Dominion grants, we should naturally expect material improvements as compared with other fairs, and the entire rejection of demoralizing resorts to gain money. The managers have attempted to take pattern by Toronto's great fair, but they have fallen far below that standard. There is a general impression abroad that fairs have been greatly overboomed by the local press in the localities in which they have taken place, and there is a strong desire evinced to cloak every failing and every defect in management. One manufacturer complained to us that his goods were dispatched from Toronto as soon as practicable, and yet they did not arrive at Ottawa until Thursday afternoon—too late for the exhibition.

#### EXHIBITION NOTES.

From interviews we held with certain prominent men, we are constrained to the belief that our township exhibitions are to be doomed to oblivion unless some material change takes place in the management of our agricultural affairs. The Toronto Exhibition Grounds have passed from the farmers. The East Middlesex Agricultural Association have, we consider, lost control of the grounds which they held in this city. The citizens are anxious to have control and are manipulating matters in such a manner as to gain their desires. They are able to unite in a manner in which the farmers have not an opportunity of doing. County societies have more power and influence than township organizations, and are enabled by clubbing to purchase votes and outvote the farmers. It is of more advantage to railway authorities and to manufacturers to support large gatherings. Although we believe that the majority of practical farmers approve of our remarks, yet their influence is so infinitely