

the rate they would wish. One rule would have good effect—that is, a preference to the man who shouted least to his horses, and tugged little at the reins. Some men seemed to take a particular delight in "wo-ing" and "ha-ing," and others in pulling at their horses. It is quite possible to drive the animals without shouting and dragging, and it is much pleasanter to spectators when the work is done quietly and well. The prizes offered this year were very large—the first prize in the men's class being a clover machine valued at \$300, presented by the executors of the late Joseph Hall, of Oshawa. It was exhibited in the show-yard, was got up in a very superior style, and attracted a good deal of attention. The first prize in the boys' class was a prize of \$100, subscribed by the citizens of London and the farmers of Middlesex. Among the other prizes were a "gray" iron plough, presented by Mr. Geo. Jackson; a cultivator presented by Mr. John Elliot; a sleigh by Messrs. W. & J. Platt; a cutter by Mr. John Campbell; a drill cultivator and boards by Messrs. Pavey & Sons, two ploughs, a fanning mill, &c., so that the prize list was one of the best, and offered considerable inducements to the competitors.

The judges were Messrs. James Johnson, Sunnyside; R. Pratt, Cobourg; Neil Black, St. Catharines; D. Bone, Gananoque; James Davidson, Paris, and Jas. Colder, of Ancaster. Their duties were arduous, and rendered even more so by their having to go a distance over half a mile between the fields.

The ploughing, on the whole, might have been greatly improved. Some of the men seemed to think that by putting all their weight on the shafts, they would make the best furrows. Others were too light, and would fain have skipped over the ground, turning the sod, but nothing more. There were, however, a few thorough ploughmen on the field; they could be picked out at once by the easy grace with which they held the shafts, working their hands and arms without ungainly stooping; guiding their implements with unerring certainty, and in one particular having their horses so trained as to step out well and keep their places, never requiring to cry "keep out," at the pith of their lungs, or to stop every few minutes to adjust some part of the horse gear or plough. The field where the boys were at work was not a very stiff soil, and crumbled down a good deal when turned up; but taking into account the youth of the competitors, the work was well done.

Failure of the Public Meeting at London.

Much disappointment was expressed by a number of parties at the summary setting aside of the public meeting for the discussion of agricultural topics, which had been announced for the Wednesday evening of Exhibition week. It was decided by the officers of the Association, at a meeting the previous evening, to dispense with the public discussion, in consequence of the ball appointed in honour of the delegates from the Eastern Provinces, but that decision had not been duly announced, and hence was not generally known. No intimation even was sent to the door-keeper, and so the Hall was lighted up and in readiness for an assembly. A goodly number of persons congregated, and while waiting for somebody to commence proceedings, a gentleman made his appearance at the door, and, on behalf of the authorities of the Association, proclaimed the meeting defunct. In our judgment, all this was ill-advised. There was really no need whatever to set aside the meeting because of the ball, since the latter was not expected to begin until toward ten o'clock; and, moreover, it is hardly likely that any considerable number of the parties really interested in the discussion would care to attend the ball. Inasmuch as the meeting had been announced in various ways for weeks, and even months, prior to the Exhibition, it was hardly keeping faith with the public to set it aside. By so doing a degree of encouragement was given to the idea, which already pervades the minds of not a few of our farmers, that those who rule in the Provincial Association and Board of Agriculture wish to keep them in the back-ground and make them act only the part of mutes and dummies. Surely it would have been safe enough to have let the farmers have a talk among themselves, even if the officials could not attend to watch over and shape the fair. And though the composition and doings of the Board had been somewhat discussed, no harm could have come of it. Some minds might have felt relieved,

and the report would have been "nobody hurt." Besides, the manifest utility of such a meeting makes it most desirable that it should assume the character of a permanent institution in connection with the Exhibition, and instead of setting it aside on slight grounds, every effort should be made to render it effective and useful. Such discussions form a prominent feature in the Annual Exhibitions across the lines, and from what we have witnessed of their beneficial results, we should like to see them regularly held in this country, and feel confident that they would do an immense deal of good.

New England Agricultural Exhibition.

(OFFICIAL CORRESPONDENCE.)

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE, Sept. 8, 1865.

THE second Exhibition of the New England Agricultural Society, opened in this place on Tuesday last, and closes to-day. Until recently, each of the New England States had an independent show, but there was no general exhibition for the whole of them. Now, however, the whole of "Yankeeedom" properly so called, concentrates its energies and resources in one great exhibition, which consequently is an occasion of no little interest to a stranger and foreigner, giving as it does a sort of bird's eye view of the peculiarities of "Yankee farming." Having spent some little time about a year since, in making observations at the West, we are struck with the diversities and even contrasts between the agriculture of the two regions. Illinois and New Hampshire are widely dissimilar in soil, capabilities, products, modes of culture, and above all in the personal habits of those who till the soil. The Western farmer is a pushing, dashing, free-and-easy, lavish, and even careless mortal; while the Eastern farmer is a careful, plodding, particular, and economical being. The former gets on in the world in spite of negligence and waste; the latter would be ruined by such habits as are indulged with impunity by the Western man, and only gets on by dint of hard industry and careful frugality. It will at once occur to our readers in how many ways these characteristics will mould the agriculture of the two sections of one and the same country.

Concord is the capital of "the old granite state." It is pleasantly situated on the right bank of the Merrimack river, 59 miles N. N. W. from Boston. The town extends about two miles along the river, and three-quarters of a mile back. Its streets are nicely laid out, and like those of most New England towns fringed with beautiful shade-trees. Main Street is about 100 feet wide, and 2 miles long. The State House is a large structure, built of heavy granite, and stands in the midst of a handsome common, planted with maples and elms. The State Prison, Methodist Biblical Institute, and several churches, are conspicuous buildings. Concord possesses a fine water-power, afforded by the falls of the Merrimack, and made available for manufacturing purposes by the aid of locks. The business of the place is large and increasing. It chiefly centres in Boston.

The Exhibition grounds are about a mile out of town just far enough to afford a decent pretext for riding, and it really seems as if every vehicle in all the country round, from a four-horse coach to a rickety market waggon, has been for the time converted into a source of profit. Every thing has been favourable for the show, except the heat and dust. The latter was almost intolerable, consisting of a fine, light, gritty sand, which was carried by the wind everywhere. An unusual term of dry weather has been experienced all over this region. The Connecticut river at Hartford, Ct., was forded by a team on Saturday last, a thing never known before. The excessive drouth has affected the pastures, fields, and gardens, to such an extent that stock, and the various products of the soil, do not appear nearly so well as they might otherwise have done. The site chosen for the fair is a very convenient and eligible one, and the accommodations for stock, especially for horses, are extremely comfortable. A large hall in town, (Eagle Hall) contains the fruits, flowers, and fancy articles, but with this exception, everything is within the one enclosure.

The Exhibition is considered by the officers of the Society, and by the New Englanders generally, a

great success. As an impartial outsider, we freely acknowledge that the show is on the whole, a very good one, though we must dissent from the opinion of the President publicly expressed, that "it is the best ever got up on this continent," and still more from the enthusiastic declaration of the Secretary, that it is "in every department, *prima*." The New York State Fair last year, was in many respects superior to it, and our average Provincial Exhibitions in Canada far exceed it, except in the two particulars of Merino sheep, and agricultural implements. The display of horses is a very fine one, and forms, perhaps, the leading feature of the exhibition. It is rather extraordinary that this should be so just after a four years' war, which has been supposed to have drained the country pretty thoroughly of good horses. Plainly, however, the best breeding stock has been carefully held by its owners. The entire number of entries of horses is 181. Among these six only are shown as thorough-bred, but there are many animals which display high breeding. The matched horses of which there are twenty-four teams, are many of them superb animals, especially two pairs exhibited by Messrs. Carlos and Waldo Pierce. The Americans always put fabulous prices on any thing choice that they happen to have, and hence Mr. C. Pierce asks \$5,000 for his matched teams of Black Hawks! Fifteen brood mares with foals by their sides, are shown, and most of them are certainly very superior animals. Short Horn cattle are pretty well represented, there being 117 entries. Two young animals, "9th Duke of Thorndale," a yearling bull, and "Lady Mary," a yearling heifer, are very choice animals. They are the property of Mr. H. G. White, of South Framingham, Mass. Another young bull, "4th Duke of Oxford," owned by Mr. Burdett Loomis, of Windsor Locks, Conn., was also much and deservedly admired. The latter gentleman, though a young breeder, has already taken a high place among New England stock-men, and at the present show won the first premium for Short-horn herds. The Durham breed of cattle is evidently highly appreciated in this part of the world, and although many ordinary animals were on the ground, there were not a few of superior excellence. The Devons mustered to the number of 62, besides several yokes of oxen that were pure Devons. Two cows of this breed are very fine, one owned by D. Davis & Son, of Windsor, Vt., and another owned by Mr. E. H. Hyde, of Stafford, Ct. Of Ayrshires there are 66, among them a nine-year-old cow, owned by Mr. S. Scammon, of Statham, N. H., which during eleven months of last year yielded 6,016 quarts of milk, and 612 lbs. of butter; average yield of butter during June and July, 23 and 24 lbs. Some good Jersey cows are shown, also a few fine specimens of the large Dutch cattle, a breed, however, which we do not greatly fancy, as though they rival the Short-horns in size, they lack their fineness of texture and silkiness of touch. A number of excellent "native cattle," so called, are exhibited, but though without distinctly marked pedigree, it is evident that many of them have a good dash of improved blood in them. The working oxen are an exceedingly good class. Some Devons are almost faultless specimens of what working cattle ought to be. Most of the animals shown are in quite ordinary condition, and we observed no cases in which fault could be found in the direction of over-feeding for exhibition purposes. Indeed most of the cattle betray rather a want of intimacy with roots, oil-cake, and grooming. Some fine specimens of fat cattle are on the ground: two with the high sounding military names of Generals Grant and Sherman.—let us hope that the generals are not like their bovine namesakes, doomed to be butchered. Sheep are of course displayed in great force, the sheep fever being now at its height in the United States. There are 226 entries of Merinos, the pet breed on this side of the lakes. Mr. Hammond, the great sheep patriarch of Middlebury, Vt., does not show any, and we had the benefit of his company and opinions on the animals exhibited. Mr. W. R. Sanford, of Orwell, Vt., has a number of Merinos, and leads on the prize list. A young sheep-breeder, Mr. L. P. Mead, of Woodstock, Vt., obtained the first prize for buck lambs, and evidently considered himself a fortunate individual, he having lately bought the prize-taking lamb for \$1,000, and now declaring that several thousand dollars would not buy the dear little fellow. We are glad to find that middle and long-woolled sheep are slowly but surely making their way into the affections of the flock-masters in the United States. There are 170 entries of long-woolled sheep, and 181 entries of middle-woolled at this fair. Mr. H. G. White, of South Framingham, Mass., shows some good South-downs, and Mr. Burdett Loomis, of Windsor Locks, Ct., some excellent Cotswolds, among them a ram bred by Mr. F. W. Stone, whom his present proprietor has named "Guelph," in remembrance and honour of his birth-place. Mutton is coming more into demand among Americans as an article of diet, and this is operating to some extent in bringing the