

GUELPH CENTRAL FAIR.

The First Central Fair of the Guelph district, projected under the auspices of the South Wellington and Guelph Township Agricultural Societies, opened at Guelph on Tuesday 10th Oct., and continued until Thursday, and has proved successful in a most gratifying measure. While unsurpassed in the magnitude of general display, in some departments it was claimed to be the best exhibition held in the Province this season; at all events, the people of Guelph and vicinity have just ground for pride in their success, and to feel confidence in the future importance of their Central Fairs. The grounds secured by the societies for their exhibitions are located on the south western suburbs of the town, at the easy distance of a "cab-driver's mile" from the business centre, and are convenient to the railway stations. In extent and admirable adaptation, they are unequalled by any other fair grounds in the Province, while the buildings and appurtenances are substantially constructed and of corresponding capacity. The central edifice, although not exactly fulfilling the character of a crystal palace, is fashioned after the usual architecture of such structures, of ample dimensions, and answers its purpose excellently. In the large area east of the palace is the horse ring on a beautiful level plot, about one-fourth of a mile in circumference. To the north of the ring the ground rises in a gentle slope, affording a fine view of the ring for many thousands of spectators. The cattle and horse boxes, pens for sheep and swine, and poultry coops are all admirably arranged and on an extensive scale. In fact, all the preparations of the Societies seem to have been made with a view of permanency, and the magnitude of the inaugural exhibition commends their foresight.

Wednesday was the grand day of the fair, and the attendance assumed the proportions of a Provincial gathering. From Harrison and the newly opened section of the Wellington Grey and Bruce Railway, a train arrived consisting of twelve coaches, which were densely packed with 800 passengers; the arrivals from Hespler, Preston and Galt by the Great Western Railway were equally large, while from the country in all directions the people arrived by road conveyances, until the open spaces about the town were crowded with vehicles of all descriptions, and the streets were bustling with the crowds passing to and from the grounds. The attendance was conceded by observation to have exceeded twelve thousand. The weather was chilly, though not entirely disagreeable, and the aspect of nature bore an unnatural gloom produced by the dense smoke that enveloped the whole country; but the dismal effect was effectually dissipated by the

scene of animation that prevailed in the enclosure, and the inspiring strains of music which proceeded continuously from the Band stand, located on the eminence overlooking the horse arena. The several bands were intent on doing their best, as a liberal prize was at stake, and no sooner would one retire to recover wind and nerve, than another would mount the platform and renew the entrance-ing strains. The competition was enjoyed by an immense concourse of listeners, and encouraged by applause after each performance. Meantime, during the afternoon, the display of various classes of horses was in progress, and the scores of beautiful animals pranced gaily and performed their martial antics to the measure of the music. In the band competition, the first prize, \$100, was awarded to the 48th Batt. band of Port Hope; and the 2nd prize, \$75, for the best amateur band, to Lawrence's Cornet Band, of Guelph.

Of the various departments of the Fair, our space will not permit us to enter into details. All were full, and while in some classes embracing a considerable share of the stock and material exhibited at the other great fairs, the local resources were predominantly developed. In horses the entries reached 440, and embracing some splendid stock. Of cattle the aggregate display was undoubtedly one of the best, if not the very best, ever gathered in the country. In sheep, all the varieties were represented by splendid specimens. The same may be said of swine, in which department there were upwards of 200 entries. The poultry cages were filled and the display was very extensive and complete. The department of dairy products, fruit, vegetables, plants and flowers, could not be too highly praised, and have not been surpassed in the Province this season. A large area of ground was occupied by the agricultural implements, in which the leading manufactures of Ontario were generally represented.

Several of these having an eye to business in the fine farming region about Guelph entered their articles for exhibition only.

A considerable space in the Palace was accorded to the Sewing Machine manufacturers, and well filled by them, the well known local manufactures making a very fine display, and being energetically rivalled from abroad.

The platform in the centre of the Palace presented a large and elegant display of musical instruments, in which branch of the manufactures Guelph is acquiring leading importance, having three extensive establishments in that line.

There was a very attractive show of really fine carriages by Messrs. J. B. Armstrong & Co., and other Guelph makers, reinforced by Messrs. Pronguey of Hamilton, Zeighler of Berlin, and Doty of Oakville.

The show of saddlery, harness and trunks was