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FARMER'S ADVOCATE

AND HOME MAGAZINE

VOL. XVI.

LONDON, ONT., OCTOBER, 1881.

NO. 10.

REGISTERED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COPYRIGHT ACT OF 1875.

OUR EXHIBITION NUMBER.

After the issue of our October Number the balance (about 40,000 copies) of our Exhibition Number will be mailed and distributed. We have had an unprecedented demand for this special issue from subscribers who wish to increase the circulation of "The Farmer's Advocate and Home Magazine." We want each of our present subscribers to send one new name for 1882. We don't ask each to send Forty or Ten, as so many do, but at least one each. We are very ambitious. We want to give you the best Agricultural Paper in the world, so try and let every subscriber do something. Send for a sample for any intending subscriber. Put up our Poster (if you receive one) in a conspicuous place. Place a copy of the "Advocate" before new friends, visitors, or new neighbors, and let us make a long pull, a strong pull and a pull altogether to DOUBLE the circulation of the best Agricultural Paper in Canada, and the most widely circulated amongst the best farmers of our happy and prosperous Dominion.

The Provincial Exhibition.

The 36th Provincial Exhibition of the Agricultural and Arts Association was held in the city of London, from the 21st to the 30th of Sept. Wonders will never cease, and the grand success of this exhibition has been a wonder to its opponents, and they have been numerous and powerful, and have worked hard and long to overthrow it. For instance, the city of London has been divided against itself, and two of its most influential and wealthy citizens (one on each side of politics) have, for a long time, tried to have the grounds disposed of and the exhibition placed where it would be less convenient to visitors and exhibitors.

Last year the Governor-General & Co. visited London against the wishes of the city just before the holding of the Western Fair, and the Governor-General visited a close rival exhibition at the time it was in progress. Not a single leading politician or deputy Governor visited the Provincial this year, and very few M.P.P.'s. No speech was made at the opening or closing of the Exhibition, no military display, no outside or undue attractions were made, and the advertising of the Exhibition had not been half properly done. Yet the farmers made it a success, despite the directors of the Association, many of whom we believe wished it a failure.

The present grounds are admitted by all that are

really interested in Agriculture to be the best and most convenient that can be procured, in fact they are unequalled in Canada, and are sufficiently large for the purpose for all time to come. Those that desired to dispose of them, had, by a catch vote, actually obtained a vote to sell them, and they would have been sold had not a few citizens and others prevented the sale. There still exists a strong party that would sell them to-morrow if they could. It is much to be regretted that some members of the Provincial Board aided the selling party. Whether any of the members of the Board have in any way concurred with Toronto powers, and what the inducements have been, or if an error of judgment, you must decide for yourselves, but the following facts look very ominous.

The Secretary of the Board of Agriculture and Arts wrote, at the expense of the Association, requesting the members of the Board to meet on a certain day in the Toronto Exhibition grounds. By far the largest majority of the Board did go to Toronto on that day, and the time of meeting with the Toronto Board was set, and the members of the Board were indebted to the hospitality of the Torontonians. It is difficult to get facts from close corporations, but gentlemen whom we deem quite as reliable as any members of the Board, informed us that arrangements for holding the Provincial Exhibition for 1882 were to have been made. Do you think it right that the Board should in any way allow themselves to be tampered with, or meet and make arrangements that might curtail or prevent the interest or the attendance that should take place at the time and at the place where the Provincial Exhibition is held?

The President and Vice-President of the Toronto Exhibition have stated that they did not want the Provincial Association, but they desired to secure the money and control it themselves; also they desired to procure a grant from the Dominion. If these requests were granted they would be able to eclipse in expenditure other exhibitions. The object with them is to obtain all the money that is granted for the purpose of encouragement of Agriculture and continue its expenditure in Toronto, which in reality implies a grant to the city of Toronto and to the farmers within 20 miles of it. As the selfishness already displayed shows clearly where all the favors would go, thus the money intended for the benefit of farmers would be expended diametrically in opposition to their interests, and for the benefit of citizens and speculators.

Why, let us ask, is it difficult to obtain information from this Board—why so much kept in darkness?

What does this mean? A committee of Grangers on this Board is appointed to treat with the Grangers; the arrangements are made for Grangers to receive 20 per cent. of the receipts of what Wednesday should bring over the receipts of Tuesday

Wednesday has always been the day of the largest attendance. After this arrangement had been made with the Provincial, the Grangers sold themselves at the same price to Toronto, and influence is brought to bear on the railroads to put fares down that day to one-third less to carry people to Toronto than to the Provincial Exhibition at London; for instance, the fare from London to Toronto and return was \$2.65, but at no time was the return fare less than \$3.40 from Toronto to London. Despite this, the Provincial Board actually pay \$300 of your funds to the Grangers, several of whom are members of the Board. Is this not too conspicuous a gratuity to one class of farmers. Many other acts of injustice might be cited.

This Exhibition is made interesting to farmers by the large expenditure of manufacturers and importers, and conducted for the interest and instruction of agriculturists. Why should not the most intelligent class of the farmers and manufacturers be just as much entitled to 20 per cent. discount on the proceeds as one class of the farmers. This is a deplorable state of affairs, particularly when one class of farmers sell their influence at the expense of others.

When the vote came whether Kingston should be the place for holding the Exhibition next year, or Toronto, is it surprising that the Grange influence should vote against Kingston and use their influence and power to compel all to vote with them whom they could in any way control? We failed to see any valid reason brought forward to show that Kingston should not have it. Kingston offered all that could be asked, and when the Exhibition was last held there, despite the wet weather that unfortunately prevailed at that time and kept visitors from it, the loss to the Association was not at all to be compared to the loss sustained when in Ottawa, and yet when Toronto says she does not want it, they attempt to force it on her. Question: Had the Board been bound or pledged to give it to Toronto before the annual meeting? There were only a very few members of the Board who voted for Kingston. We must say that when one member of the Board does an improper act, the other members are far too apt to unite and sustain anything done, whether right or wrong. This we noticed at the several meetings that have been held in this city during the Exhibition: a strong attempt to encourage and support speakers who aid them and discourage outside opinions.

We believe it but right to hold the exhibition in Toronto at a proper time, and when the Torontonians desire it, but it is a sad state of affairs to force it on Toronto when a deserving locality offers every accommodation, and richly deserves it. Despite this the majority of the delegates and members vote that the exhibition be held in Toronto next year.