

forward most liberally, and put in their claims, and pressed to have either one of these localities selected for 1864. Hamilton was the competitor. It was the city element against the town and country, and, need we say, who carried the day? We were almost unacquainted with any of the parties, and listened to all that was said on all sides. We could see that old officials, pressed by past experience, feared the loss attending a change from the cities to the towns. The cases of Brockville and Brantford were referred to as entailing loss upon the Association, and even Kingston, with its crystal palace and handsome structures, was hardly sufficient to meet their views. Cities with their more ample accommodations—crowds with their numerous half-dollars, loomed up strongly in their view. Toronto is a favoured region in his respect, and to us personally it would be a pleasant and favoured location. But, looking to the objects of the Association—its tendency to draw out the resources of the country—its power to stimulate the agriculturists of the province—its educational advantages, drawn from its exhibition and comparison of the cereals; the improved breeds of animals; the dairy products; the roots and fruits; the improved machinery, and labour saving implements, we felt desirous to see the annual exhibition extended as much as possible to every part of the Province, and we felt bound to vote in turn with our nephew and Belleville neighbours. We would have aided their enterprise—have helped more low grounds and palaces into existence, and have given permanency to their spirited efforts to introduce the Provincial exhibition amongst them.

Discussion will yet change the mode of conducting our exhibitions. Delegates from outside of the leading cities will combine for this purpose. Our great and costly *shows* will come every three years. The intervening exhibitions will be devoted more truly to the objects of the Association; its ex-officio members of the Board will muster their resources, and in time master their position, and we trust the columns of the *Agriculturist* will be to open all sides of the question.

The county societies must prepare the way by paying their delegates, and sending experienced and able men to represent them. They have been too long asleep and felt too little interest in the doings of their great brother, the Provincial Association.

Connected with this subject we may notice a very conservative enactment was passed at the last annual meeting at Kingston, having the effect of securing the annual exhibitions to places only which provide very costly permanent structures. Those at Kingston cost not more than \$16,000. This rule cannot now be changed without a three months advertisement in the *Agriculturist* and *Journal of Arts*, and a two-thirds vote of the Directors present. Will work, truly! A strong nail has been

driven in, favouring the large cities and places. The only way of dealing with the question now is either by Act of Parliament, or by giving the notices, warning out the county delegates—changing the system to one of a great *show* every three years, and an annual but lesser one in the intervening years.

The improvements in machinery, in the arts connected with the objects of the Association, and the exhibitions of the leading stock raisers, with their imported animals, would do very well if brought together every three years. The intervening exhibitions would bring out every year nearly all the most useful and best parts of the exhibition, and spread the contest over more parts of the Province, and bring together a portion at least of the leading agriculturists. Localities not now reached would be benefitted. Goderich, St. Catharines, Guelph, Belleville, Brockville, Perth, Cornwall, Ottawa and other localities, would all come in, in time, and could afford to participate in the Government grant for stimulating the efforts of the bone and sinew of the Province. The *Agriculturist* and *Transactions of the Board* would find more readers. The well known faces of Col. Thomson, Professor Buckland, Hon. D. Christie, R. L. Denison, along with our Stones, Snells, Fergusons, Nimmos, Millers and others would be still better known. The officers, secretaries and clerks, (all useful in their respective places) would have more sympathy and perhaps see more honest and valuable men among the homespun coats. Plain farmers, yet worthy men, gathered into cities in crowds, having no acquaintance with the officials of their great Association, dressed out in city paraphernalia it may be, sometimes meet with curt answers, and pass on when it were better otherwise. We think an effort must be made to stop the centralization of this great leading institution of our country; to introduce it to our whole people; to enlist the attention of all our farmers to its work and business; to make it what it should be—a people's association. Its resources and its expenditures are fair subjects of criticism, and should be as open and plain as daylight. Every one knows that a hurried annual meeting is not the place to inquire into these matters, and little do county delegates know of them as things now are.

The annual meeting, we think, should not be deferred until Friday, but take place on the second day of the exhibition, and continue to the third if need be. When left to the last everything is hurried—all are anxious not to be kept from home over Sunday, and hurry off by the boats and cars at the end of the week.

We propose returning to the subject of the Exhibition and Provincial Association again in future numbers, and trust other parties will discuss these matters through the *Agriculturist*.

W. O. BUELL,

Delegate S. Lanark Soc'y.

Perth 29th Sept., 1863.