

## THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

**They Enquire what Essex and Kent can do in Cereals, Stock Fruit and Tobacco.—Extract of the Evidence.  
A Drive into the Country Thursday.**

*(From the "Chatham Weekly Planet" of July 22nd.)*

The Ontario Agricultural Commission opened its enquiry at the Town Hall, Chatham, on Thursday, July 22d, 1880, at 10 a. m. The members of the Commission present at the beginning of the examination were A. H. Dymond and W. E. Saunders, Esqs, accompanied by Mr. McCraney, M. P., for Bothwell.

Mr. Stephen White, of Charing Cross, a gentlemen well known as one of large experience in general husbandry, was first called. A summary of his evidence is as follows:

Mr. White said he had for a number of years grown the Scott variety of fall wheat, but lately had given more attention to the Clawson and Fultze, a "blue stem." Thirty and forty bushels to the acre was no uncommon yield in this locality, he himself having got that average from a field sown seven successive seasons. The cost of raising wheat is about \$16 per acre. The average yield in Canada during the past few years would probably be twenty bushels per acre, while Kent's average would be at least thirty, with a few exceptions caused by careless cultivation. Barley cost \$14.50 per acre, but it was not grown so largely now as it was some years ago, when prices were better. Wheat culture has largely taken its place. The average yield of barley is 35 bushels per acre, for which 55c. was received. Oats are not grown in any quantity, being less profitable than barley. Rye and peas are not grown of late years, the latter on account of the presence in large numbers of bugs. Corn is grown for feeding purposes alone, the average being thirty-five bushels of shelled grain to the acre, and selling for 40c. As high as fifty bushels have been raised after careful preparation. Potatoes are largely grown, the Early Rose being perhaps the favorite for winter use.

Mr. J. C. Toll said: I have a vineyard of one acre, and cultivate the Concord, Delaware and Clinton varieties. Concord yield three tons per acre, and brings five and six cents per pound. Along the lake grapes do not suffer at all from frost. The Catawba will not ripen here. Winter apples are extensively grown, the Rhode Island Greening being the favorite on account of its bearing earlier than other varieties, such as the Northern Spy. Our apples bring \$1.25 per barrel on an average.

Mr. Westland said: He lived in the Township of Howard, five miles from Lake Erie, and had had a long experience in Horticulture; had been in this district about thirty years; was acquainted with the culture of all the fruits commonly grown in this district. Apples, peaches, and plums grew here in the proportion of 95 per cent., 5 per cent., and 4 per cent. respectively; the land occupied by small fruits is about 1-400 part; the apples grown are chiefly of the winter sort; sandy loam is the