

### Township Agricultural Exhibitions.

There have been expressions made tending to discourage Township Exhibitions. These persons generally favor centralizing the forces, and holding one exhibition embracing many townships. This we leave as an open question.

We only visited one Township Exhibition this year; this was in the Township of Delaware, 12 miles from this city. Perhaps nothing could be more adverse to the success of any exhibition than these facts: Delaware is the smallest township in Middlesex; nearly half of it is occupied by Indians; the only suitable buildings are in one corner of the township, and the great Provincial Exhibition, one would have thought, would have satiated the inhabitants with exhibitions for this year. The reverse was the case. The effect appeared rather to stimulate the desire to see and to conquer. Nearly all the inhabitants of the township were there who could leave their homes.

The exhibit of products was highly creditable, and the interest taken was very great. When comparing it with the Provincial, in some things this smallest of township shows even surpassed the Provincial. There were a larger number of the farmers' wives and children here—perhaps three times as many in proportion to the number of men—than were to be seen at the Provincial. This is one of the greatest points in favor of the Township Exhibitions. The ladies do not like to be beat; they like to see their husbands, brothers or children excel, and when they take an interest they are apt to conquer. This was shown at this exhibition, as Mrs. P. Tole carried off the highest honors, namely, 1st prize for the best cow and the 1st prize for the best calf. We shook hands with her and congratulated her on her success. The face showed unspeakable satisfaction and pleasure exhibited by the smile on the lip, the cheerful countenance and moistened eye. It was a pleasing victory. Perhaps no other lady in Canada has with her own money purchased and raised, and carried off the 1st prize for the best Durham cow and calf at any exhibition.

We happened to be standing near the door of the Town Hall as some began to remove their goods. Some one gave us a sharp nudge; we turned to see what this meant, and we shall never forget the sight. A pair of keen, clear eyes caught ours, and the extremely happy appearance of a little grey-headed old gentleman, over 70 years of age, told the tale. His arms were clasped round a cheese; on the cheese was the red ticket for 1st prize. All he said was "What do you think of that? Only one cow and a half; I always get it." We presume he meant one cow and a farrow cow.

At this Exhibition were to be seen several large factory-men, who kept from 20 to 60 cows and make cheese from many more. Some of them have the best cheese-makers they can find, yet the little grey-headed old man, nearly 100 years old, takes 1st prize year after year for the best family cheese. Yes, factory-men, quality and quantity is what is wanted; well you have been filling your part, but the demand of the consumer is or will be a small cheese, and good quality.

We met one of the largest land proprietors in the township. We asked him what he exhibited. "I hae naething here; it wad na pay." There are some who can only look directly after the dollar. It is a blessing we have laws that compel such to aid, even in a small way, to these enlightening and cheering gatherings. We were as much pleased to see the large number of cheerful, happy ladies and children at this Exhibition as any of the grand sights at any of the larger Exhibitions. The Township Exhibitions are where the ladies and children turn out in the largest numbers. We have advocated and still intend to advocate their maintenance.

Another grand feature which redounds to the credit of this Exhibition was that at its close the band played "God Save the Queen." This tune alone must tend to inspire, awaken or renew the loyal feeling and respect to our beloved Queen more than many long, windy speeches. We say that this small Township Exhibition surpassed the Provincial, as they had a band and the Provincial had not.

### Marketing Produce.

There is an impression among many farmers that grain will rise in price. They argue that the war in the East must check production and cause a great demand, and that they will make by holding their grain; every possible chance of a rise is magnified; in the estimation of farmers generally the probabilities of loss are not so carefully scanned.

We have in a previous issue advised farmers to sell products as soon as they are fit for market, and to leave speculation to capitalists, who can command money cheaper than farmers can, and can keep produce at half the expense. The Russians, despite the war, have been rushing their grain into the English market as fast as possible. The immense wheat crop of America must find a foreign market at some price; speculators are not rushing in to hold grain now; merchants are merely purchasing to fill orders. The farmers are now the speculators by holding grain when speculators are not operating to any great extent. The present prices are good and highly remunerative. A farmer cannot act wrong in selling. The prospect of a rise is extremely small—so small that we fail to see it. On the other hand, there is a prospect of a fall; sooner or later it assuredly will come. Very few farmers have ever estimated the cost of holding grain. Money is worth 8 per cent.; nearly all the monetary institutions in this city are paying as much as that on permanent investments. Farmers who borrow have to pay a higher rate. It is worth more than 8 per cent. to farmers to carry on improvements or to make purchases. To show the loss more clearly, say a farmer has 100 bushels of wheat to sell; if worth \$1 in September, it would bring \$100 should he hold it. The loss from shrinkage, by insects in the bin, rats, mice, risk of fire and theft—some farmers lose by destruction by their own farm animals; add this to the interest the \$100 would bring him, and you will see that it must cost a farmer between one and two bushels of wheat every month to hold it. We have known farmers in England to keep seven years' wool on hand; some have kept grain and others hops, but the general result is a loss to the holder, and often a failure results by holding. This is particularly the case when prices are good. People hold for a rise; the rise does not come, but they still hold; they dislike to sell at less than a neighbor has received, and hope to be equal to him by holding. It may answer to hold produce when it is much below the cost of production. At the present state of the market no farmer can do wrong in selling all he can spare. The market price has receded since we first advised selling. Who can estimate the loss to holders?

### Absence From Exhibitions of Breeds of Cattle.

In the last number of the *Advocate* we referred to the entire absence of Galloway cattle from the Ontario Provincial Exhibition in consequence of the usual prizes for them having been withdrawn. At the St. Louis Fair there were few specimens of Galloways, and two other great breeds of cattle, the Holsteins and Ayrshires were not shown at all, owing to the fact that no premiums were offered to these classes of cattle. This was also the case with Herefords, a breed of beef cattle that are making Shorthorn breeders look to their laurels in

other States. Such action on the part of directors is, to say the least of it, injurious. The great object of agricultural societies is avowedly the encouragement of the improvement of live stock on the farms of the country, nor can we see any sufficient grounds for limiting to one or a few breeds of cattle, excluding others that also have their special points of merit. The Galloways as well as other breeds have undoubtedly their excellencies. As a proof of this we need but refer to the very high estimation in which they are held in that section of country from which they derive their name, and where they have been so long looked upon as most valuable stock, and suitable above all others for that country. Each breed has its special excellence. None will attempt to deny the value of the Shorthorns for early maturity and general excellence wherever the climate and state of agriculture are such that they are suited for, but there are districts where a race of cattle hardier and easier kept may be more suitable. In Canada the principle of favoritism or partiality to particular breeds has not been carried to the same extreme as in St. Louis, where Holsteins, Ayrshires and Herefords were all excluded from the prize list, though all well and favorably known to stock-feeders. At the Smithfield Show and other great exhibitions in England the Herefords take a high place. We give the following report of a late sale of Hereford cattle in Herefordshire in England:—

The fine old herd of Hereford cattle, which has been so long owned by Mr. William Tudge, Adforton, Herefordshire, was dispersed on the 20th September. The top price was reached by the magnificent cow Rosebud, which has won so many first prizes, including the red ticket at the late Liverpool show of the Royal English Agricultural Society. Mr. Arkwright, Hampton Court, secured her at 155 gs. He also got Beatrice at 100 gs., and her heifer calf at 100 gs. Beatrice is a splendid heifer. Lord Coventry gave 140 gs. for Giantess, a third prize Royal English winner this season. The ninety-four females, including heifer calves, averaged £33 17s 4d, or \$167 per head. One bull made 120 gs., and the average was £56 8s 5d each, or \$270 for the bulls.

### Meat Production for Foreign Markets.

The production of butcher's meat has for many years engaged the attention of the farmers of England, as it furnished the best means of increasing the fertility of their soil and provided for the sale of their produce in a form that was not open, to any great extent, to foreign competition. This department of farm economy has been so generally recognized as of the first importance, that the amount of meat produced for each acre under cultivation has been taken as a standard, in many localities, for determining the measure of success in farm management.

"The more cattle the more manure, and the more manure the better crops," which was often quoted as a proverb that could not be contradicted, even by those who did not adopt it as a rule of practice, has finally become the watchword of British agriculture.

It is impossible to pay high rents for the use of land without an abundant supply of manure, and this for the general purposes of the farmer is most readily obtained by feeding animals for the butcher.

In the production of grain the farmers of Great Britain were brought into active competition with the cheap labor of Russia and the virgin soils of America, and they therefore gave increased attention to the supply of the home markets with fresh meat, as there was no prospect of foreign competition in its production.

The advantages of this system were not, however, limited to the freedom from competition; that