

The great increase in 1865 was occasioned by an exceptional demand under the four following heads :

Cattle, increase on 1864 in round numbers.....	\$1,000,000
Horses, do	2,500,000
Sheep, do	500,000
Flour and wheat, do	4,000,000
	\$8,000,000

The Annual Return of the Board of Agriculture of Upper Canada will be found in the Appendix, which gives an encouraging prospect of the farming interest in the west.*

The Upper Canada Provincial Exhibition for the past year, held at Toronto, was a highly successful display of the Agricultural and Industrial resources of the Province, and especially in the variety and number of valuable stock exhibited, exciting great interest among our own and American Agriculturalists. These Exhibitions in the western section of the Province have steadily advanced in magnitude and importance, and do much credit to the local management. They have fully represented the annual improvement in the breed of stock, in the growth of cereals, in fruits and vegetables, and the products of the workshop and factory.

The following statement shows at a glance the operations of the Boards, up to this date:—

CANADA WEST (ONTARIO).

County or Electoral Division Societies.....	63
Township Boards Agricultural Societies.....	264
Annual Subscriptions from Members.....	\$39,254 00
Public Grant.....	44,630 00
Number of Entries at the Annual Exhibition.....	6,279
Amount of Prizes awarded.....	10,288

FLAX CULTURE.

In consequence of the repeated representations made to the Government for the importation of Riga Flax seed, for distribution among the farmers of Upper and Lower Canada, an Order in Council was issued on the 6th of January, 1866, authorizing the purchase of 1,000 bushels of the best Riga Flax. The seed, obtained in England, arrived at Portland on the 2nd of April, and was distributed (at cost price) in the following proportions to the respective Boards of Trade at Montreal and Toronto :

Canada West.....	602 bushels.
Canada East.....	399 “

The importation has induced many persons to devote part of their land to the cultivation of this valuable crop. Mr. Donaldson, Emigration Agent at Toronto, in his special report on this subject, says:—

“Of the progress of flax culture I have only to say it is steadily increasing, and is now beginning to be spoken of in the commercial world as ranking among the staple crops of the country. Thus, next year, the number of acres will no doubt be double that of any former year in Canada; and well may the farmers adopt it, as it is one of their best paying crops. I am authorized to state by Colonel R. L. Denison, of Dover Court, that he pulled three tons of flax from one acre this year; and, be it observed, this was from the Riga

* The Annual Return of the Board of Agriculture for Lower Canada has not been received.