

ANNUAL EXHIBITION OF THE AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF UPPER CANADA,

AT NIAGARA, Sept. 18th, 19th & 20th, 1850.

The fifth Exhibition of this patriotic society came off at the good old town of Niagara, and from all that we saw and heard it must be considered as having been eminently successful. Our readers have already been put in possession of the principal facts and outlines of the Show through the newspaper press, which has in a most painstaking and praiseworthy manner, devoted a considerable space to the proceedings of this great popular gathering. As a full report, we presume, will be drawn up by the Secretary and laid before the next meeting of Parliament, with other information in reference to the progress and future prosperity of this important Association, we shall confine ourselves for the present to a general description of the Exhibition; mentioning such facts as have come within our knowledge that appear worthy of a distinct notice.

The *locale* of the Fair must be considered as highly favorable; Niagara being easily accessible by steam boats from all points of Lake Ontario, and it is readily reached from Lake Erie and the West. The site was happily chosen but a very short distance from the steam boat landing, covering 14 acres of the large and beautiful Common, enclosed by a wooden fence ten feet high, in an octagonal form. The plan of the ground and buildings was similar to that at Kingston last year, only being about one fourth larger. The workmanship was good, quite as substantial as need be for a temporary purpose, and it did the contractor, Mr. Barker, of Niagara, great credit.

Tuesday was devoted to making entries and other preparations. The entries were readily taken without any crowding or inconvenience, by dividing the labor among efficient heads of department. Considerable difficulty was experienced in consequence of the very large amount of discretionary articles; some extra provision will have to be made for the future to meet this exigency. We would suggest to the Board of management, the desirableness of carefully revising and also enlarging the Premium list; thus keeping down as much as possible the amount of extra articles.

Early on Wednesday morning the Books for entries, according to the published regulations, should have finally closed; but from some cause or other, it was deemed by the Executive Committee expedient to rescind this rule, and a large number of entries was received up to noon on Wednesday. It is certainly difficult in practice, in a country like this, where distances are great and conveyances subject to interruptions, to be strictly punctual as to time; but it must be obvious that without the element of punctuality, the most perfect system of management will fail in being worked out. As soon as the books could be made up, the Judges proceeded to their important, and in many cases, difficult work. The public were admitted at 1 o'clock, and about 1400 single admission tickets were sold during the afternoon. We fear that this large number of visitors must have somewhat inconvenienced the Judges in the prosecution of their duties. Speaking of judges, we embrace the present opportunity of observing that for the future some plan must be devised for securing the services of a sufficient number of qualified persons, *whose attendance can be relied on*. As it was, much inconvenience was felt at Niagara in this respect, and with the large amount of discretionary articles in some departments, several of the judges had a most arduous and difficult duty to perform.

On Wednesday morning it appeared somewhat doubtful whether the large enclosure, pens and buildings would be fully occupied with visitors, stock and articles for exhibition; by noon, however, it was apparent that a great gathering had actually commenced, so as to justify the most sanguine hopes for the result. Stock and articles of every description came pouring in, not only from the various sections of Canada, but also from the United States.

In the evening a large number of persons assembled in the Court House, to hear a lecture from Professor Croft, of the University of Toronto. We regret our inability to give even a slight outline of this interesting and instructive discourse, which was rendered additionally attractive by a series of illustrative experiments.—Mr. Croft's subject was the constituents of soils and plants, and he had been requested by the officers of the Society, not to dive too deep into the ocean of Science, but to give a plain popular description of the principal elementary substances, which enter into the composition of the soil, which the farmer tills, and the plants which he raises. Oxygen, nitrogen and hydrogen, with some of their more important compounds, together with the principal, mineral matters that are found in soils, formed the subject matter of the Pro-