

in greater or less purity, with several others of mixed families, whose paternity was not always distinguishable. All the specimens shown had a fine healthy appearance, and we saw no symptoms of anything approaching to the rot. The skins indeed were remarkably clean, and judging by the size and quality of the specimens shown, we should conclude that the potato crop is a large one.

The show of roots generally was far in advance of any that we have seen on any previous occasion, and though the past season has, no doubt, been unusually favorable for this species of crop, it is equally certain that a very great advance in their cultivation, and therefore a great step in agricultural progress, has latterly been made.

GRAIN.

Returning to the main building, from which these roots had been removed, we found upon the right-hand side of the northern entrance the finest collection of grain that has ever been seen in Canada, and perhaps in America. For the Canada Company's prize for the best 25 bushels of Fall wheat, there were no less than thirty-two entries; the number of entries for wheat altogether being two hundred, brought from all parts of the Province; although judging from the localities mentioned in the prize list as the abodes of the successful competitors, the premiums appear to have been chiefly awarded to samples grown upon light soils, which generally produce the finest grain, though not the heaviest crops. Those who examined the grain may easily form an idea of the difficulty which the judges must have experienced in making their award. Out of the whole two hundred lots, or thereabouts, only one weighed less than 63 lbs. to the bushel, and of all this enormous quantity there were but one or two samples which could be set aside at the first examination as undeserving of further notice. At most exhibitions of grain, a large proportion is generally at once disposed of by the judges in this way, but in this case it was different, and it was only by the most careful weighing of the whole that anything like a correct decision could be arrived at, and even then there was such an equality in the best specimens, that it was no easy matter to make an impartial choice. Of the samples fixed upon as the best, a great many reached the weight of 66½ lbs., and if weighed in the ordinary way, the standard would have been even

higher. It was not alone, however, the fine quality of the grain, and the very average of its weight which were its only commendations; its purity from other seeds was equally remarkable, thus showing care taken in its preparation, and the quality of the implements used, as well as the nature of the soil upon which it was grown, and the good system of husbandry pursued in its cultivation.

The other cereals, such as peas, oats, barley, were also well represented, and general the remarks which we have made with reference to the wheat are equally applicable to them. The display of Indian corn was also unusually large and excellent. The show of grain as a whole spoke volumes for the quality of the harvest just gained, and affords a bright prospect of returning prosperity.

GARDEN VEGETABLES.

Opposite to the grain was placed a fine collection of garden vegetables, which might have been studied to advantage by our farmers, who, in general, pay but little attention to the products of their gardens. The potatoes shown in this class excelled in number and variety of sorts displayed in the tent outside, and appeared to be excellent of their kind. Other vegetables there was a large assortment. The onions were particularly good. Cauliflowers also were extremely good. The same may be said of the carrots, cabbages, beets, &c., all of which were well presented. Among other things were two choice assortments of capsicums, one of which, in particular, was most fully arranged. This part of the exhibition was by no means behind any other, displaying the position which the country, in the cultivation of those lesser agricultural productions, the value of which, in an economical point of view, can scarcely be estimated.

FRUITS AND FLOWERS.

We now come to what was unquestionably the crowning glory of the whole exhibition—a show of fruit such as could be met with only in a tropical region, and in a country like this, affords the surest evidence of its growth in wealth and civilization. Few are so ignorant of this country as to know that wheat and timber are its principal productions, but few even amongst its inhabitants could have expected to see