

THE PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

This Association held its Anniversary at Cobourg, during the first week of October, 1848. Unfortunately, the weather at the commencement of the week was most unpropitious, which operated, as too many facts subsequently proved, to the serious detriment of the meeting. There was, notwithstanding, a very respectable gathering, both of visitors, stock, implements, and vegetable productions; and we will endeavour to give our readers as correct a general idea of the Exhibition as our brief space will allow.

The ground, consisting of about 7 or 8 acres, enclosed by a fence of high boards, was situated a little more than a mile westward of the town, on a porous subsoil, consequently no inconvenience was felt from the recent rains. The cattle, sheep, and pigs were placed in pens adjoining the circular fence; while the grain, horticultural productions, manufactures, and the fine arts occupied three separate buildings, situated somewhat centrally. The implements were placed in a row, a little out in the ground from the stock; the horses occupying the greater part of the centre. The whole arrangements for the accommodation of visitors, and the convenience of live stock, reflect very great credit on the Managing Committee.

It was found necessary, in consequence of the storm on Monday, to extend the period of receiving entries to Wednesday noon, and even with that extension, we understand several articles were excluded from competition. Whatever hurry or confusion might have been observed (and we confess that we saw or heard of but very little), might easily be traced to this unfortunate and unavoidable circumstance. On Wednesday, about noon, the judges began work in right earnest, but owing to the circumstance just stated, and the excellence of many of the articles, several of them could not finish their duty till late on Thursday. We must refer our readers to the prize-list on another page, and content ourselves with a few cursory observations on the more prominent features of the Exhibition.

The show, as a whole, was much smaller than it would have been under more favorable circumstances, as regards weather. The quality, however, in all the departments, was, we think, quite satisfactory. There was some live stock, it is true, that had little or nothing to recommend it; but that is more or less the case at all the Exhibitions it has been our good fortune to attend, in Europe as well as in America. We will first glance at the horned cattle.

Of Durhams there was a considerable number, many of them showing unquestionable evidence of pure blood. The prize animals of this class, with some others less fortunate, would not disgrace any show in England. The Devons were but few in number; still the quality, with certain exceptions, was good. This breed seems well suited to the climate of Canada. Of Herofords there was not a single specimen to represent this class; a matter much to be regretted. This breed, so much prized in the British Islands for its many valuable qualities, ought surely to receive a fair trial in this country; and to be found in its appropriate place at all our Cattle Shows. Of Grade Cattle there was considerable variety, and some animals possessed many valuable qualities. The Ayrshire are not included in the prize list, and we only saw two (bulls) of that valuable breed on the ground. Surely this is an anomaly which should not be lost sight of for the future. Of horses there was a goodly number; many of them possessing useful qualities. Some well-matched spans commanded much attention and admiration. The Clydes appeared prominent in the show, on account of their great strength and noble aspect; while Young King Alfred, for symmetry and graceful movements, very justly received general admiration.

In Sheep the show was not deficient; and the quality, in many instances, was decidedly good. The Leicesters were well represented; and the cross with the Teeswater appears to bring out a valuable result. We noticed a number of South Downs, very fine specimens, belonging, we understood, to Mr. J. Wetenhall, of Nelson, who appears, from the prize list, to have been a very successful competitor. There was quite a number of Merinoes, which in appearance compare unfavourably with the larger breeds, and seem in this country deficient in strength of constitution.

The Show of Swine was tolerably numerous, and in general good. We noticed one or two excellent boars, as well as some valuable breeding sows and pigs. There was an absence of coarseness so common to swine in this country, and they evidently possessed good feeding qualities.

Of Implements, of Canada make, the show was deficient; and we are much indebted to our American neighbours for their valuable aid on this occasion. A large number of ploughs, straw-cutters, drills, corn-shellers, churns, &c. &c., were brought over by Messrs. Briggs & Co., of Rochester; Mr. Emery, of Albany, and a large manufacturing firm near Boston. As these gentlemen were not allowed, by the regulations of the Society, to compete for prizes, we hope their praiseworthy spirit of enterprise will meet some measure of reward in the speedy disposal of their productions on this side of the Lake. Mr. Bell, of Toronto, exhibited his excellent plough, straw-cutter, and reaping machine. The first prize for the latter article was awarded to Mr. Helm, of Cobourg, for the recent improvements which he has effected. Mr. Clark, of Paris, exhibited his one-horse thrashing mill, which attracted much attention. We hope our Canadian mechanics will show a greater willingness to bring their productions before the public, at the next Exhibition.

The Dairy Products were decidedly superior in quality; in fact, both cheese and butter were excellent. Mr. Parsons, of Guelph, was prevented entering his Stilton in time. We had, however, an opportunity of tasting his cheese, and, with a little more age, we do not hesitate to pronounce it equal to much of the class made in the Old Country. The cheese of Mr. Wade and Mr. Joplin was excellent. Indeed, there was much to praise, and very little to censure, in this important department.

In Seeds and Roots the show was very successful, there being excellent specimens of almost every variety cultivated in this climate. The wheat, we thought, particularly good; and the judges must have had no small difficulty, in some cases, in deciding. For the Canada Company's prize there was a keen competition; and it is a little singular that the successful candidate this year should be the same person as last—Mr. Clarkson Freeman, of Flamboro West.

The Horticultural department was not large, but maintained, like most other branches of the show, its good character for quality. Mr. Fleming, Mr. Gray, and Mr. Turner, all of Toronto, had some excellent fruit and vegetables. Specimens of apples and pears were very good. The Society owes much to Messrs. Barry & Co., of the Rochester Nursery, for their splendid collection of apples, consisting of the finest varieties, correctly named. We were happy to see some eminent horticulturists and botanists from the State of New York—Mr. Barry and Professor Coppock among the number: such friendly intercourse, we trust and believe, will prove mutually interesting and beneficial.

In manufactures, ladies work, and the fine arts, the exhibition, in point of quantity was very meagre, as, from the state of the weather and other causes, might have been anticipated. Yet what there was in each of these departments, was generally of good quality, and several articles elicited general admiration.