

NOTES AND COMMENTS.

Township and County Fairs.—At the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Association of Fair and Exhibition Managers, in Toronto, the 30th of February, 1902, there were several hundred representative men present. A deep interest was manifest in certain proposals made by Mr. F. W. Hodson, of Ottawa, a year previous, for the increased usefulness of smaller fairs.

The Agricultural Societies have not been accomplishing the work designed in their institution, as laid down by the Agricultural and Arts Act, they have concentrated their whole strength upon the giving of prizes, and have lost sight of the most important object of their existence, viz, the education of their members in the best methods of Agriculture. The same lack was observed in the Horticultural Societies, and led to the formation of the Societies affiliated with our Association, which aim at making their meetings and exhibitions purely educative, and even go so far as to discourage giving prizes altogether, claiming that the funds should be spent for the equal benefit of every member. This plan entirely shuts off the professional exhibitor, and enables the Society to make most liberal gifts to each member of new and improved fruit trees, plants, seeds, bulbs, etc., one of the important objects contemplated in the Act. They also hold monthly meetings for the discussion of fruit and flower topics, which form a means for the interchange of experience on the best methods of practice—another object of their existence contemplated in the Act. Why should not our Agricultural Societies profit by their example?

The Farmers' Institutes are doing much of the educational work neglected by the Agri-

cultural and Horticultural Societies, and if these organizations could work in harmony a grand future is before us. Mr. G. C. Creelman, the Superintendent, met with general approval when he advocated that the Farmers' Institutes, the Women's Institutes, the Horticultural Societies, the Fruit Stations, the Fruit Growers' Associations, all should join forces, and make the fairs not only educative but also sociable and attractive.

Fruit Growers' Institutes, Mr. Creelman stated, were being formed in each district, under the supervision of the director of the Provincial Association representing the same. A series of about fifty meetings will be held during the month of March, so arranged as to cover the Province. Now these local Associations can assist the fair managers by revising the prize list for fruit, making it to include such varieties only as are desirable for each district.

Seed Fairs have been held by some four or five Farmers' Institutes, and Prof. C. A. Zavitz, of the O. A. C., Guelph, showed how grain exhibits could be mounted and shown at fairs so as to be of the greatest interest to farmers.

These should include some twenty four plants, a card showing name of variety, number of acres grown, yield per acre, kind of soil, etc. The judging should be done by experts, who could give reasons for their decisions. Mr. Geo. Hood, of Guelph, said the Seed Fair at his town was of the greatest practical use to the farmers. It gave an opportunity for the exchange of seed grain, and farmers exhibited far more with the object of selling their seed grain than fo