

been a severe winter every ten years, as for example, in 1819, 1829, 1849, 1859, and so on; the only exception found being in the case of 1839, the severe winter coming in 1840. As the *nines* are thus made out to be the hard years, we are to look out for a severe winter this season. A prophecy such as this will have a good effect upon trade in the way of furs, flannels, skates, sleighs and trotting horses.

We publish this month the Prize List (as fully as our limited space will allow) of the FRUIT GROWERS of Nova Scotia. The meeting at Somerset was a very successful one, as already indicated in our columns, and we hear that increased efforts are being made to extend fruit culture in other parts of the Province besides the fertile valleys of the West where the Association has its home. The New Brunswickers are making rapid advances in apple-culture, which ought to incite our pomologists to increased diligence. In France, eight splendid new varieties of Strawberry have been raised by Dr. Nicaise, whose fame as a successful raiser has been long favorably known; these kinds are figured by Messrs. Vilmorin Audrieux & Co., of Paris, who will no doubt soon offer plants for sale.

From reports in the English agricultural papers, it appears that English cultivators are disgusted with the EARLY ROSE and other new American POTATOES. They do not suit in England, just as English potatoes are apt to be poor and rotty when brought to America. In Western Canada, the Goodrich potatoes are turning out as well as they did in Nova Scotia. Their cultivation in this Province is now all but universal.

DR. JOSEPH DALTON HOOKER, Director of the Royal Garden, Kew, has been decorated with a Civil C. B. Dr. Hooker is one of the most eminent of living botanists and natural philosophers, and has performed public services to science and to the English nation of a very distinguished kind. We therefore congratulate him on receiving any mark of favor from Mr. Gladstone's or any other government; but he has already so many letters after his name that the C. B. risks being lost among better known titles. In the days of his father, foreign visitors at Kew used to enquire for "Sir Hooker;" now they will have to ask for Civil Hooker, and we know they will find him. As for English botanists, they say that they accept the title, "in the spirit in which it was given" as a compliment to themselves as well as to Dr. Hooker, but they "doubt whether it is the proper form in which to reward such distinguished services."

THE NEW YORK STATE FAIR FOR 1869.

The New York State Fair is annually looked forward to by the farmers of the United States as the greatest agricultural event of the season, and several of the Canadian farmers usually assist at the ceremony, by their presence and co-operation. The Exhibition was held this year at Elmira, and although we cannot afford space for the Prize List, yet the following account of the various departments will be read with interest and profit by our own farmers:

THE TWENTY-NINTH ANNUAL FAIR OF THE NEW YORK STATE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY, AT ELMIRA.

GENERAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The visit of the Society to Elmira has been a pleasant one. Twice before had the State Fair been held at this thriving town, and each time heavy rains interfered with the enjoyment of the occasion. This year, however, the splendid weather gave an opportunity of seeing to advantage the beauty of the valley in which Elmira (risen to the rank of a city since the Fair of 1860) is so cosily nestled, and the week which the Society had been compelled to select turned out the best in the whole Autumn. A little warm perhaps it was, and a trifle dusty, but heat (especially with the cool mornings and pleasant breezes that we had) and dust are easier to bear than cold or rain.

The grounds, though small and requiring a somewhat compact arrangement of the show, were found sufficient, and indeed it was a subject of remark that though on the second day of the Fair the number of tickets showed that about twenty-five thousand persons must have been present, there was no discomfort from overcrowding in any part of the ground. The supply of water was at one time far from adequate. Dependence had been placed upon the supply from the main pipe of the city water works, which passes through the the ground occupied, but the long continued drought had reduced the reservoir so much that it came near failing altogether. The difficulty was remedied (upon the kind suggestion and with the aid of Mr. W. P. Sherman, the chief of the fire department) by using one of the fine steam fire engines belonging to the city, to pump the water after the pressure from the reservoir proved insufficient.

The influx of visitors taxed to the utmost capacity of the city, but the people of Elmira proved equal to the emergency, and it is believed that all were comfortably lodged during the Fair. The headquarters of the Society were at the Rathbun House, where the host Mr.

Wedsworth showed himself a landlord of resources, as well as a courteous and attentive one.

The Society was favoured with the presence of the Honorable the Commissioner of Agriculture and Mr. Glover, of the Agricultural Department, early in the exhibition. The President of the Agricultural Association of Ontario, and the President of the State Society, of Pennsylvania, were also present, with other representatives of both Societies.

His Excellency the Governor paid a visit to the fair on the last day, and it was much regretted that he was not able to come while the exhibition had more attractions.

Of the exhibition it may fairly be said that while it was not, as a whole, equal to Fairs the Society has held, it was nevertheless very respectable, and in several departments brought out evidence of special progress. There were several drawbacks. Two breeders of cattle, and several breeders of sheep who had made large entries, were for some reason or other absent.

A number of articles sent by railroad were unaccountably detained on the way and did not arrive in time to be exhibited (in one case three car loads of implements were so detained,) and finally the character of the season had been such as to prevent a good show of fruits and flowers. Besides it is to be considered that when the Society appoints its exhibition at a place off the line of the Central Railroad, it is always to some extent a sacrifice.

SHOW OF CATTLE.

The show of cattle, notwithstanding the deficiency of the number shown compared with the number entered, was an exceedingly good one.

The show of short horns was small, but good from the quality of the animals on exhibition. Besides the stock shown by the Hon. Ezra Cornell, of Ithaca (to whom the herd prize was awarded,) others had fine specimens of aged bulls, and there were some fine animals in the younger divisions. The Devons were not out in large numbers, but a good show was made. Of Ayrshires there was a very excellent show, the principal exhibitors being Messrs. Walcott and Campbell, of New York Mills, and Mr. S. D. Hungerford, of Adams, the herd prize going to the former. Of Jerseys, there were few compared with the number in the catalogue, and great disappointment was expressed at the absence of Mr. W. B. Dinsmore. Mr. William Crozier, of Northport, L. I., made a good display in this class, and was awarded the herd prize. There were no entries of Herefords, but a very respectable show in the classes of grades and fat cattle.