

Agricultural Exhibitions.

The time has again arrived when leading farmers, mechanics and artisans must make up their minds what time and money they intend to expend at these exhibitions the coming autumn. To attend all is a matter of impossibility.

Our fall show programme is to be opened by the Industrial Exhibition Association of Toronto. The members of this Association have been exerting themselves nobly, and offer the sum of \$20,000 in prizes. The list of prizes is carefully prepared, neatly printed on good paper, and arranged in a manner that should encourage exhibitors. The executive committee have devoted their attention to endeavor to please the visitors that may attend. They add many pleasing attractions not usually found at this class of exhibitions, such as ladies' horsemanship, boys' horsemanship, boat races, dog show, fancy bird show, military and amateur bands and bag pipe competition, white rats and mice show, illuminations, &c., &c.

Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise and the Governor-General will formally open the exhibition on Wednesday, 3rd September. The exhibition is to continue from Monday, the 1st Sept., until Friday, the 19th. The worst we have to say against this exhibition is we fear the length of time it is to be kept open will prove too long.

The Provincial Exhibition is the next on the programme, which is to be held in Ottawa, from September 22nd to 29th. We have before us a copy of the prize list, and it is got up in the most disgraceful manner; the poorest kind of dirty, mixed paper is used, and the list of prizes are about as meanly arranged as the appearance of the book betokens. They call this the Grand Dominion Exhibition, which we think is a grand fraud on Ontario farmers, as it is our money that pays for it; the other Provinces do not contribute to its funds. A Dominion grant of \$5,000 has been given to it, perhaps to keep off bankruptcy a little longer. Let any farmer examine the prize list for grain or stock and then judge for himself. We consider it simply disgraceful, and shows a total ignorance or disregard as to the requirements of this Dominion. It may be said that we have advocated a Dominion or International Exhibition, to be held at Montreal or Ottawa. Yes, we did; but this was mooted to avoid making such a failure of the Provincial as took place the last time it was held at Ottawa. This should have been a national affair, and not taken up without due consideration, but this abortion of a Dominion exhibition spoils that grand plan for years to come. Most of the stockmen and artisans that exhibited at Ottawa at the Provincial Exhibition were heartily sick of it. No sales of any consequence were effected, and very few farmers from Ontario were there, except those that had part of their expenses paid from the public funds. The principal business delegates have to perform is to listen to the President's annual address, and sanction the wire-pullers' plans to move the exhibition where they may fancy. If it is not managed any better than it has been for the past ten years, it might be moved to the moon for all the good it is doing. Private enterprise has done, is doing, and will do, more good to the agriculturist of this Dominion than grants of money to petted men or petted institutions. Has the Agricultural College at Guelph been worth the powder? Has it aided or checked private enterprises?

We know parties who gained or deserved prizes that have been defrauded out of their just dues at the Provincial Exhibition, and the farmers of this Dominion will uphold us in these remarks, despite any bearing of technical law or quibbling points.

We speak for the farmers of the whole Dominion, and not for Ontario alone. We repudiate the fraudulent name Dominion Exhibition, and we condemn the acts of this Board, as will all independent farmers.

THE ADVOCATE will not publish the prize list of this so-called Dominion Exhibition (?) this year. We purpose publishing the prize list of the art and flower exhibit at the Industrial Exhibition, at Toronto, the fruit exhibit at Hamilton, the cattle exhibit at Guelph, and the implements at London. We consider by this means we shall be able to give our readers a more correct idea of the meritorious gainers of prizes. We may vary slightly, as we presume a better exhibit of Alderneys and Ayrshires may be made at Ottawa.

There undoubtedly will be competition for most of the prizes at the Provincial, as the people in that vicinity have a large quantity of good stock among them; in spring wheat and vegetables they can equal, if not excel us. Then Quebec will make a good display at this exhibition, as they will not hold their Provincial Exhibition this year.

Manitoba, we hear, will exhibit grain, vegetables, &c., at this Exhibition. She will carry off honors if she does.

The Western Fair, to be held in the City of London, opens on the 29th Sept. and closes on the 3rd October. The Directors offer \$12,000 in prizes. This exhibition has always been the favored one, being situated in the centre of 100 miles square of the best agricultural country to be found on this continent. Stockmen and artisans have always found the largest number of good sales effected here. This ensures exhibitors and visitors.

The Union Exhibition is to be held in Hamilton, from the 29th Sept. to the 3rd Oct. This Show generally excels others in the magnificent display of fruit, and the good order in which it is arranged. A liberal prize list is offered.

The Central Exhibition will be held at Guelph, from the 15th to the 19th September. This Exhibition commands a fine extent of country, and its crowning features is in its display of stock. In this department we may expect to see a greater competition among the real practical farmers than at any other held in this Province, particularly in the Shorthorn, Galloway and Hereford classes; also in Cotswold and Southdown Sheep, and Draft Horses.

We have not yet received the dates of any county exhibitions. It is a debatable question whether the township exhibitions are not doing more good than so many large ones. For our part we are strongly in favor of aiding the farmer and his family at these township exhibitions. The farmer, his wife, sons and daughters all can and do go, and the rivalry to vie with each other in taking the prizes and honors is pleasing. The mother and her family attend and spend a pleasant day. Much good, without doubt, results to the country from these township shows, and we should encourage them. From these exhibitions should spring the nucleus of Provincial Fairs. Then we might not have so much to complain of in the expenditure of our public moneys for the gratification or enrichment of wrecked politicians.

Macpherson, Glasgow & Co., Fingal, are the oldest established manufacturers of threshing machines in this Dominion. At this manufactory they are turning out 100 new machines this season. They have also another establishment equally as large in the town of Clinton. They have added several improvements to their "Climax" Apron and Vibration machines this season. They are now introducing an entirely new machine, called "Minnesota Chief." This machine is very simple in its construction and has great power.

The Provincial Board of Agriculture and Arts Association.

We have lost confidence in this institution, which for years has been in a shaky condition. The rights of the farmer have been trampled upon, and the interests of individuals that are, and have been, acting adverse to the interests of the farmers and the country been fostered. A great shock is assuredly coming. There has been a charge preferred against this Association of fixing the prize list and then altering it to suit favorites. It is our impression that the names of many of the prize winners might now be published, just about as well as after the Exhibition. We allude to some gold medals and large sums. A close investigation should be made, the cash should be carefully guarded and locked up, and the accounts audited by good independent men. There are some good, easy and honorable men connected with the Board, but tact and cunning are often hard to control.

We will give the names of some of the officers of this Board whose positions we think would be better filled by other persons: The Hon. G. Buckland—he has served the country faithfully, and has worn himself out in an honorable manner; Hon. D. Christie has served too long for our country's good; his tool, Craig, the secretary, the same; the fighting preacher, Burnet, if good in the pulpit, should be chained there; the treasurer, Mr. Graham, may have cash, but we do not consider he is interested sufficiently in the agricultural pursuits of the country; and we might add others. The fact is, if the Provincial Exhibition, or the School of Agriculture, are to be conducted for the benefit of farmers, which they are not and have not been, there must be a change in the mode of electing men to office. The office-holders, no matter what their office may be, should pass an examination at the hands of suitable examiners. Many of these persons have been legislated into office, or sit there by some cunning dodge. There are far too many of them, and this institution has degenerated from what it was intended, so as to be of no use or benefit to farmers. A common township exhibition, we believe, will do more good to the farmers of Ontario than this costly cess pool of iniquity, called falsely a Dominion Exhibition. See the numerous good county exhibitions to be held this year. Why should we be taxed to support this show at Ottawa to please a few office clerks that may be at the seat of Government.

There are plenty of just as good, or better, men among our subscribers than we have on this old useless and cumbersome body; men that know what farmers require, and what is for their benefit; men who can and will act independently and fearlessly. It is high time we had a change, and a change most assuredly we must and will have. No government aid can make the present Board a popular or beneficial one. The system must be reorganized. There is an M.P.P. and others we could mention that have barked too much for their leader Christie. Some of them, fully aware of the infectious diseases among farm stock, have not used it in the interest of farmers, but still retain seats on this Board.

What has this Board done to attempt to check the introduction and spread of dangerous contagious diseases amongst our farm animals? Nothing! But some of them have watched one or two kinds of contagious diseases introduced and spread, and knowingly and wilfully attempted to blindfold our farmers and cause false impressions to be spread by hired vassals, to the detriment of honor and honesty. Further, one member of the Board, and a Senator of our Dominion, attempted, in the halls of our Legislature, to give the Americans as much, or more power than we have in spreading the diseases of animals in our Dominion.

We notice, from other journals, that a disease has carried off a lot of hogs in Manitoba. If this case is followed up properly, very likely it will be found that American stock has implanted this disease in the prairie province.

It is now seven months since this journal commenced clamoring for the prevention of the introduction of these diseases into Canada. Something has been done by the Government, but not enough. We may yet have to reckon our losses at millions of dollars annually. If so, we will have none to blame but our inefficient Board of Agriculture in this Province. If we are spared from such a calamity it will not be from the judicious acts of this Board.