

### Forty-fourth Annual Provincial Exhibition.

This exhibition will, in our estimation, be of the most importance to our Dominion, of any ever held on the continent, as agriculture is the support of all. The prizes given by the Provincial carry a prestige on this continent similar to those of the Royal of England, on the continent of Europe, and the best stock will compete for them. The absolute freedom of this section from stock diseases of any kind, being unequalled by any other part of the world, and the fact of it being held before the other shows should induce breeders to patronize it, as they will doubtless have opportunities of disposing of stock for other exhibitions both in the Dominion and the United States.

As the date draws near, the prospects brighten, and when we look over the tabulated statement, as given in our last issue, and see the steady growth of the exhibit, so far at least as London is concerned, we feel encouraged to hope that London will again outdo itself, and make it a grand success. In 1854 this show was held in London for the first time—it being the ninth year of its existence. The entries numbered 2,933, being considerably in excess of entries at any previous exhibition, with one exception.

In 1861 it was again held here, when the entries numbered 6,242, being again in excess of any previous exhibit, except one. In 1865 the entries at London were 7,221, almost a thousand more than ever before. In 1869 the entries numbered 7,649, more than a thousand above any previous year. In 1873 the increase was 706, total number being 8,420. The year 1877 gave 10,618. In 1881 there was a falling off of 1,766 entries, the total number being only 9,486. But it remained for London to excel all other efforts of any place in 1884, when the grand total of 11,662 entries was reached, which was 410 above the number made at any other place. These figures show that London is pre-eminently the best place for the Provincial. And why it is so, is not difficult to ascertain. Situated in the heart of one of the finest agricultural districts on the continent, plenty of absolutely pure water, good accommodation at reasonable rates, good railway facilities, and a convenient show ground that is in good shape in all weathers, all combine to render the exhibition a success, and as success has attended previous efforts, there are many reasons why the exhibition of this year should eclipse all previous ones. The new grounds at London are certainly magnificent, being clean, and at the same time nicely shaded by beautiful pines, and the buildings are new and commodious. In this section are many good stockmen.

Among the features of especial interest for the coming show, may be mentioned the Prince of Wales prize, which will be this year given to the best draught stallion of any age that will record in the Canadian Clydesdale, Canadian Shire, or Canadian Draught Horse books. No entries

taken unless recorded in one of these books. Also a special prize of \$40 by Clydesdale Association of Canada, for the best Clydesdale mare and one of her progeny, both to be the property of one exhibitor.

The special prize given by J. S. Pearce & Co. for the best general purpose flock of sheep of any breed, consisting of one yearling ram, one ram lamb, four yearling ewes, and four ewe lambs, should start a strong competition, and the award will be looked for with interest by all sheep breeders.

A special prize of a silver service, valued at \$65, is given by the FARMER'S ADVOCATE for the three cows giving greatest value in milk solids for food consumed. For the information of our readers, we desire to call attention to the true purpose and possible usefulness of this test as provided for by the conditions already published. No one test can demonstrate conclusively the superiority or inferiority of any one breed of cows. But a test like that proposed will give the special breeders a fair chance of bringing before the public, in an authoritative way, what the best animals of the several breeds can do in the way of showing a profit upon the food consumed.

The interest which this competition is exciting, and the discussion it is creating among farmers, promise that the results will be widely and carefully read. The representatives of the several special dairy breeds should let no feeling

its best interests at heart. It is with pleasure we hail the tendency to adopt the methods of the Royal, and we hope yet to see it reorganized and economically conducted as a purely agricultural exhibition, and solely in the interest of the agriculturist.

This exhibition has been the best agricultural educator in the Dominion; as an agricultural exhibition many Americans that have visited it have pronounced it superior to any held in the States. The Governor-General has been invited to open the Exhibition, and cheap excursions are being arranged for.

### Cheap Excursions Contemplated.

We are endeavoring to induce the railroad companies to run special cheap excursions from the Maritime and Eastern Provinces, Manitoba, Michigan and intermediate points, to London, Toronto and Hamilton, during the holding of the exhibitions. This will give farmers and others an opportunity of seeing this western country, and inspecting the greatest stock exhibit to be found on this continent. A few days spent among our exhibitions and in seeing this country, will be a profitable investment to farmers.

We have asked the mayors and corporations of Toronto, London and Hamilton to aid us in this matter, and have sent them the following letter:—

"GENTLEMEN,—For the benefit of Canada, the Canadian farmers, etc. etc. I am desirous of making arrangements for excursions from the Atlantic and Pacific coasts and intervening points at the time of the holding of exhibitions in Toronto and London. I wish time to be given to excursionists so that they may have an opportunity of seeing this the best part of the continent. Should you consider that such an undertaking would be of advantage to this city, would you kindly appoint some one with power to aid in bringing this plan into execution and appoint time and place of meeting."

London has already complied and appointed a deputation to act with the proprietor of this paper. We expect Toronto and Hamilton will do likewise.



44TH PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN LONDON SEPTEMBER 9 TO 14.

of unfriendly competition with other breeders hinder them from arranging with each other to have each breed represented by the very best animals that can be put in. It is within the reasonable probabilities that some special family of extra good milkers in the Dominion, not yet widely or well known, may be brought prominently before the public by means of this test. The rules are published in the prize lists, which may be had by sending a postal card to the Secretary, Mr. Henry Wade, Toronto, Ont. To encourage the Art Department of this exhibition, the FARMER'S ADVOCATE gives three special prizes—two of which are the largest given in the department. They are for the best original pencil drawings of Canadian Rural Scenery, with hope that some of our artists, yet unknown to fame, may compete successfully with those of more mature years, and select such subjects as may merit reproduction, and create a greater love for and admiration of rural pursuits.

A catalogue of the entries will be published for use at the exhibition. This will be of incalculable benefit to both exhibitor and visitor. It will enable the visitor to locate and learn the name of the owner of any animal on the ground, and he will carry away with him an advertisement of each exhibitor. We heartily commend the action of the Board in this matter, and hope to see the system adopted in other instances.

We have seen fit in some instances to criticize the Provincial, and often severely, but with

### Eye Grass and Quick Grass.

We have received several specimens of perennial Rye Grass from subscribers, and with it the question, is it Quick Grass? These two grasses closely resemble each other. It will be seen by the illustration, that No. 1, Perennial Rye Grass



has the edge of spikelet, which is naked next the stalk, and in No. 2, Quick Grass (*Triticum ripens*), the spikelet, which is armed with short beards, is converse, or the side to the stock. Rye Grass is not difficult to eradicate when desirable so to do, but many cultivate it. It yields a good crop on rich, moist soil, but is of little value on dry sand or gravelly soils.