

vegetable fibre—cotton rags of the fibre of cotton plants, linen rags of the fibre of flax. Straw, the leafy covering of the ears of grain, the stalk of the sugar-cane, and other substances, have been drawn upon, dispensing with the agency of the cotton-spinner in the manufacture of paper, and dealing in the first instance with the vegetable fibre, without subjecting it to the necessity of being woven, and torn, and worn out, and given to the rag-merchant. In America, by the application of some silent process of steam-digestion, the fibre of various forms of vegetation is at once rendered fit for the paper mill. Most of our colonies assess this fibrous vegetation in infinite quantities.

From the lessons to be learnt at the International Exhibition and the metropolitan annual of the Royal Agricultural Society next year, results may spring fraught with great profit, not only to Great Britain, but to many other countries; and the decennial stock-taking of our agricultural progress cannot fail to be satisfactory and creditable.

From the above, and similar remarks in other realms, it will be seen that the Colonies of the British Empire are making preparations for the coming exposition of the world's industry, and that Canada is expected to take her part in this great movement. References have been frequently made to the distinguished position which we won at these Exhibitions, first in London, in 1851, and then in Paris, in 1855; and the benefits that we derived therefrom must have been many and great. The eyes of the civilized world were upon us, and Canada, instead of being regarded as a vast region covered by the greater part of the year with ice and snow, was seen to possess agricultural and mineral resources, that really astonished the millions who witnessed the result. What, we ask, is now being done towards placing this Province in the proper position, in London, next Spring? As we hear of nothing being done in the matter by the public bodies, which, only, are capable of doing the work thoroughly and successfully. The Legislature was petitioned last session by the Board of Agriculture, and of Arts and Manufactures of both sections of the Province for pecuniary aid, in making the necessary preparations; but nothing was done. The Board of Agriculture of Canada have had the matter under consideration, and will no doubt do as much as their limited means will allow. But the Boards of Agriculture and Manufactures cannot move at all without special aid from government. The

articles that come within their province are more or less costly, and require considerable time and care to prepare. In nine short months the Exhibition will be opened, and we cannot, therefore, afford to lose a moment. The time that yet remains will be found too short to do justice to ourselves, unless the matter is taken up at once, and prosecuted with unflinching perseverance. To allow the approaching opportunity to pass unimproved, rather than expend a few thousand dollars in the needful preparations, will be regarded by the reflecting portion of the community as unwise economy. Canada is expected to take her place among the fraternity of nations in the metropolis of the empire, next May, and if, unfortunately, she should be absent, she will be called upon, from various quarters, to state "*the reason why.*" Such an occurrence in the recollection of former precedents would brand us in the eyes of the world with the mark of retrogradation.

Breeding Stock.

This subject is less understood by people in this country than is almost any other which falls under their observation. The breeding and rearing of stock, especially animals of high and pure blood, is, however, attracting increased attention from the scientific and enlightened agriculturist; and when the farmer succeeds in obtaining animals possessing the qualities sought for, it is not unfrequent that many are disappointed in the progeny of even the purest and most renowned pedigree. Even among the enlightened it is more than intimated that animals possessing really superior qualities owe their excellence mainly to the care bestowed upon them in regard to feed, &c. Hence arises the question, why comes this disappointment, and why such discrepancies of opinion? All are accustomed to rely upon *experience*, and many have *experienced* a grievous disappointment in not finding the young to resemble the sire of the dam, as the case may be, as closely as they had hoped; and, without being able to account for this fact in accordance with any laws known to them, and only knowing that *they* have failed of the expected improvement in their animals, they have naturally come to deny, or at least doubt, what others have promulgated, and hence have abandoned the enterprise which is thus checked by the influences of these failures. The English breeders seem to understand the *causes* of these failures, and, of course, how to avoid them. These *causes* are plainly indicated in the "*Veterinary Journal*," and it would be well if this information was more generally disseminated