

attendance was most meagre—less than 200. Even those who exhibited merely took their cheese there and left it, but were not to be seen. "It was the dullest place I ever was at. I walked about the first day and could not see the cheese or any one to talk to. There was no cheese judged, because the officers of the Association took the two American judges for a drive through the country and did not return till the evening." The following morning the building was closed; until two o'clock in the afternoon none could go in except the judges. After the doors were opened there was not time allowed to enable the public to compare the cheese, as it was soon boxed up, just as if comparison was avoided. One good judge of cheese who was there informed us that one parcel that he examined and considered should have had a prize, was superseded by one of less merit. Nearly all the first prizes went north and around Stratford. The few that attended were nearly mad enough to kill the President of the Association. Some say he has been doing his utmost to curry favor with Americans for private or other purposes, and that the interest of Canadian dairymen has been entirely overlooked, and it is the last dairy exhibit they will attend unless it is placed under different management. Even the dairy interest, great as it may be, is not of sufficient interest to draw a crowd for two days to look at a lot of cheese shut up in boxes. When the dairy exhibit was held in connection with the agricultural exhibition at Ingersoll, it was a grand success, but this has been killed. The people of Woodstock are vexed. They expected a great crowd, and made preparations for it. Even a great dinner was prepared, but only about twenty-five attended. This is the result of attempting to trample on the dairymen. Why would not the best Norwich factorymen exhibit? What does it signify if prizes are given if the best do not compete for them? People that purchase cheese carrying off the first prize at this exhibition, must console themselves that they are only consuming the second quality of cheese made in Canada, because the best factorymen would not exhibit, and the best cheese are now lying on the shelves of their factories. In some classes there were not entries sufficient to compete for the prizes offered. The butter exhibit was a most pitiable display, only a very few parcels to be seen, not so many as at a Township Exhibition. The dairymen of Western Ontario as a body care nothing for the Exhibition, and when of interest to less than fifty people what can be the benefit of such an exhibition? The indignation expressed is worse than we dare publish. Why has this exhibition been such a total failure? Has there been any good result from it? Why has this been separated from the Provincial Exhibition, or from the Ingersoll Exhibition? Has the Government grant been expended for the dairy interest? Was fair play shown to the dairymen of Ingersoll? at the annual convention at Woodstock? Will the Government continue the grant to the dairymen unless better use is made of it? What steps would be best to take to secure a more beneficial result from the money granted to encourage the dairy interest? Has not this grant of money been expended intentionally for the injury of the Provincial Exhibition, and has not the principal mover in this expenditure been a member of the Provincial Board? Can a house divided against itself stand? We will give our monthly prize of \$5 for the best essay on the following subject: "For the best lot of suggestions for the improvement and the advantages to be derived from moneys granted by Government for the dairy interest and agricultural advancement."

#### Delaware Township Exhibition.

We had only time to attend at one township exhibition this year; that was at Delaware, twelve miles from London. This is the smallest township in the county, and the village is at one corner of it. Indians own nearly half the township and each township around it has a separate exhibition. Notwithstanding these and many other disadvantages, nearly the whole township assembled. The ladies and children were here in ten times the proportion they were to be seen at either of the Provincial or the Industrial Exhibitions. All appeared so happy and pleased, and the interest that was manifestly taken in examining the different exhibits we never saw excelled. There was no horse-racing, baby show, or other outside attraction countenanced by the Association. It was purely an agricultural exhibition. The number of entries was nearly double what it was last year, and the display of stock, roots and ladies' work had never been so varied and complete. The day was fine, the prizes and honors were distributed in a fair and impartial manner, a general satisfaction prevailed, and all, so far as we were able to ascertain, were desirous of its continuance and wished for its maintenance.

#### The Provincial Exhibition.

SIR,—I was surprised to see that no notice had been taken in your paper of the suggestions made by the Hon. E. Blake and Thos. White, M. P., at the dinner held in connection with the Montreal Exhibition. As you profess to be the champion advocate of the farmers' interest, I certainly expected that any remarks or suggestions upon agriculture by such an eminent man as Mr. Blake, would not have passed unnoticed.

At the Citizen's Dinner in connection with the Montreal Exhibition, the Hon. E. Blake suggested that a triennial show may be made a more worthy exhibition of the resources and progress of a Province than an annual one. Mr. Thos. White suggested that there should be one great show in Montreal one year, in Toronto the next, and in the Maritime Provinces the next; and he believed the whole Dominion would be better served than it could be under the present system.

I have no doubt that such was their opinion. I scarcely think that either of the gentlemen have ever studied the details in connection with an exhibition, or the expense attached thereto. I must say I think their ideas in this particular instance are impracticable. We have in our immediate neighborhood manufacturers of implements, machinery and fabrics, breeders of cattle, horses and sheep; we have the finest grain-growing country on the continent, but to send samples of the above and many others, say to Halifax and return, would entail an expense so large that few would venture on the experiment. The expense of sending goods to Montreal is a serious tax, indulged in only by a very limited number. There would be another strong objection to western manufacturers and others sending their goods very long distances to an exhibition, which is, that they would have to neglect such exhibitions as the Western Fair, at which fairs they annually receive a large amount of orders. It is to be regretted that the Dominion Exhibition, held in Montreal, was a failure. The same may be said of several other places. It appears from what I can learn that the only two exhibitions held this fall that were financially a success were the Western Fair in London, and the Industrial Exhibition in Toronto. If the other exhibitions, including the almost effete Provincial, would imitate the spirited example of the directors of the two successful exhibitions, there would be no need to bolster them up with a triennial exhibition.

W. Y. B., London, Ont.

[We look on this as one of the means devised to annihilate the Provincial Exhibition of Ontario. (Dominion Exhibitions that have been held hitherto were not successful. They failed to attract farmers; hardly any attended from Ontario.) We believe a Dominion Exhibition might advantageously be held if it were conducted properly; but as to this proposition, we do not think that the Ontario farmers would desire their funds expended in such a manner, and surely if there is to be a Dominion

Exhibition, why should not the North-west have an opportunity to participate, as well as the Maritime Provinces or Quebec? We feel satisfied that the farmers at Ottawa and Halifax will not receive any more instruction from a Dominion Exhibition at those places than from a Township or District show, whilst our stockmen and manufacturers who draw the attendance of farmers would reap more profit by exhibiting in Winnipeg than they did when exhibiting at the Dominion Exhibition in Ottawa. Because the Provincial Exhibition at Kingston this year, through stress of weather, was financially a failure, is that sufficient reason for abolishing it? The leading agricultural exhibition of the world, viz., the Royal of England, was held this year under similarly adverse circumstances, and although held in a populous district and in a neighborhood where a large attendance under any circumstances might reasonably have been expected, the people did not attend because of the wet weather. No matter how great the attraction, people will not turn out if the weather is unfavorable. The Royal Society lost many thousands of pounds, yet we do not hear of any attempt being made to abandon their annual meeting. We cannot do better than follow their example, and not be discouraged. Remove the existing evils in the management, and with favorable weather, our Provincial Fair could be made as successful as any fair held in the Dominion.

We regret that our space did not permit us taking notice of all things that we considered worthy of mention in connection with the fairs; for the same reasons we are unable to give descriptions of the Guelph and other fairs. We should like to have described the well-arranged Manitoba exhibit which was so instructive and interesting; also the dairy exhibit at Kingston, with its appliances for testing the milk of the various breeds of cows, and from which we gained more information upon dairy matters than at any exhibition that we ever attended. And the meeting of the Board, at which there were representatives from Ottawa and Guelph, when it was decided to hold a Provincial Exhibition next year. We presume the reason why Hamilton did not send a representative was the alteration of the Act, and she did not wish to be shown the cold shoulder for years, the same as Kingston.]

#### Judging Horses.

When attending one of our most successful exhibitions during this autumn, a practical farmer made the remark that we should try to make the directors appoint good judges on the heavy draft class of horses, as it is discouraging to breeders to have inferior animals given prizes to the rejection of better ones. We replied that we presumed the directors appointed the best they could get, and asked him to suggest a way for improvement. He replied: "Let judges be appointed from those who have had experience—men who have expended money in importing or breeding; they have learned more of what the value and merits of a horse are than those who have never invested money in them." The hint we thought an excellent one, such as might be of value to directors of agricultural societies.

#### Farmers' Clubs.

The Secretaries of Farmers' Clubs will confer a favor on us by forwarding the dates of their meetings, also reports of the subjects discussed.

Perhaps some of our readers who have used sulky plows will send us their experience.