

The Fall Exhibitions.

The busy bustling time of the Fall Exhibitions is nearly over for this year, and we can assure you we are glad of it, as there is such a thing as excess of pleasure. We could not attend to all if we were ever so anxious; neither could we pay as much attention to our many friends as we should like to do. We attended the long, three-week's exhibition at Toronto a portion of each week. We also visited the Guelph and London Exhibitions. In London we met several of the members of the English Commission, who are now on this Continent examining our country; also Mr. Moore, the editor of the *Irish Farmer*, published in Dublin; and Mr. J. G. Ramsay, the Honorary Commissioner from South Australia. The two last-named gentlemen expressed themselves highly pleased with the exhibit at the Western Fair. They were quite astonished at seeing such a display, and were both most favorably impressed with Western Ontario.

It would not be practicable for us to publish the whole lists of the numerous excellent exhibitions held this year. As each have exhibits of a superior quality, we compiled our prize list from different exhibitions. There are undoubtedly some omissions or commissions in every paper published. We have not been able to devote as much attention to this number as we could wish. Now the long winter evenings are set in, the busy season is passed, and exhibitions closed, we must devote our attention to the lessons taught by them. All who have attended any exhibition should have learned something. Perfection in the management in all departments is not, or perhaps never will be attained, excellent as exhibitions have been, and however much we have each striven to aid and improve them. Most of us see some particular way in which we think more good may be done. Many will grumble or complain. Some, for trivial causes, will slacken their interest and exertions because they cannot have everything as they wish. A person that exhibits and does not gain a prize is deserving of the thanks and good will of the community far more than that sordid, tight-fisted individual who has a large tract of land, and never comes to the exhibition to profit from the labors, cares, and researches of his neighbors. It is our impression that our Legislators now see that the existing laws governing our agricultural affairs must be remodelled. They now see that their recent Act is not working satisfactorily. We well know there is a desire on the part of many Legislators to act fairly and justly to the farmer, and that the party that acts most in accordance with the wishes of the farmer must be in a majority when subjects are fairly and impartially looked into. We know there are some who wish to curtail the power of the township exhibitions. There are others who wish the county exhibitions amalgamated. Then those wish the influence of the union and county exhibitions curtailed, so as to strengthen the influence and power of the Provincial Exhibition. The following will be a good heading for this winter's discussion: — "THE FUTURE MANAGEMENT OF OUR AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITIONS."

We want to give fair play to this question as well as to all others. We merely lay the question before you now, and request any to express their opinions under the above heading. Communications should be in the office by the 20th of each month, but as this issue is late, we will extend the time for this month until the 25th.

At the International Agricultural show held not long since at Kilburn, Eng., it was considered a remarkable thing that while there were no dairy exhibits from the United States, Canada was represented by a cheese a ton in weight made by Mr. Morton, of Kingston, Ont.

Stock Diseases.

In Toronto we met the Hon. W. G. LeDuc, Commissioner of Agriculture for the United States. We are in receipt of several of the Commissioner's reports from Washington. They embrace a fund of useful information on various subjects pertaining to agriculture, stock, etc., for which we return our thanks. Among a few questions sent us in one of the publications is the following:—

"I will be pleased to have the results of any experiments you may have had in the prevention, treatment, or cure of infectious and contagious diseases of swine and other classes of farm animals, and the extent to which such diseases prevail in your locality."

"WM. G. LEDUC, Commissioner."

In reply, we have never yet seen an animal affected with pleuro-pneumonia, nor heard of one in this Dominion. The hog cholera was introduced into Canada two or three times, but we are pleased to state we have only seen one lot of hogs suffering from this disease. There have been five or six head affected in Canada. At the present time we do not know that a single case could be found. The foot and mouth disease has also been introduced among us, but we are pleased to state that we have not heard of a single case of this disease existing here for more than a year. Trichina we have never heard of as having yet been introduced. We furnished immediate information to our Government as soon as we saw the first case of foot and mouth disease, also in the first case of hog cholera. The authorities, either wisely or unwisely, took no steps to prevent its spread, but endeavored to prevent the facts becoming known. Fortunately we hope and believe we are now free from either of the above-named diseases. We have heard of a few cases of glanders. Should any case of that disease again appear, we believe our authorities are now prepared to take immediate steps to destroy any animal affected by it.

The Provincial Exhibition.

Farcially cited the "Dominion Exhibition," has been a grand financial failure, despite the flattering accounts published about its great success, and the consequent attendance (see papers.) This journal has predicted a failure, and ruin to the Provincial Association from the time it was first held in Ottawa, if it was again attempted. We attended it four years ago, when it was first held there. We have cautioned the public, and even informed the Hon. A. Mowat personally that there was danger; that the funds were not safe. We have even foretold the total collapse of this body. Four years ago, when one member of the press only was in the board room, a motion was carried that strangers be cleared from the room. The only stranger (the writer) left, because no one had the honor to say one word for the press. We never have entered the door of the Association since, and never will again until some of the old members either resign or are removed. The published receipts indicate how far from correct the guesses as to attendance were. The gate-money amounts to about \$9,000; this the Board palms off on the credulous farmers for the receipts of a Dominion Exhibition! Is not this a pretty exhibit for a Dominion Exhibition! The extravagant or wasteful expenditures of this Board have been increasing at the rate of about \$3,000 per annum; perhaps the attempt may be made to keep this Board together under some other guise, such as the "Dominion Exhibition."

The facts are apparent to us, and they have been publicly stated, that there is something wrong. Some of the honorable members that are on the Board have had spirit enough to disagree with some of the iniquitous acts of the Board.

The honorable members should insist on a rigid and close inspection of all the affairs of this Board for the past fourteen years. Only a partial examination was made some years ago. The country will, no doubt, be called on to vote more money to aid this Association in its various iniquitous undertakings, to help them again.

Farmers, caution your member, and if he votes for a grant of money to be expended against your interest, reject him at the next election.

The receipts of this Board from tickets sold, exhibitors' fees, and booth rents, together with the Government grant, amounted to \$39,000. We hear there were receipts that were not even entered in this. For instance, at these Provincial Exhibitions we have heard of untold amounts of money having been stolen; also that at times the turnstiles, checks, and tallies have been abandoned.

Who stole the money? or who is responsible for the abandonment of the checks? The Board have been very careful to keep this from the public. Why do they not defend themselves from these imputations that are constantly thrown out against them.

Manitoba made a very interesting display of roots and vegetables at the Ottawa Exhibition. From what we observed when in Manitoba we believe they can excel the farmers of the Eastern provinces in many kinds of vegetables. The exhibit was very fine in this department. The grasses were very good and drew forth the praise and admiration of all. The soil exhibited we think could not be excelled. The wheat is of excellent milling qualities, the oats good and barley fair; the peas were much better than we expected to see. The Manitoba cart pleased all observers, and the Indian bead work, canoe, stuffed birds and skins made quite a miniature museum.

At the annual meeting of the Provincial Association, at which the delegates attend, the President delivered a long and well-prepared address, in which, when alluding to the independent exhibitions of Toronto, Hamilton, Guelph and London, he said: "It is questionable whether this state of things should be allowed to continue, and whether legislative action should not be resorted to by which judicial arrangements should be made for the proper control of these rival shows, so as not to impair the great usefulness and Provincial celebrity of this Association." (See report).

Rev. Dr. Burnett proposed a vote of thanks to the President for his address; Mr. Brown seconded it. Carried.

Not a voice was raised against this clause, therefore it goes before the world with the sanction of the whole Board and the silent consent of the delegates. It is our impression that this clause must have been suggested to the President by some of his co-officials, as we really think that Mr. Willmot wishes for the welfare of the farmer. These annual addresses are generally cut and dried before being delivered. There are other clauses that might be criticized, but this attempt to commend to our Legislature to enact a law to trample out of existence these excellent and in most cases better managed Exhibitions deserves, we think, a severe censure from those that have so ably supported these City Exhibitions—namely, the farmers. There has been far too great an attempt made to make agricultural progress subservient to political purposes. We hope some of our readers may express their views on this subject.

It is curious that in all the enterprise witnessed in the breeding of the various classes of horses, that really fine carriage horses command a higher price, relatively, than any other. They are always scarce, and for the reason, as we believe, that the average farm horse is undersized. Carriage horses are produced by crossing staunch thorough-breds upon large, handsome, roomy mares. There is money in this class of horses.