

The Late Provincial Exhibition.

We live in an age of great progress! We find in all mechanical branches, wonderful improvements. Science and Arts are doing much for our advantage. Agriculture is also improving, but not at the rapid rate that some other branches of our commonwealth are doing. One great drawback is that farmers are not so much united as other classes. They are not rulers, but the ruled, the led, or the driven. This great exhibition, successful as it has been pronounced and has been in regard to the number of tickets sold, and it may be in the good that it is intended for, has made no improvement in its management and progress in all branches over which it has any power; the same prizes are given, with very slight alterations to what they were years ago. The stock department has been well encouraged with large prizes, but in no class can we point to any marked improvement from the stock exhibited here four years ago. On the whole, we consider the exhibition of stock rather on the wane in regard to quality, than on the improvement side. Perhaps more and better might have been here, had the time of entry been known soon enough.

In all classes there were fine animals to be seen, but no particular animal that we could see to surpass what we have previously seen at our exhibitions.

The mechanical department was well represented, and the most important article in that line was Carter's Ditching Machine. Draining is of importance to the country; anything tending to cheapen and facilitate that expensive operation should be greatly encouraged. We believe that Mr. Carter has expended four years of hard labor in perfecting this machine, and as it now stands it has cost him \$4000. We tried to induce the Board to grant a special Board prize to it as mine was offered for it, and we considered it of more importance that the objects to which \$30, \$60 or \$100 prizes were awarded; but it is difficult to move a cogged wheel out of an old track, and the cogs here have run too well in one another for years passed.

The grain on exhibition was good, but not so many entries as we should liked to have seen. The fruits were good, flowers not as good as usual; the roots and vegetables were the best we have seen.

The ladies, or some of them, had undoubtedly been very busy as their neat and beautiful work in wax, wool, worsted, beads, &c., fully testified; but in painting and drawing there was but a sorry show.

Mr. Wilmot may have done some good by introducing the artificial breeding of fish, but we cannot see why a strong party editor should call our particular attention to it, and wish us to show the farmers the great profit they might realize by cultivating fish

in their creeks and ponds. It may be true, but our attention is directed to the cultivation of the soil and the introduction of good seed. We consider that of far more importance to us in Ontario, than fish spawn, and if that editor and all the party that support him, would call more particular attention to the introduction, testing and giving correct information about varieties of seed that are most proof against the attacks midge, rust, pea bug, rot, mildew, &c., they would be doing a greater service to the country. By the by, we were so fully engaged that we were unable to scarcely look at a hen coop as we deemed machinery, stock and seed of greater importance. But on one occasion when in conversation with the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, he informed us that he had been waited on with a request to aid the Poultry Association. There may, perhaps be more important things that tend to increase our export receipts at a greater rate, that are not so much attended to as the poultry business; not that poultry should be neglected but we think the cereals of our country have been most neglected, and are of the most importance.

In the stove department we noticed an improvement. Mr. Jones, of Markham, had on exhibition, a strong, substantial stove, with doors to draw up on either side so that the blaze can be seen as well as felt. They are the best design we have seen for School-rooms or dining halls. At no exhibition that we ever attended did we hear such loud complaints about the decisions given by some of the judges, in fact we are fully satisfied that there is some wire pullers still about that association, or the servants belonging to it that ought to have the placards pasted on their backs that we saw pasted on some articles exhibited, that is, "Ruled out," and could point our finger at a few such individuals. We have no complaints to make this year on our own stock not getting fair play, as we did not exhibit an animal. The greatest attraction to this exhibition was the presence of Prince Arthur. He was an invited guest of the Association, and it cost them a pretty round sum; but the receipts at the gate may have repaid them. We cannot look on the charges made by one of the Aldermen for the use of his house and sundries for the Prince's reception, as being reasonable. The sum of \$2500 to one man is a large bill to pay, especially as this has to be paid by the farmers of the country, and hundreds and thousands of our poor farmers in the North-Eastern part of Ontario, can barely exist; and one highly intelligent farmer writes that he wishes to continue our paper, but poverty compels him to abandon it. Another sends us 25c. for as many good kinds of grain as we can send him, as he can get no more money; yet they have to be taxed for all this expenditure.

THE IMPROVED BERKSHIRE HOGS.

We have tried the Essex, the Berkshire, the Suffolk and the Chester Hogs, and crosses of different kinds, and have found no other to surpass our requirement for good, thriving, quiet, easily fattening, than the Improved Berkshire. My sons on the farm now have as fine a lot young ones of pure breed, from 10 weeks to three months old, as can be found in the country. Their prices are from \$10 to \$20 each, and any enterprising farmer may make a good return from them by introducing them into their sections. John Kennedy, of Hyde Park, realized \$130 from sows taken to one that he procured from us last fall. It has improved the hogs around his section and he sold four pigs from him for \$35. Now is time to ship them before the weather gets too cold and the roads too bad.

OUR PROGRESS.

We made but two entries at the Provincial Exhibition. One was of our large painting to bring into notice our Agricultural Emporium plan, the other was the result of our trial of seeds. We exhibited twenty-three varieties of Fall wheat as sown last year, and showed the samples raised from sixteen of them. His Excellency the Governor General stopped to examine them. We were introduced to him and explained briefly our undertaking, and our desire to continue our testing and dissemination of seed. He said that it should be continued. Sir John A. McDonald, our prime minister, also looked at our samples and said the Hon. Jno. Carling should attend to it. The judges on Seeds and Roots recommended that a prize should be awarded to us for our samples of seeds and roots. The Agricultural Board passed the following resolution unanimously.

Copy of Report of Judges on Mr. Weld's samples of Grains, Seeds, and roots at the London Exhibition, 1869.

"We recommend William Weld a prize for his samples of different kinds of grain, and seeds and potatoes."

RESOLVED.—That the exertions made by Mr. Weld in improving and testing various kinds of Farm Cereals, and in diffusing a knowledge thereof through the medium of the Press are deserving the encouragement and support of the farmers of this Province, and that this council will give to the object of improving and testing seed, its best consideration.

Certified,
HUGH C. THOMPSON,
Secretary.

Office Agl. Association, Toronto, Sept 30, 1869.

CLUSTER OF CORN EARS.—A singular natural curiosity in the shape of an ear of corn, has been presented to the editor of the Paducah Herald. There is a centre cob, around which are clustered and interlaced sixty-two distinct ears of corn, each regularly grained. It is about five inches in length by about the same in diameter. It grew on the farm of B. A. Johnson, near Viola Station, in Graves county. On the stalk on which it grew there is another ear, or combination of ears, equal to this in number, making, as the product of one stalk, one hundred and twenty four ears.