

the most rational mode of managing young orchards. To prevent grass and weeds from growing about the young trees, which are sure to form a harbour for mice and other vermin, the ground should be carefully stirred around, a distance of three feet from the tree, with a spade, and this plan should be strictly followed every summer, until they become large, and able to withstand the attacks of mice and other casualties.

We should have remarked that, in planting the trees, great care should be observed in packing the finely pulverised soil about the roots, which should be raised a few inches above the common level of the ground, in a conical position, so that the heavy autumn rains would not settle under the roots of the trees, which would form cakes of ice and increase the risk of loss.

The difference in price between warranted or approved cultivated varieties of fruit and the natural sorts is so trifling, that no one, we trust, would be guilty of purchasing natural fruit. Fruit, of every description, at all times, commands remunerative prices in the Canadian markets, and we hope our readers will look to their own interests, sufficient at least to provide themselves with a good orchard.

## NEWMARKET AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

The Cattle Show and Fair of the Fourth Riding Agricultural Society, took place on the 5th of October, and was the best exhibition ever held in that part of the country. We were delighted in noticing that a strong determination existed in the breasts of the best farmers in the riding, in henceforward exerting their utmost ability and influence, in extending their field of usefulness.

The plan which they have in contemplation, is one which we most highly approve, and which, we trust will be acted upon by every agricultural association in the province. It would be premature to enter into the detail of their proposed mode of operation, and we would merely mention, for the present, that the leading features of it are, the discussion of agricultural topics,—the circulation of agricultural information,—and the encouragement to be given to the cultivation of new plants. They have our best wishes for the success of their movements, and our columns shall be thrown open for all the useful information that the intelligent and enterprising husbandmen of the fourth riding may bring before the public, in their monthly discussions and through the periodical reports, which they anticipate publishing.

Much of the stock on the ground was worthy of praise. A cow, owned by Colonel Carthew, possessed some of the finest points, and, on the whole, was the prettiest animal we ever saw. She bore a resemblance of a cross of the improved Durham and Devonshire breed. A four years' old bull owned by Mr. Thomas Cosford, and a two years' old heifer, owned by Mr. Thomas Mairs, of Vespra, both of which were bred by the latter gentleman, would have even done credit to the exhibition lately held at Rochester, by the New York State Agricultural Society. The pens of long woolled sheep could scarcely be surpassed, in point of mutton, in America, but the quality of the wool was in many instances very defective. There were a few very honourable exceptions, however, two of which we would mention: Mr. George Simpson, who is well known in almost every portion of Western Canada, as being a most successful breeder of improved Leicester Sheep, exhibited a ram, which came the nearest to the description given, on another page of this number, under "Sheep Husbandry," of any sheep that has come under our notice, and the wool was as fine as the wool of the South Down. A South Down ram, owned by the hon. Amelius Irving, president of the institution, was also worthy of high commendation. A cross of the South

Downs and pure Leicesters, will, no doubt, be highly prized by all who adopt this mode of improving their sheep.

The pigs were principally of the best description—being improved Durhams, Berkshire, and Grade-Berkshire. A sow, owned by Mr. George Playter, of the improved Durham breed, was a handsome large animal, and, from the description that that gentleman gave us of his success of feeding swine, we would conclude that the breed in question could not be surpassed in the country. He informed us that he slaughtered, last autumn, three pigs, being only eight months old, which weighed, each, 266 lbs., net weight. Messrs. Millers, of the tenth concession of Markham, imported, direct from England, the breed from whom Mr. Playter purchased his original stock.

A communication was received from their worthy president, who was unavoidably absent, at Kingston, and read to the society, after the cloth being removed, in which he expressed much regret in not being able to fill his official chair, and gave powerful evidence that he took a deep interest in the prosperity of the society, and the cause of Canadian agriculture in general. The communication appeared to give general satisfaction to the gentlemen present, and showed most conclusively, that they felt proud in having the honour of the honourable gentleman's service and influence being exerted so powerfully in behalf of their society, as certain clauses of his letter evidently indicated.

## LLOYD'S IMPROVED CANADIAN PLOUGH

The proprietor of the above plough has lately made considerable improvements in the mould board and bridle of his justly admired implement, and we now feel warranted in recommending it to the notice of all admirers of good ploughing. Farmers who have been in the habit of using the common patent plough, would scarcely credit the advantage they would derive from the introduction of the plough in question.—Price £3 5s.

**FARMERS CABINET.**—The two first numbers of the 8th volume of this admirable magazine is now before us, and we rank it among the leading agricultural journals of our neighbouring Republic. *The Cabinet* contains 32 pages on a sheet a trifle larger than our own, and is afforded to subscribers for one dollar a year, exclusive of postage.

To the Editor of *The British American Cultivator*.

SIR,—No candid individual, I think, upon enquiry, will refuse to acknowledge that the position which the farmers of Canada have hitherto occupied, in relation to the mercantile classes of the Province, has been very unfair, as respects fiscal regulations. And although the import duties have lately been considerably modified, yet a glance at them will show that they are not yet made to affect the great interests of the Province in an equal manner.

Furniture, castings, earthenware, machinery (if not hardware), medicines, leather, salt, and tinware are subject to an import duty of 9 per cent. Cotton, linen, and wool manufactures, hardware, harness, and books, 12 per cent., glassware 20 per cent. I have selected the above articles as being those that are of most consequence to the farmer; but there is not a single article that he may require upon which an import duty is not charged varying from 5 to 20 per cent. Now, how are the productions of the farmer's industry affected by import duties? Up to the present period they were, without the exception of a single article worth mentioning, admissible into the Province without the slightest restriction. A duty of 4d. sterling, per bushel, is shortly to be levied on wheat; but every other important article of agricultural produce can be imported free of duty. All that the farmer, or any other member of the industrial community, has a right to ask

is *fair play*; and upon this ground the farmer may, with perfect propriety, demand an equalization of the duties on importation. Whether they are levied for revenue, or for "protection to native industry," or for both, justice requires a fair distribution of them. The produce of the Canadian farmer is placed in open competition with American produce in the markets of the Province. And, in order that he may bear up with this competition, he is obliged to use every means to facilitate his farming operations, in order to reduce the cost of production; and in furtherance of this view, it is necessary that his implements should be of the best construction. He knows that those implements are to be had of a better description, and at a much lower price, on the American side, than he can get them here, but in introducing them he is met by a duty of 12 per cent., while, perhaps, the Canadian manufacturer of such implements finds his own workmen with provisions (as is often the case), and is in the habit of obtaining his supply of such provisions direct from Cleveland or elsewhere, without paying any duty whatever. This is but one instance out of many that might be adduced to show with what partiality these restrictive duties are imposed. One is constrained to think that the agricultural interest has been powerless in Canada, and that the farmers (as a Correspondent in your July number observes) have been too prone to choose for their parliamentary representatives men whose pursuits are wide apart from agriculture, and who have never had its welfare at heart. Meantime Free Trade agitation moves a pace in England, and appearances denote that the preference which our raw produce meets with at present in the markets of the mother country, will soon be extinguished. And, anticipating such a consummation to have arrived, can it be supposed that we will quietly submit to a monopoly of British manufactures in Canada? Such a supposition is inconsistent with the avowed fundamental principle of Free Trade, that of "equal privileges." The probability is, that we shall purchase chiefly the manufactures of Britain, because we can get them cheaper than elsewhere; but here we must exercise our discretion, for since we shall experience no partiality in her markets, she must stand in the same relation to ours. We shall have to search for the dearest market in which to sell, and the political economist would tell us to inquire for the cheapest wherewith to buy.

WILLIAM ELLIOT.

London, Canada West,  
Sept. 2, 1813.

## NEW GRAIN FORK.

At a farm near Buffalo we saw a new grain-fork, the best adapted for pitching sheaves of grain, of any thing of the kind we ever before noticed.

Its construction is perfectly simple, and it can be made by any skilful blacksmith accustomed to forge pitchforks. It consists of two tines, nine inches long, which are spread two inches at the shank, and two and a half at the ends. The shank has a sudden curve at the end, of about two inches, so as to bring the points of the fork nearly in a line with the direction of the handle and shank. The naked part of the shank is eight inches long, one inch wide, by one-third of an inch thick, and enters the handle, which has a ferule on the end five inches, secured to the shank by a strong rivet. The tines and shank are made of the best of German steel, and possesses great elasticity, which very much lessens the labour of pitching. The handle may be of any desired length, but should possess as much elasticity as possible. Mr. A. Raynor informed us, he could easily throw a sheaf over his barn from the load, and that he never picked so easily with any instrument as this. The sheaf leaves the tines with an elastic spring, and the fork, at the same time, utters a musical sound, like the tuning fork, when struck, of a music master.—*Am. Agriculturist*.