

plish a large amount of good. If, as often represented, these exhibitions are Educational in their influence, then we have had four great colleges temporarily set up in various parts of our noble province, whose yeomanry by thousands have been receiving instruction, stimulus and help in the onward march of improvement.

It is thought by many that the success of the local fairs, appears to point to the substitution of a Dominion Exhibition for the Provincial one, and the holding of it once in two, three, or four years instead of annually. While heartily wishing success to every local fair, and while quite alive to the mismanagement of things in connection with the Provincial Association, we confess to a strong reluctance that it should be given up. Could not the local fairs take turns in being Provincial as well as local? It would swell them now and again into greater proportions and greatly augment their usefulness. Whatever is done, we hope there will be an end of pitting one part of the Province against another in unseemly rivalry. Let all our competitions be friendly, and in a spirit of kindly emulation, let each section try to outdo the rest in the general excellence of its farming, the progress of all useful industries, and the cultivation of a broad, unsectional disinterested patriotism. Then shall year by year witness our growth, progress, and prosperity in all that makes a people truly great.

THE CHICAGO FIRE.

This great disaster is *the* event of the month, if not of the year that is passing over us. It is in every one's mind and mouth, astonishing and thrilling all who read or hear of it, beggaring description, and well-nigh baffling imagination. We have yet to get the full history of it,—yet to learn to believe that a destruction so wholesale and terrific has really taken place.

Our first sight of the now consumed City, was in 1854. It was then almost a quarter of a century old, having been laid out in 1830, and lots first sold in 1831. The population at that time was 55,000. The place was a heterogeneous collection of buildings of all sorts and sizes, the streets were of various grades, compelling the pedestrian to be constantly going up and down steps, and there was very little of beauty architectural or otherwise to be seen at that early day. We have noticed the wondrous growth of Chicago with much interest, having visited it almost annually since our first sight of it. When there rather more than a year ago, we gazed with mingled wonder and admiration on the many magnificent edifices, business blocks, private dwelling, public buildings, churches, bridges, &c.,

The population had increased six fold in sixteen years, and the improvement made in and about the city seemed little short of magical or miraculous. It seems hardly possible that now for one and a half miles by four, it should be a heap of ashes. It is a destruction so vast that the mind refuses to take in and grasp the conception of it.

And this great calamity has not been without loss of life. It is estimated that not fewer than five hundred persons must have perished in the flames.

Taking into account the pecuniary loss, destitution and bereavement, what a call for benevolent sympathy is here; nor has the call been heard in vain. From all parts of the United States, from the leading cities and towns of Canada, and from the great Commercial centres of the old world, streams of kindly aid are flowing toward the sufferers. Immediate want has been relieved, and measures are already being taken to re-build. From the hopefulness and energy that are being thrown into the retrieval of what has been lost, there seems reason to believe that another and a better Chicago will Phoenix-like arise out of the ashes that yet smoke and burn, so that in the end what seems to be so dire a calamity may prove to have been fraught with good. This fall-back will teach prudence, fore-thought, fellow feeling, the power of indomitable will, and let us hope dependance on Almighty God, and trust in him.

THE ONTARIO BEE-KEEPERS' ASSOCIATION

As one of the minor evils of the Western Fair being held simultaneously with the Provincial Exhibition, that comparatively small number of persons who take an interest in the Bee-Keepers Association was divided into two sections. The one which found itself at Kingston was in no position to do business, for although the President was on hand, there was neither Secretary nor minute-book, and the entire muster of members hardly sufficient for a corporal's guard. It was therefore deemed best to adjourn, subject to the call of the President, which was accordingly done. A general wish was expressed by those present that a winter meeting should be called at some convenient time after the joint meeting of the two American Associations, and if our Western friends take this view of the matter, the experiment of a winter meeting will be tried.

The section of the Association which met at London during the Western Fair, held one or more meetings, and engaged in a number of topics connected with bee-keeping. We have received from Mr. Attwood, the Secretary, a report of their proceedings which we gladly insert as follows: