

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
Board of Arts and Manufactures
FOR UPPER CANADA.

DECEMBER, 1865.

THE "JOSEPH HALL" AGRICULTURAL AND
STEAM ENGINE WORKS, OSHAWA, C. W.

In our account of the Exhibition of the Provincial Agricultural Association at London, in September last, we had occasion to commend, generally, the home workmanship, and practical excellence of the agricultural implements and machinery, showing, as we then said, that Canada "*needed no foreign aid*" in these branches of industry and progress.

Since then we have had the opportunity of inspecting the large machinery works carried on at Oshawa—originally established by a manufacturing "company," which not having succeeded, for want perhaps of experience, were taken hold of by Messrs. Joseph Hall & Co., then largely concerned in a similar enterprise at Rochester,—but Mr. Joseph Hall, the original founder of the present company at Oshawa, being dead, the business is ably and actively continued by Mr. F. W. Glen, manager, for the benefit of the estate; and in support of our assertion, that Canada has only to encourage her own home manufactures to ensure a full supply of reliable machines and implements, we shall proceed to describe, and comment upon what came under our observation.

But, before doing so, it will not be out of place to devote a few lines to a brief notice of Oshawa, which is a thriving "village," some thirty-three miles on the main road east from Toronto, and having a station on the Grand Trunk, inconveniently distant a mile and a half. The population, by the census of 1861, was about 2,000 or perhaps somewhat more, and at present it is estimated at "about" 3,000, say rather less than more. Rejoicing in municipal privileges, it has a reeve and council, with the attendant blessing of taxes, which seem to be expended with praiseworthy discretion, as the streets are not bad, and the sidewalks tolerable. The whole assessment is \$35,000, and the rate 17 cents in the dollar, which includes the school rate. In addition to the "Joseph Hall" there are two other manufacturing establishments, namely, Whiting's hoe and scythe works, and a large cabinet-ware factory. There are nine churches and places of worship; about twenty-one "general"

stores; and, to its credit be it said, only four taverns. It also enjoys a well conducted Grammar and Common School united, with a head master and four subordinate teachers. The junior pupils are taught free, but the seniors, boys and girls mixed in the Grammar School department, pay a fee per term, of which there are four in the year, ranging from one dollar to three dollars, according to classification. The building is white brick, large and commodious; the premises are roomy; and the institution reflects credit on the educational character of the community. The stores on the main streets are well built, many of them of white brick with handsome show windows; and the private residences, of villa and cottage architecture, are genteel and pretty. Business was stated to be brisk, there had been a large exportation of grain, chiefly barley, and the whole place bore a cheerful and thriving appearance.

The premises occupied by the "Joseph Hall" works cover a whole block of about three acres of ground; all around the block, elm shade trees have been planted by the proprietors, and, being well cared for, are thriving wonderfully. The real estate, that is the block of land, is worth at least \$25,000, and the machinery and appliances cost about \$30,000 more. With the exception of the warehouse, which was on the ground before the present company commenced operations, all the buildings are of white brick on stone foundations, substantially built, and covered with shingles laid in thick mortar. The woodcut, which heads the advertisement of Joseph Hall & Co. on our last page, will afford an idea of the external appearance of the "works." The machinery of the whole establishment is driven by one powerful steam-engine, capable of working up to a hundred horse-power.

The works employ, at present, over 150 experienced hands, to whom the highest wages, by the day, are paid; none but the best workmen are engaged; and it is stated, as a just matter of congratulation, that a large proportion of the hands are strictly temperance men, and that cases of intoxication rarely occur among the others.

The first place visited was the agricultural room, one hundred feet by forty, where all the iron work required for machines, implements, &c., is made, fitted and finished. There were some twenty machines busily at work: lathes smoothing off a variety of articles, planing machines making other things level and true, drills and punches, with other aids to industry, best known to machinists. This room employs about thirty men at present, but an increase of six more lathes and a corresponding addition of hands, will soon be made