

Canada's Great Fair, 1893.

GREAT IMPROVEMENTS AT THE TORONTO INDUSTRIAL—NEW STABLES AND CATTLE SHEDS, ETC.

Visitors to the Great Industrial Fair, to be held at Toronto from the 4th to the 16th of September next, will find that great improvements have been made on the grounds during the present year—in fact, about the most important to the farming community that have been made since the exhibition was started fourteen years ago. An inspection of the exhibition grounds at present would almost convey the idea that a world's fair was to be held at Toronto this year, from the immense amount of lumber piled around the grounds and the number of men employed there.

Over \$100,000 is now being expended in the erection of new stables, new cattle sheds, new barns and a complete system of drainage, etc. The stables and cattle sheds will be of the most modern construction. Visitors to the fair will be able to pass through the centre of each building in a passageway twenty feet wide, and view the horses and cattle on either side with the greatest comfort; and as every building will be connected by covered archways, all the stables and cattle sheds can be visited without going out of doors, except when passing from one range of buildings to another. There will be accommodation for 900 horses and 700 head of cattle, and the horses will stand sideways to the visitors—an entirely new feature, and introduced, we believe, for the first time, and which will undoubtedly be a great improvement on the old plan of exhibiting them. The new stables and cattle sheds will cover the whole of the ground formerly occupied by the old horse ring and the old sheds, except a small portion which has been left as a judging ring.

The prize list has been published, and is now being distributed. It has been considerably added to this year, one important feature being the provision of a class for standard-bred trotters. In addition to the valuable prizes offered by the association for dairy products, \$500 in special prizes are offered for cheese by the exhibition association, the Eastern and Western Ontario and the Quebec Dairymen's Associations. These, extra prizes, in addition to the regular prizes, will undoubtedly bring out the largest exhibit of cheese that has ever been made in Canada, and will excite keen competition between the members of the associations named. Special prizes have also been added for pens of Canadian-bred Cotswolds, Shropshires and Southdowns. The prizes for Dorset Horned sheep have been increased, and the Suffolk class for pigs has been reinserted with a full list of prizes. Several special prizes are offered by Live Stock Associations. A full class has been added for Guernseys, and prizes have been added to the Durham and Ayrshire classes for "Cow and two of her progeny."

Already the applicants for space at the coming exhibition are more numerous than in any previous year at this date, and include many exhibits that were prepared for the World's Fair, but which the owners at the last moment decided could be exhibited with greater benefit to themselves at Canada's Great Fair. The exhibition this year is being extensively advertised in Europe, and there will be more visitors at the Toronto fair this year from the Maritime Provinces than in any former year. Information from this section of the Dominion is to the effect that most of those from the Maritime Provinces and the eastern part of Canada who intend visiting the World's Fair will delay their visit in order to take in the Toronto exhibition on their way. There is every indication, therefore, that the Industrial this year will again excel its predecessors.

The new grand stand, which was erected last year, has received its finishing decorations, and the basement has been laid with granolithic pavements, and the building surrounded with granolithic walks. Visitors to the fair this year will see the most complete stand on this continent. The old stand, with the booths under the same, has been removed, and the view from the main building of all the central portion of the grounds is unobstructed. The building and large refreshment tent formerly occupied by Houlgrave will also be things of the past, it being the intention of the Association to provide first-class restaurants and lunch counters under the new grand stand to take the place of these. The annex will be converted into a music hall, specially for the exhibit of musical instruments, and vocal concerts will probably be given at certain hours each day.

Manager Hill is busy arranging his programme of special features, which he is determined shall this year be more interesting and entertaining than ever. He has spent a week at the World's Fair seeking more particularly features that would be of special interest to visitors to the Toronto fair.

All entries for the exhibition in the manufacturing department and live stock have to be made by the 12th of August, agricultural products 19th August, and poultry by the 26th August. Applications for space should be made at once.

Cattle Men Appeal to the Government.

An important meeting of the executive committee of the Canada Live Stock Association was held June 29th, protesting against increasing the inspection fees for cattle at Montreal at a time when the trade is suffering from adverse circumstances, and the following was passed:

"That whereas the port of Boston and other American ports are free from all fees, be it therefore resolved that this association protest against the action of the Government in advancing the inspection fees for cattle for export, and that a deputation be appointed to proceed to Ottawa and endeavor to have the whole inspection fees removed, as well as all harbor dues and other obstacles to this important and much abused trade."

It was also resolved, "That a committee be appointed to wait on the Minister of Railways and show the exorbitant charge made by Canadian railways in freight on cattle as compared with rates on American railways, and that the Minister be respectfully requested to have the rates on Canadian roads so adjusted that our exporters and shippers may be on an equal footing with those of the United States."

"That the executive head of the live stock trade, in consideration of the manner in which the exporters are hampered by exorbitant railway and steamship charges and expressive fees by the Government, would advise the trade to abandon shipping in the meantime, as they cannot compete with American neighbors."

Our live stock interests should be fostered and extended, not handicapped. Agriculture is in need of every assistance that the Government can give it. At every turn we see the need of a thoroughly practical man as Minister of Agriculture—one who knows the needs of the farmer, and sympathizes with him in his difficulties. Until such a man is appointed, the portfolio of agriculture at Ottawa will not be of service to the yeomanry of Canada, but the reverse. The farmers of Canada have a right to ask why a man like Sir John Carling was displaced as Minister of Agriculture and a lawyer appointed to succeed him. Mr. Carling has served the farmers to good purpose; we never heard that the Hon. Mr. Angers did. He was appointed because he had served the party well, and thus party politics steps in and usurps a position that should be held by a practical, independent farmer, who would devote himself and his staff to advance the agricultural interests of the country both in detail and at large. We do not doubt the present incumbent's ability or integrity, but a man to fill his position satisfactorily must have been an educated and successful farmer. Who would dream of appointing a farmer public analyst, no matter how successful as a farmer? It is equally ridiculous to appoint a lawyer Minister of Agriculture.

Binding Twine.

Mr. John Hallam, 83 to 85 Front street, Toronto, writes us under date of June 24th:—"The Central Prison, by starting a binder twine factory and the farmers' binder twine factory at Brantford have succeeded in breaking down the monopoly, and now, for the first time since binder twine came into use, by the action of the Central Prison industry it is possible for the farmers to get their twine at reasonable prices."

It is computed that about 6000 tons, or 12,000,000 lbs. of twine, are used in Ontario, Manitoba and the Northwest. The saving on this line alone to the farmers is upwards of three hundred thousand dollars.

The binder twine manufactured at the Central Prison is pure Manila, and runs over six hundred feet to the pound. It is as good as the best in the market, and we claim that it will give better satisfaction than any other twine.

It will stand a breaking strain of about 120 pounds. This factory has been the cause of breaking down the monopoly, and the farmers should find it to their interest to patronize the Central Prison binder twine. I am prepared to execute orders at the prices advertised by the Government, viz.: 8½ cents per lb. for carload lots, and 9½ cents for less quantities.

A determined effort is being made to discourage the manufacture of twine in the Central Prison; farmers should stand by the authorities in this matter, and not allow capitalists to crush this industry out.

The Canadian Pacific Railway have a unique scheme to further the rebuilding and settlement of the North West. When a settler in the western wilderness wants to go back to the eastern provinces to get married, the railroad sells him a round trip ticket at the usual rate, having a "matrimonial stub" attached. On presenting the return coupon, a stub, and a marriage certificate, the road furnishes free transportation for his bride to their western home. Young men who have either their own or their country's good at heart should lose no time in taking advantage of this offer.

Our Scottish Letter.

A MONTH'S REVIEW.

The month of May is always an interesting part of the year to those having to do with Clydesdale horses. The travelling season then begins, and entire horses are on their rounds. Breeders are anxious to know how they are being received, and rumor makes free with many a horse's reputation. So far there has been little of this during 1893, but shortly we shall know the best and the worst of the business. The foaling season is also in full swing, and the success or failure of each distinguished mare is eagerly looked for. Losses have, as a rule, not been heavy this season, but there have been sufficient to cause us to remember that horse breeding is a lottery, and, with the best intentions and pre-arrangements, mishaps will occur. Amongst notable arrivals are colts foals out of Moss Rose and her daughter, Montrave Maud, that from the former being got by Prince of Albion, and from the latter by Macgregor. Several good mares have foaled to the Balmedie Royalist, and Flashwood is this year in great favor. Sales have been fairly numerous at home. There is always movement, and the best horses and mares always command a ready market. The foreign trade, however, continues dull, and, except to the continent of Europe, there is little exportation. The United States and Canada are a blank and doing nothing for us.

All the shows with which we have been accustomed in May have been duly held. The county meetings at Alexandria for Dumbartonshire, Hamilton for Lanark, Paisley for Renfrew, and Campbeltown for Kintyre, and Stirling for its own county, have been well attended, and the character of the stock has been sustained, and in some few cases improved upon. But apart from these larger events quite a unique show was held at Galston in Ayrshire, on Saturday, 8th May. The object of this show is primarily to foster a spirit of emulation amongst the tenantry of the Duke of Portland, who owns most of the land in the neighborhood; but it is open to all breeders in the parishes where the Portland estates are located. The institution of these shows is part of the estate policy of the Duke, who believes in making himself thoroughly acquainted with all the tenants on his wide properties, which extend to many acres in Caithness, Ayrshire, Northumberland and Nottingham. Undoubtedly, however, the greater part of the Duke's princely revenues comes from the ground rents of a portion of modern Babylon, London, but he is not one who spends it all there, and numerous are the methods of spending open to him on his estates. He is very popular with all his tenants, and they each wish him long life and happiness. A son and heir has lately been born to him, who bears the courtesy title of Marquis of Titchfield, in connection with the event there have been great rejoicings and presentations. Ayrshires and Clydesdales have been the principal exhibits at all the shows hitherto held, and Galston, held in the very heart of the Ayrshire district, was certainly no exception. Captain Steel, of Burnhead, a famous breeder of dairy cattle, won the championship with a notable cow named Wee Maggie, and McGregor Alston, Loudounhill, won the Clydesdale cup with the beautiful mare Heather Bell, a daughter of Prince of Wales and a Darnley mare. She is a noble specimen, and has gained many prizes heretofore. Black-faced sheep are also present at all of these meetings, and are highly popular and useful in all parts of Scotland. Captain Dempster, of Ladyton, was a prominent exhibitor at Galston, and is the owner of the champion ram of the breed this season, The Macgregor.

Dumbartonshire is one of the most prosperous agricultural districts in Scotland. Stretching along the north bank of the Clyde for about twenty miles, it contains many thickly populated industrial centres. The famous ocean flyers, the New York and the Paris, were built in Dumbartonshire, and the district in which they were built, Clydebank, is also the seat of Singer's Sewing Machine Manufacturing Company's Scottish factories. Then, in the vale of the Leven, a tributary which flows from Lochlond into the Clyde, there are many very large dyeing works, and the county town of Dumbarton is a famous shipbuilding centre. The natural consequence of the condition of things described is that there is a great market for dairy produce in the county, and Ayrshire cattle abound in large numbers. The best stock, as a whole, is that of Mr. Thomas Kerr, Rosneath Home Farm, on the outlying peninsula between the Gareloch and Lochlong, the chief proprietor of which is the Duke of Argyll. In respect of Clydesdales the county does not now enjoy so favorable a reputation as in the days when the Amherdeman stud was in its glory—that is, during the years from 1872 to 1884. At the same time there are probably a greater number of good Clydesdales in the county than there were in these years. The average is higher, and several very good horses have travelled, leaving first-rate stock. Mr. Riddell's first farm, Kilbowie, is situated in the Clyde valley, and he still holds it. This gives him a title to exhibit at the show, which he generally does to good purpose. This year by far the best mare at the show, Rhoda, the beautiful daughter of Darnley, is owned by him. She was easily the best Clydesdale exhibited. The first three-year-old mare, Lass o' Leven, by Top Knot, is a grand sort, and Mr. John Macdonald, Boquhanran