THE MERCHANTMAN.

Devoted to the Interests of the Etholesale Business of the Dominion.

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THE MERCHANDAN is published the 1st of every mouth, and will be distributed by commercial list through the principal towns and eithes of Canada. An issue of five thousand copies will be nailed gratuitously every mouth, but to receive the paper regularly, the Subscription rate over 1st ONE DESCRIPTION OF THE MERCHANDAN OF THE MERCHANDA

Special Notice.

We shall be happy to receive and publish papers treating of the trade or manufactures of Canada, but as our paper is devoted we'dy to commercial interests, co-amministants of a political nature will be excluded. In all cases, the writer's name and address are necessary, not for publication, but as a guarantee of good faith. We cannot undertake to return or preserve manuscript.

TORONTO, OCTOBER 1, 1874.

Learning that a misunder-tanding exists in some cases :elative to the reception of our paper by those we send it to, we wish it distinctly understood that the MERCHANTMAN is sent gratis to all, the payment of one dollar per annum being only required to secure its Leing sent regularly to the party subscribing. We have found this plan work so far admirably, as the number of regular subscribers are daily increasing. Our circulation requiring no payment to increase it, still continues at the stated figure of 5,000 copies montily, distributed over the whole Dominion, from the western coast of British Columbia to the eastern shores of the Province of Quebec. In our advertising department a limited number of notices from wholesale houses and manufacturers only are admitted, and as our rates are low, and our paper reaches business people only, the excellence of our paper as an advertising medium is apparent to all. The necessity of a purely commercial paper treating of the interests and progress of wholesale and retail trade has long been felt, and we freely offer our columns for the thorough ventilation of any subject touching the state or progress of the trade or manufactures of Canada. Following an independent course, therefore, looking to the welfare of our commercial interests, and holding aloof from all plitical or sectarian prejudices or bickerings, we is a for the confidence and support of the mercantile community. Our quotations are taken from the latest sources, and are as nearly accurate as can possibly be given in those uncertain days of rising tariffs and increasing expenses. In our Editorial department we shall simply touch on such subjects as are interesting to business men of all classes, and particularly to those who, living far from the great commercial centres, have few opportunities of keeping posted up with the march of trade. In our present number we give a synopsis of the Provincial Fair held in Toronto last month, which has far out-

stripped any previous exhibition of a like nature, both as regards number and quality of articles exhibited. We hope that the fair of next year, which will be held at Ottawa, will show a still greater improvement, and thus give us tangible evidence of the growth and progress of our i) sminion.

THE PROVINCIAL FAIR.

The twenty-ninth annual Exhibition of the Agricultural and Arts Association was held in Toronto last month, and was eminently a successful one, the increase in the number of entries being unusually large. The immense number of visitors who were present, and the facility with which they were accommodated, both in their passage to and from and their stay in Toronto, proves the superiority of that city as a rallying point for a Provincial gathering of that nature. While on this subject it would be as well to ask whether the Province can stand four fairs each Fall in as many consecutive weeks, and have each part well represented at each, or will not local inter ests clash with Provincial ones, or the coret. should suggest that the Provincial fair be held at intervals of say three or four years at the capital of the Province. This arrangement would allow more time for preparation, and show a more marked improvement in productions, besides giving a bett chance of judging of those improvements than the present system, under which the Provincial fair has very little advantage, if any, over the Eastern, West-

In just glancing over the improvements which are manifest in the various departments of Canadian produce, great credit must certainly be given to that of live stock, for the marked change for the better was apparent to even the most cursory observer. The samples of farm produce in cereals and root crops show a more extended cultivation, because more numerous than formerly, but no perceptible improvement in quality; in fruit, however, a decided advance is seen, but there is yet great room for improvement in that department. The show of dairy produce was very meagre, and not first-class in quality, owing we suppose, to the want of green forage, caused by the excessive drought and bush fires of this Fall, but altogether the show in products of the soil was good, and goes to show the immense agricultural wealth possessed by the people of Canada.

In manufactured articles the progress is marked, but admits of greater advance. The agricultural or plement trade of Canada deserves great credit, on the should think is able to compete on equal terms with that of any other country; several of the michines exhibited having gained prizes in State fairs in the United States. The mechanical machinery of Messrs. Waterous & Co. of Brantford, and McKechnie & Bertram of ———, were especially meritorious, and deserve commendation and encouragement. The show in light manufacturer articles and fancy goods

inside the building was very good, but small, and comparatively very few lines of Canadian manufacture were exhibited. In Tablie, work the articles exhibited were very line, and are worthy of special mention, but in the fine art department the judges did not seem in every case to make merit their sole reason for adjudging prizes. In our report the principal articles in each department will be found mentioned. At the meeting of the Agricultural & Arts Association it was determined to hold the next annual fair at October.

EDITORIAL ITEMS

STAMP YOUR BILLS!—Many country merchaniare in the habit of returning their bills to wholesale houses \(\eta_i \) not but not \(\alpha \) ampfol. This should not be; under the amended Stamp Act the conditions concerning stamps are very strict. I very person, therefore who signs a note should, in their own interest, cancel the stamp themselves.

Local Cheques.—Under our present banking act when banks are multiplied often with small capital, every village aspires to have a Bank Agency. The result of this is that merchants very frequently remut small amounts to the cities by sending their own stepped on the Local branch, such remittance is not some on, or is it worth par. Whole ale houses often suffer the loss of collection rather than claim a small balance; but the system of Local cheques is a false one and should not be repeated by those who desire to be well thought of. Post office orders are cheap and are far preferable, but if parties will remit by unmarked local cheques for sums of one hundred dollar and under, they should in all cases add twenty five cents for collection.

Ston those Bitts!—In the desk of some of our readers there may possibly be some unsigned bills for which some wholesale house is waiting. To all such we say, examine the account and sign those bills!

Then don't fail to post them the same day.

AMERICAN POSTAGE.—Nothing is more frequent than to find some American Houses, sending postal matter to Canada stamped three cents per half ounce instead of six cents. In all such cases the stamps are mouted, and a fine of ten cents per half ounce is imposed upon the person to whom it is addressed. American houses having correspondents in Canada should pay more attention to these matters.

EARL DUFFERIN'S TOUR

In reviewing the late tour of the Governor-General through western Canada two ideas present themselves, first, that the office is an unenviable one, and second by a feeling of amusement at the manner in which the Governor and his lady were victimised by Mayors, Reeves, and Councilmen, interspersed with an occas-