

mate—we venture to say that a large element in their consideration of the matter is to add to the attraction and to extend the area of the practical usefulness of the Society. And this, many of them feel, is not done by the present system—at least not done in the thorough way it can and ought to be done. We believe we give place here, by so saying to the sentiments of many of them; but whether we do so or not, these sentiments assuredly are our own; and in urging them upon public notice we believe we are doing a body of men who, by their enterprise and the time and money which they give so largely and so ungrudgingly to the development of the mechanics of agriculture, are deserving of it, a real service, and are consulting their best interests. Nor less do we say all this in the interests of the large body of farmers, those who attend not equally with those who do attend trials of our shows, and who are most anxious to have trustworthy opinions of judges, or those who ought to be judges, as to the relative merits of machines and implements competing for public favour. For how comes it to pass that in many, very many cases, farmers pay no attention to the rewards given to machines, so far at least as these rewards are supposed to shadow forth the real merits of the machines rewarded. On the contrary, as is well known, the fact of a prize having been awarded at any time is taken as no real index of the value of the machine to which it has been given. Those who do know the way in which trials, so-called—for trials they are not in anything like the real meaning of the term—are conducted at more than one of our Society's shows, know that as trials they possess no real value. The history of trials has yet to be written; but when it is so, some statements which must be made in its records, if these are truthfully drawn up, will go far to show that the prize list of more than one society—we do not say all societies—in place of being a guide to the farmer, has been more like what indeed it has not seldom been designated, "a mockery, a delusion, and a snare." We maintain it to be a position thoroughly incontrovertible, that the nearer the circumstances under which the trials of the Society are brought to the circumstances of ordinary farm-work, the more trustworthy and practically valuable the results will be. It seems to be but stating a truism in stating this, but truism as it is, it is undoubtedly overlooked, if not altogether ignored. And this farther we maintain to be incontrovertible, that the most cursory examination of the mode in which too many of our public trials are made, not only by the Royal Agricultural Society, but by other societies which are nameless now, will clearly prove that that is not the mode in which the ordinary work of the farm is conducted. Of course it will be understood that we mean that such will be the conclusion come to by those who know practically what farm-work is.

"The first step towards reform is the conviction that reform is needed; but so far as any evidence to the contrary has been offered on the part of all the wealthy agricultural societies, not excepting the Royal, they do not yet believe that it is so. It is no answer to the objections which have been made, and which will, we venture to say, continue to be made by those interested in a reform of the system till that reform is brought about—it is no answer, we say, to those objections to say that the time for making thorough trials is too short, or that the number of machines are too many."

### Book Notices.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE NEW YORK STATE CHEESE MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION, UTICA, N. Y., 1865, p.p. 170.

This pamphlet is a valuable presentment to what is now fast becoming an important branch of our farm produce. The annual address of X. A. Willard, Esq., on "American Cheese Dairying—the means for its improvement and success," forms an appropriate preamble to its other contents. The lecturer discusses the advantages of association—the permanency of the system—prices and quality of American and English cheese—flavour injuriously affected, and how remedied—the Cheddar style—character of cheese demanded—cost of producing milk, &c.; together with a notice of the originator of the factory system, Jesse Williams, of Rome. There is also a very interesting address by W. H. Comstock, Esq., the secretary of the Association, on "The comparative advantages of the old and new systems of cheese manufacture." With a large amount of other useful information, in which we have detailed accounts of the various factories of the Association. The volume is brought to a close by a collection of spirited notes, from the pen of Mr. Willard, on the "Dairy Region," from which we make the following extract:

"The New Hartford cheese factory is situated about half-a-mile north of the village, on the old

Shearman farm. The building is new, and built in the most substantial and thorough manner. It is 100 feet long by 30 wide, two stories high, with floors and siding of matched pine, and receives the milk from 600 cows. The manufacturing-room is separated from the dry-house by a partition, along which stand the presses, ten in number, and so arranged, that by throwing up large panels, hung on pulleys in the partition, the cheeses may be removed to the tables with the greatest ease and convenience. This arrangement is somewhat novel, and appeared to be an admirable improvement on the old style of factories. The floor of the manufacturing-room slopes towards a narrow drain sunk in the floor just in front of the presses. This drain receives the whey, and conducts it to the vats, which are a long way from the building. By simple fixtures the floor may be flooded and washed, and all refuse slops carried off through the water drain, avoiding all taints from drippings of whey and slops about the building. These arrangements are perfect, and in this respect the New Hartford factory is a model of neatness, which some other establishments of similar character would do well to copy. The manufacturing-room is provided with three O'Neil vats and heaters of 650 gallons each, capacity, for holding the milk, and the number of pounds of milk received per day is 10,356. This is manufactured into 1,199 pounds of cheese, which is pressed in 20-inch hoops, making ten cheeses, 10 inches high. The milk is set at 60 degrees, and the highest heat in cooking the curd is 100 degrees. The curd, in manufacturing, is cut with steel-bladed curd knives, worked as fine as wheat kernels, and salted with three pounds of salt to the 100 gallons of milk. The curd, after it is first cut, stands about 20 minutes, when it is again cut, and in about an hour the heat is begun to be applied, which is continued for the space of two hours, the time of cooking depending on the condition of the milk and the atmosphere. Nine pounds of milk make one pound of green cheese, as it comes from the press. Colouring matter is to be used in the cheese during the summer. No grease is applied to the bandages. The hay-cheese made up to the 1st May sold for 18½c. per pound. The curing-room, which is well arranged as to light and ventilation, is provided with ranges, on which stood 150 very handsome cheeses, firm, with elastic rind, and free from spot or blemish. T. W. Moore and H. Ackley are the manufacturers. The pig-pens are located at a considerable distance from the building, in which are fed 100 hogs upon whey, no other food being employed; 36 calves are also fed from the whey coming from this establishment. Arrangements are being made to run the whey to a large stable near the factory, and fed to 80 cows, morning and evening. This is perhaps the best, or one of the best arranged factories in the country, and has a fine spring a few feet from the bank of the delivery window, which furnishes an abundance of water."

GAZETTEER AND DIRECTORY OF THE COUNTY OF GREY. By W. W. Smith, Owen Sound. p. p. 330. This work contains a large amount of useful information respecting the new but fine and rapidly developing county to which it relates. To many business men throughout the land it will be a welcome book of consultation and reference. Scarcely a question can arise as to the size and location of villages, distances, routes of travel, quality of land, facilities for trades, &c., but is answered by it. A very cursory glance at the volume gives one an impression of the extent, resources and prospects of the county, such as can be had in no other way, save by traversing its entire extent. The author must have been at great pains and expense to collect the contents of this work, and we hope he will reap his reward in an extensive sale of it. Copies may be obtained of Messrs. Rolfe & Adam, Booksellers of this city. Price, \$1.50 cents.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE MASSACHUSETTS HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY, FOR THE YEAR 1864. BOSTON. Henry W. Dutton & Sons, Printers. pp. 100.

This is a large, nicely printed pamphlet, and contains Reports of the Committees on Ornamental Gardening; Flowers; Fruits; and Vegetables—together with a list of premiums awarded to successful exhibitors in each class. There are also Reports by the Library and Finance Committees; an address by the President of the Society; and lists of its Life and Annual Members. In the form of an Appendix, we are furnished with an interesting account of the ceremonies observed in laying the corner stone of the New Hall of the Mass. Horticultural Society, at Boston, on the 18th of August last.

New Music.—We acknowledge the receipt from Messrs. A. & S. Nordheimer, Toronto, of the following pieces of piano-forte music published by them: The Bello of Canada, The Rosebud, Mary Morison, The Stamp Galop, and The Ionian Funeral March.

### Agricultural Intelligence.

#### The Last Election to the Board of Agriculture.

To the Editor of THE CANADA FARMER.

Sir,—Under the above heading, in the last number of your Journal, I notice a letter from Mr. George Murton, of Guelph, in which he seems to imply an accusation against some party, of suppressing the votes cast for members of the Board of Agriculture, at the last annual meeting of the agricultural societies, so as to secure the return of the old members to the Board. I did not at first intend to make any reply to this communication, as I suppose it is a part of the duty of public bodies and their officers to submit in silence to occasional reflections upon them through the public press, however unfounded. But, on consideration, I have determined to state all the facts in regard to this matter, so far as I am acquainted with them, if you will be kind enough to insert this letter.

In the first place, then, the Agricultural Statute, with which it is the duty of officers of agricultural societies to make themselves acquainted, requires that the names of persons nominated at the annual meetings of the societies, as members of the Board of Agriculture, should be transmitted "forthwith," not to the office of the Board of Agriculture, but to the Bureau of Agriculture, at the seat of Government. Not relying, however, upon societies making themselves acquainted with this provision, I have always, while secretary of the Board, taken care to direct their attention specially to it, in a circular annually issued to the societies previous to their annual meetings. In proof of which, I give you the following extract from the circular issued at the beginning of last January, two or three weeks before the annual meetings of the societies, as follows:—

"The Statute requires that each County or Electoral Division Society shall, at its Annual Meeting, nominate four proper persons to serve as members of the Board of Agriculture, and transmit the names of the four persons so nominated forthwith to the Bureau of Agriculture."

"You are requested particularly to notice that these names have to be transmitted to the BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE, QUEBEC, immediately after the annual meeting."

It is clear, therefore, that if the names of the persons nominated are not sent to the proper quarter by any of the societies, it is the fault of such societies themselves, and not of any other party. Apart from this consideration, however, when in point of fact, a few of the societies have sometimes sent the names to me, as Secretary of the Board, although I could not tell whether they were merely duplicates of votes forwarded to the Bureau, or had been sent to this office alone, I have always taken care in such cases immediately to forward such returns to the Bureau. I did so this year, as usual, when I think the votes were sent to me from some five or six societies.

Further, I would state, on behalf of the Bureau, that on the 16th February I received a letter from Mr. Tache, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, dated 14th, in which he asked me to send a complete list of the Societies which had reported to me the votes cast for members of the Board, and also of those which had not so reported. This list I suppose was required for the purpose of ensuring the correctness of the statement about to be made up of the votes cast. I immediately transmitted it to Quebec, and have in my possession Mr. Tache's reply acknowledging the receipt of it. At the end of February, being about the same time as in other years, and more than a month after the annual meetings, the names of the members elected were published in the *Official Gazette*, and under date of February 27th, I have a letter from Mr. Tache accompanying a detailed statement of all the votes sent in from the Societies, the result being not exactly as stated by Mr. Murton, but as follows:—Mr. Christie, 26; Mr. Burnham, 24; Mr. Ferguson, 41; Dr. Richmond, 37; Mr. Johnson, 20; Mr. Stone, 22, and one or two straggling votes for each of six other gentlemen. In view of the above facts, I am disposed to think that every endeavour was made by the Bureau of Agriculture, as I know was the case in this office, so far as this Board had anything to do with the matter, to give the correct result of the votes sent in for members of the Board.