

A Trial of Agricultural Implements and Machines.

Will take place, under the auspices of the Agricultural and Arts Association of Ontario, during the coming summer, the day and place not yet fixed, when the list of prizes subjoined will be offered.

RULES AND REGULATIONS.

1. Generally, the rules and regulations relating to the Provincial Exhibition, and published annually with the association prize list, will apply, except in cases where they are contrary to the intention of this competitive trial.

Entries.

2. Entries must be forwarded on or before the 20th June next, to the Secretary of the association at Toronto, enclosing one dollar for entry money.

3. Competitors are particularly requested to take notice that it is absolutely required that the entries be made at the date above mentioned, in order to afford sufficient time to examine the entry papers, and to correspond with parties, when necessary, for the correction of errors and omissions; and no exception will be made to this rule on any consideration whatever.

4. The entries must be made in the names of the producers or manufacturers only. If any person shall enter an article for competition, as produced or manufactured by himself, when it has not really been so, he shall forfeit any premium which may be awarded the article, and be precluded from exhibiting in future.

5. In all the departments the competition is open to exhibitors from any part of the world, without reservation, on compliance with the rules.

6. Manufacturers are requested to furnish with the articles for competition, a statement of the quantity they can produce, or supply, and the price, for the information of the Judges, whose decision will be based on the combination of quality, style, and price, and the adaptation of the article to the purposes for which it is intended.

7. No person shall be allowed to enter for competition more than one specimen in any one section of a class, unless the additional article be of a distinct named variety or pattern from the first.

8. On the entry of each article, a card will be furnished the competitor, specifying the class, the section, the number of the entry, and the name of the competitor, which card must be attached to such article.

9. It shall be distinctly understood that all unnecessary and inappropriate ornamentation of Agricultural implements is expressly prohibited, and Judges are hereby directed not to award prizes to implements so finished or adorned.

Transport of Articles, and Charge of them while on Trial.

10. The implements and machines entered for competition must be forwarded in due time, so as to be on the ground at the time which shall be appointed for the trial of the respective articles, otherwise they will be excluded from competition.

11. Exhibitors must provide for the delivery of their articles upon the ground. The Association cannot, in any case, make provision for their transportation, or be subjected to any expense therefor, either in their delivery at, or return from the grounds. All the expenses connected therewith must be provided for by the competitors themselves.

12. Competitors on arriving with their articles will apply to the Superintendent of the grounds, who will be stationed within the entry gate, and will inform them where the articles are to be tried.

13. Competitors will, at all times, give the necessary personal attention to whatever they may have on exhibition and trial, and at the close of the show take entire charge of the same.

14. While the directors will take every possible precaution, under the circumstances, to ensure the safety of articles sent to the show, yet they wish it to be distinctly understood that the owners themselves must take the risk of exhibiting them; and that should any article be accidentally injured, lost or stolen, the directors will give all the assistance in their power towards the recovery of the same, but will not make any payment for the value thereof.

The Judges.

15. The Judges will be appointed by the council of the association previous to the trial,

and will receive a circular informing them of the fact, and inviting them to act.

16. The Judges are requested to report themselves to the Secretary, presenting their circular of appointment, immediately on their arrival at the grounds.

17. No person shall act as Judge in any class in which he shall be an exhibitor.

18. No person will be allowed to interfere with the Judges while in the discharge of their duties. Exhibitors so interfering will forfeit their rights to any premium to which they might otherwise be entitled.

The Premiums.

The premiums will be paid by the Treasurer in the usual manner, after the awards are made, on the presentation of orders given and signed by the Secretary.

Tenders for Ground, &c.

The Secretary will receive offers, up to June 10th, of fields suitable for the trial of implements, of sizes following, viz:

Fall Wheat.....	20 Acres
Grass.....	20 "
For Ploughing (sod).....	15 "
Peas.....	10 "

Also, Logs for 10 cords of wood, and Land suitable for testing Cultivators & Gang Ploughs.

In case of one person not being able to supply all the ground needed on one farm, it would answer the purpose if provided on two or three farms adjoining each other.

THE PRIZE LIST.

Class 1.—Machines for Haymaking and Harvesting.

Sec. 1.—Best Mower, \$20; 2nd, \$15; 3rd, \$10. Sec. 2.—Best Reaper, \$30; 2nd, \$20; 3rd, \$15. Sec. 3.—Best Pea Harvester, (Horse Power), \$12; 2nd, \$9; 3rd, \$6. Sec. 4.—Best Sulky Horse Rake, \$12; 2nd, \$9; 3rd, \$6.

Class 2.—Machines for Preparing Products for use.

Sec. 1.—Best Thrashing Machine, \$50; 2nd, \$40; 3rd, \$30. Sec. 2.—Best Fanning Mill, \$8; 2nd, \$6; 3rd, \$4. Sec. 3.—Best Straw Cutter, \$8; 2nd, \$6; 3rd, \$4. Sec. 4.—Best Grain Crusher, \$12; 2nd, \$9; 3rd, \$6. Sec. 5.—Best Machine for Sawing Wood, \$20; 2nd, \$15; 3rd, \$10.

Class 3.—Implements for Tilling the Ground.

Sec. 1.—Best Plough, \$25; 2nd, \$20; 3rd, \$15. Sec. 2.—Best Gang Plough, \$20; 2nd, \$15; 3rd, \$10. Sec. 3.—Best Cultivator, \$20; 2nd, \$15; 3rd, \$10. Sec. 4.—Best Harrow, or Set of Harrows, \$12; 2nd, \$9; 3rd, \$6. &c. &c.

We have just received the above Circular, and are pleased to see that the Board of Agriculture are taking an interest in such a useful undertaking. This is a step in the right direction. It is of importance that farmers should really know which are the best implements, as there are so many clap-net ways of humbugging them into all manner of second-class implements, and many are sold to them that are worse than useless. We can instance cases of threshing machines, reaping machines, and lots of smaller implements that have been palmed off upon the farmers, causing them the loss of many hundred thousand dollars annually. Some implements are made to look very well, but the metal put into them is of the cheapest and most inferior quality, having much the appearance of a piece of broken gingerbread. There never has been a good Provincial trial of Implements. We hope that every manufacturer who claims to make a superior implement will not fail to have it fairly tested. We have every reason to believe that the utmost care will be taken by the Board of Agriculture to have justice done to all parties, and that really competent judges will be selected. The awarding of a prize to a painted implement at our local exhibitions does not amount to

much, as no one can justly judge of the merits of an implement without trial.

This Exhibition will no doubt be of advantage to the county, township, city or town where it may be held. We hope that Hamilton, London, Guelph, Paris, Ingersoll, Woodstock, Stratford, &c., may enter into a strong rivalry to see which will offer the greatest inducements to the Board to take it into their respective localities. There is not much asked for—the land to work on and accommodations.

Agitate the subject in your section, if you would like to have the trial come off in your township.

Farmers' Homes.

Paper read at the Annual Meeting of the New York State Agricultural Society, Feb. 9, 1871, by Frank D. Curtis, of Saratoga county.

It is very often the practice with farmers to think more of the farm than of the farm house. It is a time-honored adage that, "charity begins at home;" hence, we think that a few suggestions correlative to this sentiment may be profitable. There is a feeling of dissatisfaction with agricultural life among the sons of farmers, leading them to hate the occupation and surrounding of their fathers, and to seek a society and business which their fancy paints to be more congenial and less laborious. Farming is hard work at the best, and when it amounts to abject drudgery, with no sunshine in-doors, and the grateful cheer of books, intelligent conversation, and encouragement to the promptings of latent ambition, not to omit good food a pleasant home upon which the eye delights to rest, it is no wonder farmers' sons and farmers' daughters become restless, and long for the time to come when they can throw off the shackles of an unsatisfying servitude, and go to the factory, the store, or an overcrowded profession, where they can enjoy some of the privileges which they do not have at home. The remedy for this, is to make home pleasant and enjoyable. Do not enrich the field and impoverish the household. Apply every exertion in culture and drainage outside the home, but do not neglect to sweeten the inner atmosphere, and strengthen the ties within, so that from the intelligent happiness of the home circle, there may always radiate a cheerful and intelligent, and therefore effective, energy.

Children must be made to love their homes, else the attractions of cities and villages will surely lure them away from the peaceful and monotonous labors of rural life. Let them plant trees, cultivate them, have the profits accruing from the sale of fruits they bear. Let them have fowls, animals, bees of their own, be taught how to rear and care for them, and enjoy the results of their attention and work in toys or books or investments in the Savings bank. The sense of proprietorship will give to a boy not fond of work, great interest in a small potato patch, or a score of sage plants, or a rod square of Lima beans. And in our country girls, a love for out-of-door work should be sedulously cultivated. Let them have a garden spot, with room for flowers, herbs and vegetables, and time to take care of it. Better raise flowers and shrubs and fowls and honey, than delve in the kitchen forevermore, and then have nothing for it.

Ample provision must be made for sport during the short winter days and the long cold evenings. Checker boards, candy pullings, games of various sorts, music, amusing books, these are indispensable. Let the boys have traps and catch minks and muskrats, rabbits and skunks, the more the better. Let the boys and girls have sleds and skates with wrappings and furs of their own trapping, and enjoy the glare of frozen ice, the slippery side hill, the glowing starlight, the jingling bells, the bracing frosty air, and all the delights that make winter on the farm a season of festivity and sport. Then do not keep all the preserves and canned fruit, the various goodies laid up in store, only for company; but bring them out on proper occasions, just to let the boys and girls have a good time eating them, and they will be more ready in hot days next summer to renew the wasted store, and lay up future enjoyments for the coming snows and frosts.

Then remember that any right-minded boy or girl always likes to know the reason of things. Explain to your son when you are sow-

ing clover for manure, how and why it benefits the soil. Why some soils require lime, and others the acids of decomposition, to render them mellow and fertile. If the children are contented and happy, the young folks will be.

Let the boys earn money, and give them the benefit of your advice, not commands, how to expend it. Make the boy a man and the girl a woman as far as you can, not a drudge or a fool, by being yourself the mouth to speak for them, the eyes to see for them, the ears to hear for them, and the brains to think and act for them. Let them act for themselves under your care and supervision. Try to know more than they do; spend your own surplus time in informing yourself, laying up a store of knowledge to impart to them, instead of gossiping with some talkative neighbor, or telling over for the hundredth time some pig story or a far which never had any pith or point, and which your son hears, wondering how you can be interested in such nonsense, when the wide world is before him, and nature, whose laws and phenomena are to him an enigma, is all around him, and you should be, and he expects you to be, capable to explain many of these things to him. Live, if possible, in the front side of the house, where something can be seen. Do not have all the grand and comfortable things in the parlor, which is opened quarterly, when the minister comes around, and the rest of the time is sacred, unless there is a funeral or a wedding, which the girls would not postpone a great while in such a home; but have some of the cheery and nice furniture in the sitting or family room. Be sure and have such a room, if you have to do without a parlor; and have a place for books, and have some books there. In addition to what we should always expect to find, a Bible, and an almanac and histories, let there be agricultural papers and books. Much can be learned from them how to prevent disease among the animals, how to cure disease, and hints and facts about the crops, which will more than repay the cost, besides furnishing food for the hungry minds of the boys and girls.

The surroundings of the farmer's home can be made more comfortable. Instead of the little building situated several rods from the house, which must be visited in the storms and cold and exposed to the public gaze, and which is very often a nuisance, let a lean to be made against the rear of the dwelling or the woodhouse, with an entrance under cover, where tubs can be placed, and by an addition of a little earth or plaster or muck every few days, nothing disagreeable will ever be experienced. The compost heap or the manure pile will receive the contents, and at least \$10 annually of additional value will be realized for each adult. Have a cistern; gather the materials at odd times, and if you have room in the cellar, and do not want to afford time to dig a hole, wall up one corner and let the water in. Put a pump in the kitchen in the hardest place, and with a lead pipe you may draw the water to a sink within a step from the stove. Keep a stock of wood ahead. Any wife has a just reason for divorce from a husband who is so mean and so shiftless, that he furnishes her stove wood from day to day, and any farmer who does it with the idea of economy, is a dunce, for the time spent in hunting up the axe, and such a farmer always has to hunt up his axe or anything else he wants, and the time spent in going to and from his other work, to cut wood; and the delays waiting for meals, because the wood is green and wet, would go a long way towards working up a good stock of wood, which, being seasoned and handy, the hard working housekeeper could use so as to save herself many a scolding; and a man who has no wood pile must be a scold, and unreasonable enough to find fault with his wife, when he alone should be blamed. Pork is the most expensive food, besides its tendency to make people gross and vulgar. A big pork eater and a man of delicate sensibilities and feelings are opposites. A pound of chicken can be produced on a farm as cheaply as a pound of pork. The same is true of mutton. Both are healthier than hog flesh. Then why not raise chickens and lambs, and eat poultry and mutton?

An ice house is indispensable to a well regulated farm house. The best way to build one is to construct an addition on the north side of the kitchen or woodhouse and connect with it a dark room to be used for a store room. This room having the ice on one side, with only a partition between and no window or ventilation except at the top, would always be cool and free from flies. Here the fresh meats and the cream and other things can be kept cool and sweet. To be handy, the ice could be taken out from the ice house through