

Fairs or Shows.

The first time we heard Lord Lansdowne speak was at the Provincial Agricultural and Arts Association's Exhibition held in Ottawa. He said he considered the name of Exhibitions too pretentious, he thought Fair a more appropriate name, and approved of amusements. This, we think, sanctions the horse race, trapeze, rope dancing, etc., etc. The FARMER'S ADVOCATE as for years opposed all such shows as prominent factors at agricultural exhibitions, and has advocated making the agricultural interest the main feature. Perhaps our aspirations may have been too high to suit the age.

The fair which provides the most attractions draw the greatest crowds, and receives the most money—which is the main object with many of the directors. The best race course, the largest number of pretty ballet dancers may now be in

annoyed and inconvenienced by the so-called attractions.

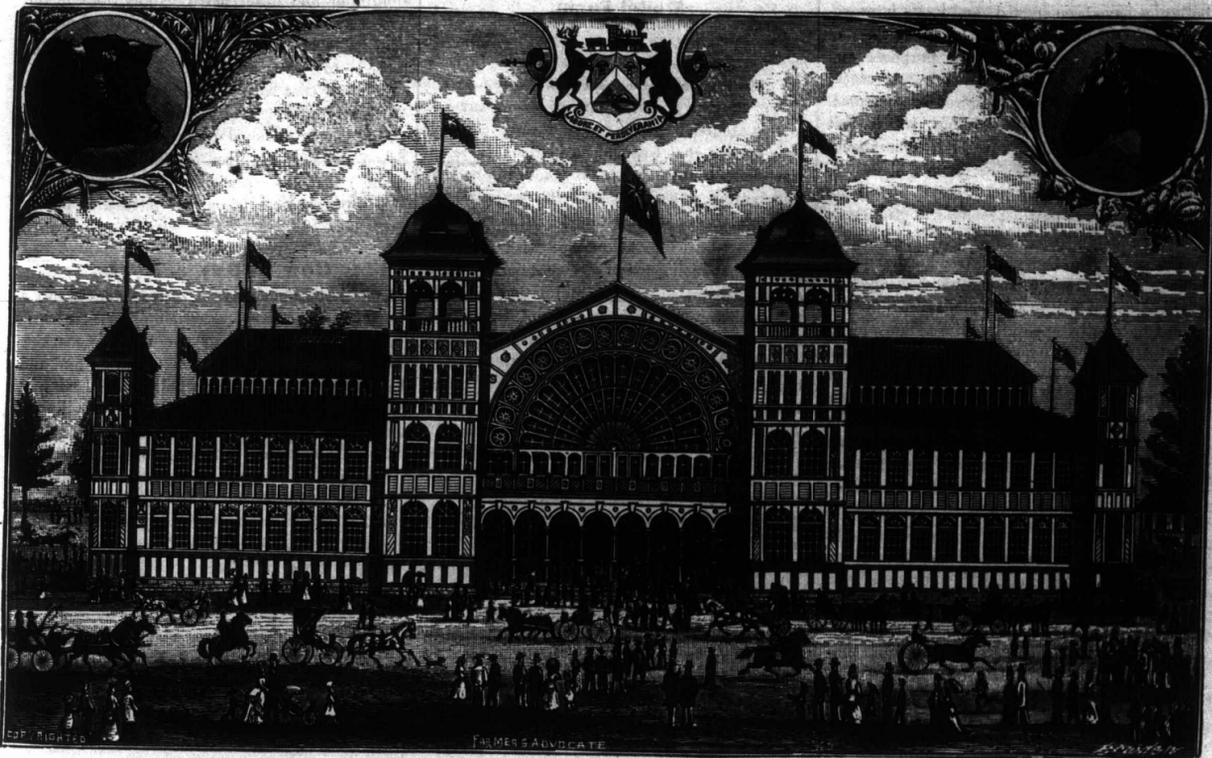
In a previous issue we gave you an illustration of the grounds of the Toronto Industrial. Here the attractions are the most extensive and the number of visitors the largest. We also gave you an illustration of the fair grounds at Ottawa which are rendered more attractive, than they otherwise would be, by being situated near the capital of the Dominion.

We now give you an illustration of the main building of the

WESTERN FAIR ASSOCIATION, situated in London, Ont. At one time American and other travellers declared the show held at this place to be the best purely agricultural exhibit on the continent; and the exhibitors of stock and implements found it one of the best places at which to sell.

for reaching which are very complete. The G. T. R. running special excursion trains every twenty minutes, or half hour; while the Street Railway land passengers at the main entrance every few minutes. It is also convenient to pedestrians, being only twenty minutes walk from the central portion of the city.

The main building is a beautiful structure, 200 x 80 feet, costing nearly \$24,000. All the other necessary buildings are fine and commodious. The poultry hall is the best in the Dominion; the cattle and horse stalls are claimed to be sufficient to accommodate upwards of 500 head in each department. The sheep and hogs are well provided for. The entire cost of the various buildings is over \$68,000. Water mains, hydrants, etc., have been put in at a cost above \$1,400. The grounds contain 37½ acres, on which many of the forest trees are



FRONT VIEW OF THE NEW MAIN BUILDING OF THE WESTERN FAIR, LONDON, CANADA.

order. At some of the large shows the interests of the farmers are given a second place. At Toronto last year, on a certain day, many of the best Clydesdales in Canada were called into the main ring. All were brought in, in fine shape and at considerable trouble to their owners. They had not got fairly in when they were ordered out to make room for some frivolous amusement, much to the disgust and inconvenience of the breeders. If our fair associations find it necessary—which we presume they do—to give those yearly attractions, the rings should be so arranged that the amusements will not interfere with the exhibition of stock, which, to the farmers, is of the greatest importance. Let the stock have their full share of attention and the rings which belong to them. By giving the attractions a separate place, those who go especially to see them, as many do, will not be bored by stock exhibits, nor will the farmers be

London is situated in a hundred square miles of the best agricultural territory on the continent, whether judged by its timber, live stock, grain or dairy products. The whole territory is supplied with an abundance of pure water; in this particular no city in the Province can equal London, and for hotel and boarding accommodation at a moderate price it is certainly unequalled in America.

A number of the citizens for some years made determined efforts to have the old grounds, which were located in the centre of the city, sold; though strongly opposed, they were at last successful. The present buildings are located about one mile and a-half south-east of their former location. The G. T. R. passes immediately south of them, and stock and goods can be unloaded from the cars on the grounds. The C. P. R. is located but a short distance north, within a couple of blocks of the grounds. The facilities

still growing in groups, affording ample shade, and giving the grounds a very picturesque appearance, making them very suitable for the comfortable accommodation of a larger number of people. Last year about 75,000 persons attended this fair.

The Association is going to spend \$2,000 this year in enlarging and covering grand stand, improvements to general offices, enlarging railway platforms, &c. The fair dates are September 20th to 29th, which extends the fair over nine days, instead of one week as heretofore. The appropriation for prizes, attractions, etc., is \$25,000. The total value of grounds and buildings, and expenditure this year will be about \$132,000.

The new features already arranged for are a grand Indian exhibit by the Indian tribes of Ontario, in manufactured articles, agricultural products, curiosities, etc., and provision is being made for an international bench show of dogs. The management are leaving no stone unturned to make the forthcoming fair the popular event of the year. Prize lists and all other information may be had of the Secretary, Mr. Geo. McBroom.