

from the proper quarters that it deserves,—we ought, I think, to look to our Provincial Exhibition as a medium through which a gradual but thorough change may be effected, and ultimately place the milling interest in a far better position than it now generally occupies. At present while the money permanently invested in mill property may be counted by millions, adding immense sums needful for carrying on the business, the manufacture of flour is recognized as an industrial art annually, by the awarding of two or three prizes of from three to ten dollars each.

The main object to be attained by good milling is to get the best possible quality of flour of the least possible quantity of wheat. A miller possess the knowledge thus requisite to make milling profitable, but a large proportion of those engaged in this business seem to be working in the dark, make an inferior article, waste their money, and bring discredit upon our products abroad. The Provincial Agricultural Association has hitherto done nothing to counteract this. The premiums, insignificant as they are, are not within the reach of our best brands, suitable for consumption, but to attain them a couple of barrels are got up at considerable expense, made from the choicest winter wheat, and of a quality made finer than is known in commerce, which is of no practical use to the baker. As the bulk of our exports across the Atlantic are going wheat flours, this system does not touch the evils complained of.

If liberal prizes were offered competition would ensue, experiences would be interchanged, knowledge would spread, the tyranny exercised by those known as "boss millers" would give way, and the proprietors would find that milling is not the mysterious art that we are required to believe it by those gentlemen who, after going through a seven years' apprenticeship in England, to very little useful purpose so far as Canada is concerned, come out to this country to receive a salary of forty or fifty dollars a month.

In discussing this subject, let the gentlemen of the Provincial Association remember they are dealing with the most important branch of manufactures the Upper Province possesses. The various grades of flour, each useful for its own particular purpose, are regulated by Act of Parliament; excellence in each grade should be sought for, and prizes should be given to secure it. The following premiums may at first not appear large, but they are not in reality so, considering the magnitude of the changes that might be effected through their instrumentality. I would propose a scale something as follows:—

- \$400 to the maker of the best 100 barrels of superfine.
- \$400 for the best 100 barrels of fancy.
- \$200 " 100 " of extra.
- \$200 " 100 " superior extra.

The flour to be stored in the public warehouse; the inspector to examine all and mark the

grades, placing in the exhibition building four or five barrels from each lot as its representative. Superiority to consist primarily in the excellence of the flour itself for using and keeping qualities; also in the goodness of the packages, their weight and capability for withstanding rough handling and long carriage, and the neatness and fitness of the brand.

As the next Exhibition will be held in Toronto, a favorable opportunity will then be presented to give this plan a trial without putting to inconvenience the miller and shipper. A powerful incentive to some movement of this kind exists in the enormous loss sustained during the late summer of 1861 in Canadian superfines heating and souring on the voyage to England, by which it is supposed that fully two-thirds became unfit for human food. The consequent loss, although falling upon individuals in the first instance, was sufficiently large to affect the country generally, by sensibly diminishing the value of its exports.

The writer has at different times brought this matter in an informal manner before some members of the executive of the Association, and he has reason to think that united action on the part of the millers would cause the adoption, not perhaps of this individual plan with all its details, but of some one equally well, or perhaps better, suited to the end desired.

Your obedient servant,

F. A. WHITNEY.

Toronto, October 30, 1861.

The Provincial Exhibition.

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The fourteenth Exhibition was held at Kingston in the Building already described. The prize list amounted to \$10,513; the entries to 4,930, being more than one thousand short of the number of entries at Toronto the previous year. Nevertheless the display was regarded as satisfactory, particularly with respect to live stock and agricultural products. Besides the customary annual address of the President, lectures were delivered by Dr. Lawson, Professor of Chemistry and Natural History in the University of Queen's College, and by the Rev. Hannibal Mulkins, on Scientific Agriculture.

It has been remarked, in a preceding paragraph, that the Association began its existence in 1846, wholly without funds. In 1860, the auditors certified that they had examined the accounts, and found that the sum of one hundred and ten thousand nine hundred and eighty-dollars had been received by the indefatigable Treasurer, R. L. Denison, Esq., and that there remained a balance in his hands of eight thousand and twenty-eight dollars on the 20th Sept., 1859. What further illustration of the pecu-