

culture and Arts, who has also the charge of Immigration and Public Works. His functions are, to receive the reports of all Societies connected with the Department, to pay the Government grant, and to embody in a report, presented annually to the Legislature, the state and progress of the various Societies and industries comprised within his sphere.

The Provincial Agricultural Association was commenced in 1846, and from a very small beginning it has, for some years past, assumed a magnitude of great importance. Its main object is the encouragement of agriculture, horticulture, manufactures, and the mechanical and fine arts, by holding an annual Provincial Exhibition, and by such other means as it thinks advisable. The number of articles entered in the various departments has of late been from five to upwards of seven thousand, and from ten to more than twelve thousand dollars have been annually awarded in prizes. The Association is governed by a Council, chosen by the County Societies throughout the Province. The Legislature gives an annual grant of ten thousand dollars to this body to assist it in the prosecution of its important objects.

There are in Ontario upwards of three hundred Societies organized according to law, for the promotion of agriculture, horticulture, and the mechanical arts, principally by holding annual exhibitions for public competition in their respective localities. In addition to the large sums raised by members' subscriptions, the Government encourages their efforts by an annual grant amounting, on the whole, to nearly seventy thousand dollars. This large sum is given to the different Societies in proportion to the amount which each raises respectively. The stimulus thus given to agricultural improvement generally, has induced, of late years, several enterprising farmers to import from Britain pure bred animals of the Short-horn, Hereford, Devon, and other breeds, at great expense; and this may be said also of horses, sheep, and swine, so that the Province now contains a large amount of breeding stock of the highest character and value.

The high position which Ontario occupies, both in the Dominion of Canada, and as compared with the United States, in relation to