

been used as axle grease for car wheels. Second, the cattle trade. When the shipping of horses and horned cattle was first begun with England, the animals sent were of such a quality as to be entirely unsuited to the British market; during the last twenty years these things have been considerably changed, both by the experience gained by the shippers, and by our annual exhibitions, stimulated as they are by government grants, and these exhibitions are now attracting dealers from the old world to inspect and purchase such horses, cattle and dairy products as we have to sell.

Exhibitions are also held for a variety of other objects. Amongst these are, first, the stimulation of the production of merchandise, cattle, fish and fowl, the products of the soil, of the mine, and fine arts, &c. Second, to show the progress which is being made in these articles from time to time, with the view that by making and rearing the best that can be produced, the general progress of the country may keep pace with other parts of the world, so that this country may not be found behind in the character of its products for export, when presented side by side with the commodities of other nations in the markets of the old world. This especially refers to our cereals, cattle, timber products, and manufactures, &c., and third, as an advertisement of the commodities which the parties exhibiting have to dispose of. Exhibitions, also, whether township, county, or Provincial, add much to the amenities of life, as they collect together a large number of people, who discuss the various trades, businesses, professions or callings to which the individuals belong, and thus by the attrition of mind on mind, the moral and intellectual standing of the whole people is elevated, and all are more or less benefited. Another advantage which occurs from these festive occasions—for they partake also a good deal of the holiday, after the heat and worry of the harvest—is, that such numbers of people are moving from place to place, that railways and steamboats reduce their fares, and thus parties living at a distance are enabled to visit their relatives and friends, or expand their ideas by a little wholesome travel in various parts of the country which they had never visited before, at a reasonable rate. The visiting of kindred and friends, and a general knowledge of the country and people, keeps alive an interest which does much to weld the people into one homogeneous mass, and engenders a feeling of loyalty to the crown, and a love of one's country.

It has been well said, "Man was not made to live alone," and these annual gatherings do much to cheer the onward path of life.

These displays which have now grown to be of such value to the state and nation, were much stimulated by the late Prince Consort, who inaugurated the first Universal Exhibition, which, after much anxious thought, was opened to the world in 1851, in Hyde Park, London, England.

This world's fair did more to stimulate trade in Britain and other parts of the globe than anything that had preceded it. Raw and manufactured articles from all parts of the world were put on view side by side. Manufacturers, scientists and artists all vied with each other in their endeavor to excel. Ideas were obtained from the way in which certain works were performed and copied in distant lands. The manufactured and industrial products of modern times were pushed simultaneously to a higher level, and the knowledge of mankind as a whole was greatly advanced. A new epoch was by this means established, and so great were the benefits derived, even in this first attempt, that it has been many times repeated since, and always with marked success. These exhibitions took such a place in the world at large that they are being continued in a more humble, though quite as useful a way, amongst our own people of to day, and those who witness the busy and excited throng on the grounds in London, this month, will see in a diminutive degree the crowds which assembled just thirty years ago in the metropolis which we as Canadians have named our little city after, and which, as the children of our great fatherland we delight to imitate.

Some people, it is thought, have, without sufficient reason or consideration, decried the practice of giving money prizes at these exhibitions; this position, on reflection, it is believed is quite untenable. There is no doubt the exhibition of thoroughbred stock, machinery, &c., is one of the best advertisements for its proprietor, yet it is denied most distinctly all the benefit is from its exposure. Individuals wishing to compare and purchase, can do so much better when the articles are brought into proximity with each other, and the

opinions of those best able to judge have been pronounced upon them. These opinions could not be had in any other way than that which has grown out of the necessities of the case. Any man could form an opinion as to which was the best of two animals, situated in two different counties; but it would be impossible, if they closely resembled each other, to pronounce an exact judgment, unless they were brought together, and it would scarcely be fair to expect that the expense of the transport of stock or any other commodity should be borne entirely by the owner, when a considerable portion of the advantage derived are gained by the individuals who come from far to see the exhibit with the view of purchasing or utilizing the stock shown.

Of the expediency of holding exhibitions and giving prizes, there is certainly no two opinions. A doubt may arise as to whether the money voted has been legitimately expended. The itinerant system of holding the Provincial must of necessity make this show an expensive one; but on the other hand, the advantages gained by the Province as a whole would probably quite compensate for this mode of procedure. Were the exhibitions held in one place continuously, as in Toronto, which is easy of access both by boat and rail, with a dense population living immediately in its vicinity, a large portion, if not all the \$10,000 subsidy granted by the Ontario Government, could possibly be dispensed with; but it is highly questionable whether the benefits of educating the people up to the proper standard would be gained in all parts of the Province.

With regard to the grant of \$3,000 to the Dairy-men's Association, it must be confessed that much has been done in the direction of improving our butter and cheese products during the past twenty years. The signal triumph that attended Canada's Centennial dairy exhibits, at Philadelphia, fully showed the great advance made on the products of former years. Our higher class cheeses now compare favorably with any produced by the manufacturers of Holland, Switzerland, or England itself, and the better class of gilt edged butter made in Ontario creameries, where the temperature of the air and milk are properly regulated, brings such an advanced price, that if all the butter made were similarly manufactured, it would add many thousands of dollars to the export trade of the country. It is therefore considered the money is wisely expended and will be amply returned before many years by raising the quality and quantity of our dairy products.

The \$1,800 expended by the Fruit Growers' Association for the purpose of raising and importing new and better fruits, for dissemination to every locality of this Province, is doing a valuable work. Hundreds who had no idea of the advantages possessed by our favored soil and climate are now living under the shadow of their own vines. Not only are plants distributed to members, but the annual report, replete with useful information, is distributed gratuitously amongst its members. This Society is also taking up the subject of Forestry, which is the largest interest in the Province next to agriculture, and which, it appears, is liable to become extinct within the lives of men now in existence, unless it is closely looked after. Nothing adds more to the healthfulness and enjoyment of life than good fruit. It is also becoming one of the acknowledged articles of export, and now that a surplus is being produced, will add largely to the money value of the country when sent across the water in its green, canned or dried state. Again, amongst vine-growing countries are found the most temperate people under the sun. The grape acid appears to be peculiarly fitted for the health of those who live in hot countries where it is produced, and fills a place too frequently supplied by ardent spirits. The writer is no advocate for alcohol of any kind, but men must be taken as they are found, and it is much better they should indulge in mild stimulants than in those fiery beverages which kill both soul and body, and make man a by-word and a reproach to all those who come in contact with him.

The Entomological Association gets \$1,000, and it would be impossible for the country to do without a society of this kind. It will be remembered that when the Colorado potato beetle invaded this country, in 1871, the Hon. John Carling, then Minister of Agriculture, despatched Mr. William Saunders, the then Vice-President of the Society, and Mr. E. B. Reed, Treasurer, to the western part of the Province, to examine and report on the dirty beasts. These entomologists made experiments, with the view of adopting the best means of fighting the insect, and it was found that Paris

green was the only remedy available as a cheap and compact means for its destruction. This drug has been adhered to ever since, and the society has in this one instance alone saved the country hundreds of thousands of dollars. They have also assisted in arresting the ravages of the codling moth, the "Little Turk" and the cabbage butterfly embryo, the sand fly which attacks the raspberry, and that which is the enemy of the currant and gooseberry; but these are only a trifling part of the benefits derived from this Association. To extend the list would be to drag out this paper beyond all bounds. The objects of this society are to watch for insect enemies, and to study their habits through their several changes; and if injurious, how they may be easiest met and exterminated; to determine which are beneficial and which injurious; and in fact to protect mankind against one of its insignificant but most persistent foes.

The Poultry Association is awarded \$700 per annum; and if we are going to compete in the poultry trade by shipping tows to England, it is certainly time we were beginning to improve our breeds of chickens, because, although we have some fine fowls in this country, the majority of them are not such as would pay for export to a discriminative market. It will be found in this trade, as well as in that of fat cattle, that it will be necessary to get a good bird at the least cost at the youngest age. Many farmers' daughters have the privilege of raising chickens as a means of enabling them to make a little private pin money, and no one will grudge them any advantage that will enable them to double their scanty income.

The total grant for agriculture for the year ended 31st December last was in round numbers \$76,000. This may be looked upon as a very liberal one, but when it is considered that nearly the whole revenue of the Province is derived from this source, including the Crown timber lands, it is only right that a small portion should be returned to stimulate these industries and fit them better as articles of export. It may be a question, however, if more good could not be done by amalgamating the counties, by clubbing the funds, three or more together, for exhibition purposes; but this would be a matter for the executives of the societies to consider. It would also be well for these rural societies if they could see their way to offering prizes for the purpose of encouraging tree planting on waste lands, ravines and roadsides, or where permanent fences are located on farms, and around dwellings and outbuildings, for the purpose of shade, ornament and wind-breaks. It is believed that no greater or better legacy could be left by a parent to his children than a grove of a few acres of black walnuts, now worth \$100 per 1,000 feet—the price of which is in no way liable to decline—or the European larch, a rapid-growing tree, suitable for fence-posts, railway ties, or any other object for which an enduring wood is required. For wayside trees there is nothing more suitable than elm, the hard or soft maple, &c. A judicious planting of trees might be made without much cost, which time and the influences of nature would convert into a saving bank, either to dower a daughter or to pay off a mortgage contracted for farm improvements. A farm well ornamented with trees will always bring a higher price than one with bleak surroundings.

It might be well to consider whether it would not be advantageous to hold county exhibitions every third year, devoting the Government grant for the intermediate two years to the purchase of thoroughbred stock, such as stallions, bulls, rams, boars, &c., to be let at a cheap rate to members of the Agricultural Association. Nothing requires improvement more than Canadian farm stock, and there is probably no way of obtaining this object better than that above suggested.

In conclusion, therefore, it is suggested—first, that in no case should the present system of Provincial, county and township exhibitions be interfered with; secondly, that the prize lists might be advantageously revised, so as to give prizes with the view more to encourage home adornment, and for those articles mainly produced for export; and, thirdly, that it might be desirable to hold the county shows every third year, instead of annually, as at present, and expend the Government grants for the intermediate period for the production of better stock.

Finally, it is estimated that the \$76,000 annually expended to stimulate agricultural production is not a tax of a hundredth of one per cent. on the forest and farming products of Ontario, and it is the least possible sum that should be expended for such a laudable object.