

sources of the Province. Amongst the causes referred to may be mentioned the extremely unfavorable character of the season of 1863, in the counties surrounding Kingston, for the growth of cereals, roots, &c., and for the pasturing of animals. Then, the farmers of that part of the country have not yet turned their attention to the breeding of the more valuable kinds of farm stock to the same extent as in some other parts. It should be stated, however, that several gentlemen of means in that district have lately commenced operations in this branch of Agriculture, and exhibited some superior imported pure bred cattle at the show. In one particular breed of cattle—the Ayrshires—the Kingston District stands second to none in the Province. Another cause of the comparative want of success of the exhibition, was the very wet and unfavorable weather during the week in which it was held, and which prevented many visitors, as well as animals and articles for exhibition, from being present. If, however, the exhibition was not so extensive as it has sometimes been, the quality of the live stock present was fully equal, if not in some respects superior, to former occasions, and the show of implements and other manufactured articles was likewise creditable and instructive. I submit the following statement, showing the amount of competition and the amount of prizes awarded in the various classes.

[The statement here referred to will be found at page 372 of this vol.]

For the purpose of exhibiting a comparison of the results of this show with those of preceding years, as well as showing the general progress that has been made in the extent of the operations of the association, concurrently with the advancement of the agricultural interests of the country, I give here a condensed statement of the number of entries and the amount awarded in each of the main leading departments at every exhibition since the establishment of the Association. I would observe here that the figures for the first three or four years in this table are not given as professing to be precisely correct. The management of the exhibitions in those days not having been yet systematically established, the records in many

cases are either very imperfect, or wanting altogether. The figures are, however, sufficiently correct in the aggregate, and as nearly correct in detail as it is now possible to make them. After the year 1849 the books in possession of the Board afford the means of making a correct abstract. These figures, as will be seen, exhibit a very rapid increase in the magnitude of the exhibitions. And this is not an increase in the mere annual display of articles exhibited alone, it affords at the same time a tolerably correct index to the real progress in the agricultural wealth and industrial productiveness of the country. At the commencement of the exhibitions all the cattle of improved pure breeds in the country could be easily numbered by the score. Now they are to be found in many hundreds. The improvement in the quality and condition of the grain, roots and fruit annually exhibited has been very marked. In the early years of the association, at least one half of the agricultural implements exhibited were of United States manufacture. These have now altogether disappeared from our show yards, while a greatly increased extent of ground is annually occupied by excellent implements and machines of home production. This great improvement in the quality and value of the live stock and other agricultural and industrial productions, may justly be claimed to be in a great measure due to the liberal and continued support and encouragement given by the Government to the Agricultural Societies and the Agricultural Associations of the country; which have thus been assisted in promoting a spirit of emulation, and in affording the opportunities for obtaining valuable practical instruction by means of their annual exhibitions.

In regard to the following table, I beg to state that the column for Agricultural and Horticultural products includes Dairy products, honey, home made sugar, and farm cured provisions, as well as grain, roots, fruit, &c.; the column for implements includes entries and prizes for ploughing matches at a few of the early shows; and the column for Arts and Manufactures includes articles from the factory, the foundry, the work shop and the domestic household.