

Our Country.

PRINCE EDWARD AGRICULTURAL AND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ONTARIO FARMER.

Sir,—Having recently spent a few days in parts of the Counties of Northumberland, Hastings and Prince Edward, and enjoyed the pleasure and advantages of much personal intercourse with farmers and others, I wish to say a few words more especially with reference to my visit to Picton, when I arrived after a very pleasant sail on the picturesque Bay of Quinte, on the morning of Dominion Day, July, 1st.

The Directors of the County Agricultural, and the Picton Horticultural Societies had selected the day set apart for commemorating the formation of the Canadian Dominion, for a display of some of the various productions that belong to their respective spheres. The day throughout was delightfully fine and pleasant, and notwithstanding numerous attractions in other places, vast numbers of visitors from different points of the bay reached Picton before noon, and presented a scene of much gaiety and interest. A number of popular games were got up, but the principal points of attraction were Horticultural Show and the Agricultural grounds.

These grounds, situate close to the town, comprise about a dozen acres, recently purchased on very advantageous terms, conveniently laid out, and already planted with trees, and with a little more planting the whole will have quite a picturesque and park-like appearance, commanding beautiful views of the bay and surrounding country. There is a driving course of more than a third of a mile in length for the exhibition of horses. In the centre of the grounds a convenient and substantial Exhibition Building has been erected, two stories high, 75 feet in length, and 50 feet in width, with large wings, and ornamented with a spacious cupola, with sides of glass, "and," to quote the words of the Society's last report, "above all rises a fine flag staff, from which, on any public occasion, floats the noble flag of the Empire, as a reminder that while absorbed in the duties and business of every day life, we as a Society feel proud to hold an Exhibition under the protection of England's beloved Queen." Although several societies have of late procured permanent grounds and buildings, I know of none for convenience and beauty, superior to those of Prince Edward. There were some good saddle and matched carriage horses exhibited, and likewise reapers and mowers from two or three Canadian firms, which are now getting into more general use. This county has long been celebrated for its light and useful horses, but for thoroughly

working the older and heavier lands, larger and more muscular animals are beginning to be required.

The show of the Horticultural Society was a brilliant success, when the unfavorable state of the season is considered. It was stated that more than four thousand admission tickets were sold during the day and evening. The flowers were generally fine and tastefully arranged, and numerous specimens of early fruits and vegetables indicated the attention and skill displayed in their cultivation. The Picton Society was brought into existence by the public aid afforded by the new Agricultural Statute, which seeks to encourage horticulture as well as agriculture, and also the mechanical and manufacturing arts. From all I could see on this interesting occasion, I feel, persuaded that Prince Edward has commenced a new era in the advancement of the agricultural and horticultural arts.

The taste displayed in and about Picton, in the planting of shade trees in the streets and along the roads is clearly indicative of progress and comfort. The maple seems to thrive luxuriantly and groves and clumps here and there gratify the eye, and afford a welcome shade. Mr. Robert Wurden, a leading farmer and horticulturist in this part took the initiative many years ago in this mode of improving rural taste. Others followed his example, and the consequence is that artificial plantations are now so far advanced, as wherever they exist, shelter against both heat and cold is effected, to the agreeable and beneficial modification of local climate, and the great improvement of rural scenery. I was in more than one place in this neighborhood, which pleasingly reminded me, in a small scale, it is true, of the shrubberies and plantations that give to the English landscape so large a share of its charms and beauty. May so needed and salutary an example become more generally followed in Canada, and thus remove the objection so commonly urged against our residences, public buildings, roads, &c., a monotonous baldness and expanse, arising from the absence of trees.

I may further remark that I saw in the township of Hallowell two of the greatest extremes in hop culture that could probably be found anywhere. In one plantation the ground had received no cultivation whatever; the poles had been put up and the vines tied to them without any previous pruning, and the ground covered with weeds from a foot to upwards of a yard in height. No wonder the plant what then was of it, looked dwarfed and sickly. The other plantation for deep and clean culture, the entire absence of weeds, the strength and healthy greenness of the vines indicated a style of management that one would rarely see exceeded in the best kept gardens of Kent or Surrey, in England.