

not as large as we could wish, still there was a fair representation from some Agricultural Societies, particularly that of Onslow. Other interests than those of Agriculture were represented, and we feel certain that the gentlemen who compose the committee will do all in their power to further the best interests of the Exhibition, and that possibly a more judicious selection could not have been made had the meeting been twice as large.

At 11 o'clock a. m., the meeting was organized by appointing J. B. Fraser, Esq., of Shubenacadie, as Chairman, and Isaac Burnhill, Esq., of Onslow, as Secretary. After a few remarks by several gentlemen, the meeting unanimously adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That this meeting highly approves of the action of W. M. Blair, Esq., in applying to the Central Board of Agriculture on behalf of this County of Colchester, with the view of holding a Provincial Exhibition during the current year, in terms of the Act passed by the Provincial Legislature in the session of 1876.

After a series of remarks on the part of many present, all being favourable to the holding of the Exhibition, and all sanguine as to its success, the following gentlemen were unanimously chosen as the Executive Committee:

W. M. Blair, W. N. Dickson, I. Longworth, J. B. Fraser, C. P. Blanchard, George Layton, Gardner Clish, J. B. Callin, J. F. Blanchard, and the Presidents and Secretaries of the different Agricultural Societies throughout the County. The following resolution was adopted without a dissenting voice:

Resolved, That each individual present guarantee, *pro rata*, the sum of \$50.00 towards any deficiency in the expenses of the Exhibition.

Still further towards this object, it was resolved that steps should be taken to place the matter beyond the possibility of a doubt, and a committee, consisting of James D. Ross and James A. Leaman, was appointed to circulate a paper for the purpose of raising a large guarantee fund.

The idea is not a new one, and has worked well in other places, and we trust that this community will show its appreciation of the efforts being put forth to secure the holding of this Provincial Exhibition in Colchester, by swelling the list to gigantic proportions.

Let the whole County move in this matter of an Agricultural and Industrial Provincial Exhibition, and we shall never have cause to regret it.

RHODODENDRONS.

About the finest of all hardy evergreen shrubs is the Rhododendron, whether you take it for its hardiness, effectiveness in pleasure-grounds, anywhere and in any form, game cover—owing to its freedom from the ravages of hares and rabbits—for its splendid flower, which so beauti-

lies the landscape for many weeks and months together in spring and early autumn, its kindly disposition to bein forced into flower early, or its general decorative qualities, which are splendid in the conservatory or elsewhere. All these qualities being put together no other genus can approach or in any way equal it. In parks, where it luxuriates like a Bay Laurel in its native soil, it grows very rapidly, and literally runs along the ground, and roots and perpetuates itself freely. When it does this it makes splendid cover for game. This remark, however, applies chiefly to the ponticum breed; and, when it holds good, it is a sure sign that most of the whole tribe of hybrids will thrive equally well. We are indebted chiefly to the Waterers for our great variety of hybrids, which are endless; and, seeing that they are such hardy, fine shrubs, it is as well that the variety is great, or the few colours would otherwise perhaps render them too monotonous when in flower.

It is generally understood that the Rhododendron will not thrive in soils that are calcareous, and no doubt this is so: but in plantations where accumulations of leaves, weeds, and sticks have been going on for years and years, they soon establish themselves. Many instances may be pointed out where utter failure to grow the Rhododendron in newly formed gardens has occurred, and in shadier parts they have recovered and grown into luxuriant flowering shrubs. No shrubs stand shifting from place to place better than the Rhododendron, and they may be lifted at almost any season, except perhaps just at the growth-making time. The Rhododendron bears pruning and cutting into shape quite as well as any evergreen, and should, therefore, never be allowed to run away unshapely for want of the pruning knife. Standard Rhododendrons are magnificent objects when associated with dwarf ones, and amongst large trees and grass they have a fine effect. It has been noted how well they thrive in connection with Oak trees, much better than with Beech or Elm, and no doubt this is owing to the Oak not being such a greedy surface-feeder as the other trees, and is more contented to take for its motto, "Live and let live."

One of the most enjoyable of walks is one of grass 10 or 12 feet wide run through a plantation, and planted on either side with Rhododendrons. Such a one is found at Floors Castle, where a broad border on both sides is planted thickly with thousands of the finer hybrids and ponticums, and dotted at certain distances with standards such as the Waterers of Knap Hill and Bagshot are famed for. Another broad gravel terrace walk borders a portion of the park, above

a mile long, and, supported and fenced from the park by a sunk stone dyke, has the wood side planted again with many thousands of the finer hybrids and brilliant standards towering above them at irregular distances. These extensive borders of Rhododendrons are occasionally thinned out, and other plantations are made gay with the thinnings, and thus a healthy state of matters is kept up for those left and those taken away, both being benefitted, and extra growth and flowers is the consequence of those thinnings. All the leaves that fall from the trees are allowed to remain about them, and the rakings of the walk and broad grass border are also scattered in about them during the leaf-fall, and thus a natural protection is afforded them, and at the same time food if supplied in the form of surface dressings, which is the essence of growth to this handsome family.

A common practice with most people is to dig their borders every year. If the object is to have long sticky growthless plants do so by all means, but where a healthy shrubby plant is wanted a spade should never be used after it has been once planted. A Rhododendron is a flat surface-rooting plant, and it stands to reason that if you practice digging for the sake of appearance (3) you must sacrifice the surface-feeders, which means simply a stagnation of growth. A Rhododendron is more inclined to shoot surfacewards and upwards than downwards, and hence we have never hesitated to plant on an old tree-stock or on a big stone sooner than go to the expense and trouble of grubbing it out: these have thriven amazingly well, thanks to top-dressings alone. It is useless giving a list of Rhododendrons, for all are more or less beautiful when the different shades of the same colour are grouped together. As a rule, however, I prefer the standards of the brilliant crimson and rosy kinds with their splendid flowering heads towering above their compeers, with a dense background of Privet, Laurel, Bracken, &c. *K.—Gardener's Chronicle.*

THE CENTENNIAL.

From the "Live Stock Journal."

What a grand opportunity for a retrospect; and what class more need a review of their past, and a good resolution for the future, than farmers. We do not propose to review the past century of agricultural progress, for our space is quite too limited, if we had the facts at our command, for this purpose. But a cursory examination of all the inventions which have enabled the farmer to dispense with nine-tenths of the hand labor, will find them nearly all within the century of our existence as a nation; and many of the most important, such as the mower, reap-