

The Western Fair.

This is the name given to the Agricultural Exhibition held in London. The three western cities, London, Toronto and Hamilton, held their Exhibitions in the same week—the week after the Provincial Exhibition. There exists a little rivalry on the part of the directors of these fairs, as each wished to surpass the other and each desired to have the week after the Provincial Exhibition for their show.

The Western Fair has for a long series of years been more successful than those held in any other city; in fact, it stands the strongest rival to the Provincial Exhibition, in many ways surpassing it. For instance, in general purpose horses and in Leicester sheep the competition was about twice as strong. Far more sales were effected among farmers at this Exhibition. The display made by agricultural implement manufacturers has never been equalled in Canada. There were seven steam engines in operation on the ground, all erected at the expense of the manufacturers, while at Ottawa we only noticed one, and that was for mechanical purposes, erected by the Association.

Visit from a Maryland Farmer.

Mr. J. Grey, from Still Pond, Kent Co., Maryland, called at our office the other day. He informed us he had been some weeks in Canada, having been to counties east of this. He has purchased upwards of one hundred sheep from the following breeders:—McGregor, Fleming, Lane, Craig, Tooley and McColl. He purchased many of the prize animals, besides a fine breeding stock of ewes. His purchases comprise Lincolns, Cotswolds and Leicesters.

He said in no part of Canada could he procure such good sheep as in this vicinity. Let our breeders wake up. He said he could not find what he considered any really pure-bred Lincolns in the country; he only took the best he could find.

Mr. Grey also left his order with a person in this city for a quantity of seeds, as he wished to procure them better than he had been supplied with. We enquired of him the state of farming in his part of the country. Peaches, wheat and clover are the principal products in his locality. The peach crop is an important one, some farmers there having a thousand acres of peaches; one man has fifteen hundred acres. He says none of their best peaches are sent to Canada.

We inquired the value of land there. He said from two to three hundred dollars per acre. We asked the rental; he said they had three hundred and seventy-four acres, and they were offered thirty-two hundred dollars per annum for it, under a lease of five years. Mr. G. is in partnership with his brothers; they own nine hundred acres.

We enquired regarding manure. He said they manured once in five years, and put on from one hundred and seventy-five to three hundred bushels of lime per acre; the cost of lime there is only seven cents per bushel.

In regard to labor, he says they used to employ the negroes, but now employ German laborers. We inquired whether they did not anticipate trouble with them. No; they are dying off rapidly, and are living in a most debased condition. Disease carries them off. They will run to some spree of a night, sleep in a shed or fence corner, and are unfit for work. They won't sleep in a bed if one is prepared for them, and they won't have them around the premises. We asked if they did not steal. He said only chickens; they always would do that, but in other matters the farmers were not molested, as the law dealt severely with them.

Mr. Grey kindly gave us an invitation to call and see them during the Centennial Exhibition, which will be held within two hour's ride of their residence. We hope to have the pleasure of calling on them, and hope to give you more about peaches, sheep lime, etc.

Sale of Stock.

Mr. Craig, of Elmhurst Farm, Barnhamthorpe, has purchased from Col. J. B. Taylor, of Springwood Farm, London, Ont., bull 17th Duke of Avondale, heifer 12th and 13th Duchess of Springwood, of the Craggs tribe, and Rose Jackson, of the Rose of Sharon tribe. The price paid is said to have been \$10,000.

At Guelph Central fair Mr. Joseph Kenyon, of Colorado, made extensive purchases of prize animals in the sheep class, among them being two shearing rams and four ewe lambs from Jarmin Riddell, Richmond Hill, and some Leicesters and Cotswolds from Richard Gibson and George Douglas, London.

Yesterday afternoon, says the *Times* of Sept. 8, forty pure bred shorthorns belonging to Lord Skelmersdale, and two belonging to the Earl of Bective, were sold by Mr. Thornton, in Lathom Park, for 5,600 guineas. Two cows were sold for 520 guineas each—"Fluffy Gwynne" to the Earl of Bective, and "Waterloo Bienvenue" to Colonel Oliver, Hampshire. There was a large gathering of breeders from all parts of England, America, Canada and Australia. Prior to the public sale, Lord Skelmersdale sold the Duke of Ormskirk, by Fourth Baron of Oxford—First Duchess of Oneida, three months old, for 2,000 guineas, to Mr. Foster, of Killhowe, Carlisle.

Correspondence.**Wheat.**

SIR,—You ask for reports of new varieties of grain. I procured some of the Red Fern wheat last year, and sowed it on a piece of low land, but unfortunately, the unusually wet weather caused the land to be covered with water for eight days. I thought I should not have a grain, but after the water left it recovered better than any wheat I ever saw, and I threshed a fair crop when I expected none. I am well pleased with the wheat, and feel satisfied that had the grain a fair chance, it would be better than any other spring wheat in this part of the country.

I had Farrow wheat sown by the side of the Red Fern; it did not stand the wet half as well. In fact, I do not believe any wheat I ever saw will stand the wet as well as the Red Fern. I think it the best bearded spring wheat I ever saw. Telfer, Oct., 1875. GEORGE SCOTT.

SIR,—The following extract is from a letter that recently appeared in the *Christian Guardian*, from a correspondent at the Bruce Mines. It may induce some who think of removing to Manitoba to turn their attention to places nearer home.

"Near the mouth of the Spanish River there is a field of oats—105 acres; some of the stalks are six feet eight inches long. I send you a part of one that measures one and a half inches in circumference; also a head that measures fourteen inches in length. Now, if any farmer down east can produce any better, will he please send you a sample. I think if this part of the province were better understood and examined, many more farmers would settle here, where we have neither grasshoppers nor potato bugs, in preference to going so far west. There is plenty of land to be obtained here and around Sault Ste. Marie for 20 cents an acre, and if that is considered too much, then it can be got free. Yes, and that, too, within two or three miles of a steamboat landing on the main thoroughfare to the great West.

"A farmer told me a few days ago that he raised 800 bushels of potatoes last year off two acres of land. I have purchased a lot of land here at 20 cents an acre, all woodland, and one team in three days drew one hundred dollars worth of wood from the stump into market. I also bought a block of pine—forty acres—for eight dollars, and one tree will more than pay for it all. Then just think of good prairie meadow land being purchased for 20 cents per acre, that will yield say one or one and a half tons per acre! A farmer can keep just as many cattle as he pleases, as any quantity of pasture can be had free and hay for the cutting.

"Then, as regards prices, I don't think any market in Ontario affords such good prices. I have paid 15 cents a pound for every pound of fresh meat I have purchased this summer. Potatoes were \$1 a bushel last winter, oats 75 cents per bushel, eggs 75 cents per dozen, and everything else in proportion. I may remark that the hay which sold at Prince Arthur's Landing last spring. I may remark on the foregoing that the hay which sold at Prince Arthur's Landing at \$45 per ton, would probably not have fetched more than one-fourth of that price

at Sault Ste. Marie, and the present scale of prices could not be long kept up when the country is more fully occupied."

I have lately received a letter from an acquaintance at Sault Ste. Marie, in which he states that "wheat is now selling at from \$1 to \$1.25 per bush. of a good quality, suitable for seed. The growth of wheat grown in this part is not large, there being no mill until this year. The farmers have grown the grain more suitable for feed for horses and cattle. They will now turn their attention more to wheat, as it can be disposed of here at their doors."

I may add that at the agricultural exhibition at Sault Ste. Marie last year, the display of grain and vegetables was very fine. I have as yet seen no report of the exhibition which was to have been held on the 8th inst.

One of my neighbors, an old settler in this township and also a magistrate, told me early in the season that he intended calling a meeting of the farmers to consult about the best way of enforcing the Act respecting the protection of threshing and sawing machines, to prevent accidents, but the season has passed away and nothing has been done. If only one or two farmers in a township were to refuse to employ an unprotected machine, they would not get their threshing done at all. To be of any use, this Act must be amended so as to render it imperative on manufacturers of such machines to have them properly protected before they are sent out, and in default thereof render them liable for damages to those who may be injured through their neglect, just as the railway companies are at present.

A general law for preventing cattle going at large would be very unsuitable, and is not necessary. The municipal councils have the power to pass by-laws to prevent cattle going at large, but they dare not pass such laws for fear of being turned out of office at the next election; the members of our Legislature, also, dare not pass any really beneficial general laws for fear of offending the electors, and consequently losing their seats at the next general election. At present everything is left to the people, but experience proves that so much liberty is worse than useless, positively injurious. The practice of allowing cattle to run at large on the roads is very dangerous. I have more than once narrowly escaped a serious accident when riding or driving on the road after nightfall, from cattle lying on the road, as they generally come out of the woods at night to escape the flies. In townships which are, comparatively speaking, newly settled, some excuse may be found for this practice, as most of the settlers have not pasture enough for their cattle, and must of necessity allow them to run at large, although even in those places I see no reason why every settler should not be obliged to fence in his own lot, as in such cases there is no want of fencing material; but in the old settled townships, where most of the land is cleared, there can be no such excuse.

Surely the time has arrived when farmers ought to bestir themselves in self defence. The numerous highway robberies which have been committed lately, in some of which farmers have been sufferers, affords sufficient reason for their demanding from the Legislature the passage of an Act to empower Police and Stipendiary Magistrates to direct the Police to arrest all suspicious characters, and deal with them under the Vagrant Act. Such a law, if passed and vigorously enforced, would soon frighten the tramps and burglars out of the province. But unless the farmers determinedly insist on their Parliamentary Representatives extending to them this measure of protection, they are not likely to obtain it; and I would suggest that public meetings should be held everywhere for the purpose of enabling farmers generally to express their wishes in an unmistakable manner.

The 75,000 boxes of cheese at Montreal, which were supposed to be the produce of joint-stock cheese factories, turn out to be American skim-milk cheese, mixed with tallow, which has been imposed on the Montreal merchants as Canadian cheese. Farmers, for their own sakes, ought to demand from the Dominion Parliament the imposition of duties on all American produce equal in amount to the duties they impose on ours, so that we might at least supply our own markets ourselves, and so prevent such trash from being imported into Canada. If our farmers could only be brought to know their own strength and act in unison, they would not be so trampled on by unscrupulous politicians as they are, and as the *Advocate* has always been an independent farmer's paper, I trust you will not refuse insertion to the opinions I have now expressed. SARAWAK.