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THE ANNUAL EXHIBITION.  
AGRICULTURAL ASSOCIATION, U. C., 1866.

The twenty-first Exhibition of the Agricultural Association of Upper Canada, held in this City, closed its labours at 2 p. m. on Friday, the 28th September; having, as customary, extended over the whole of the week commencing Monday the 24th. From the fact of the Exhibition being held in Toronto, the Capital of Western Canada, with all its large appliances and surroundings, and the head-quarters of the Association, it was confidently anticipated, and with good reason—successful as the Exhibition of 1865 at London confessedly was—that of 1866 at Toronto would certainly be still more successful, in the number as well as character of the entries, and in the attendance of visitors. From the time preparations commenced, and the books were opened, up to the very eve of the Exhibition week, all these anticipations bade fair to be abundantly realized; for never in the history of these great Provincial gatherings, indicative of progress in our material resources, was there a brighter prospect of a most successful result. But as man proposes so Providence disposes; and, quite at the eleventh hour, heavy and continuous rain marred, if it did not defeat, the hopes and expectations which had been indulged in. All Tuesday, was a regular down-pour of soaking rain; and although the weather cleared up on Wednesday, and was brilliantly fine on Thursday and Friday, the Exhibition grounds were so wet and miry as to render locomotion in general unpleasant; and to make a visit to the live stock a labour which none but the zealous few ventured to attempt, or make anything like a thorough inspection of what otherwise would have more than repaid the trouble. It affords us, however, sincere gratification to be able to state that notwithstanding the drawback of much rain the Exhibition of 1866 was, beyond all question, a great success; for although adverse circumstances dimmed some portion of its *beauty*, the effect of its decided *usefulness* cannot be over-rated.

At a period so soon after the close of the Exhibition and when the bustle attending the winding up

of its business matters has not subsided, it would be impracticable to give any reliable statistics, either as to the number of entries in the several classes or the number of persons who visited the grounds. All this information will be duly prepared for and officially published in a subsequent number of the Journal; and it must therefore suffice, on the present occasion for us to state in general terms, that the entries as a whole were fully up to expectations; and, despite the weather, the attendance large, while particularly on Thursday the crowd was enormous. It was hoped that the members of the Provincial Government would have encouraged the Exhibition by their presence, but executive duties kept them away, except the Honorable D'Arcy McGee, who, as "Minister of Agriculture," appropriately inaugurated the formal opening of the Exhibition in an eloquent address delivered in the open air to an immense crowd of attentive listeners. With this exception, the Association had to depend on its own intrinsic merits for the accomplishment of the success which it has so deservedly merited and obtained, and which cannot fail to produce lasting benefits on the country at large.

Before reviewing the articles exhibited, it will be no more than right to notice the many and great improvements which at a heavy outlay have been made for the comfort and protection of the live stock; and the accommodation of Manufactures, Horticultural products, the Fine Arts, Ladies' work, and other like articles of a perishable or easily-injured character. Large additions have been made to the sheds and pens for cattle, sheep, and pigs, while a new and separate gallery for pictures, with a separate hall for fruits and flowers, have been erected, thus adding wonderfully to the opportunities afforded for the proper display, and the comfortable inspection of the articles exhibited; and by this means the whole of the interior of the Crystal Palace proper, renovated and fresh painted, was thereby devoted exclusively to Manufactures and other handicraft articles. The Association, through the local committee, and liberality of the Corporation of this city in granting the funds necessary, had evidently done its best to meet the call upon its exertions; and although the rain and mud made one wish that the grounds were better drained, and that plank-walks had been more liberally supplied, yet the Association can hardly be blamed for not providing against the contingences of weather.

Taking the Departments in the reverse order in which they appear in the prize list, we proceed first to consider the section of "Arts and Manufactures," which more especially comes with-