

ists between the Minister of Agriculture and the Provincial Board. We hope that some conciliatory steps may be taken at once to produce harmony between them. If the Provincial Board are acting injudiciously or indiscreetly, let their acts be publicly exposed, and a remedy will in some way be found to prevent their recurrence. We should be sorry to see an institution that has been of so much good to the country entirely broken up.

The Provincial Board is elected by members of the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies, but the law for the election might be much improved, as very often there are only a limited number of members present at the annual meetings at which they are elected.

GUELPH AGRICULTURAL EXHIBITION.

This is called the Central Exhibition, and is the crowning achievement in agricultural affairs in Canada for the year 1871. The Guelphites, with laudable zeal, have awakened to their interests. The people around Guelph have long been noted as among the best, if not the best farmers in Canada, and have devoted their time and means to improve their stock. The opportunities afforded them to be in advance of their neighbors, have been in a great measure due to the fact that Mr. Stone's extensive importing and breeding establishment is located there, thus affording them advantages that other sections do not possess. We have reason to believe that many do not appreciate the benefit that Mr. Stone's expenditure and energy has been to them and the country. However, time tells. The inhabitants of Guelph have worked unitedly, and have really done wonders this year. They purchased 33 acres of land, costing \$5000; enclosed it with a high board fence, at a cost of \$1000; expended \$10,000 in erecting extensive and suitable buildings; and offered the munificent sum of \$8000 in prizes. Stockmen and manufacturers, from east, west, north and south, came to the Fair, and made such a display as was never before seen in Guelph, outstripping both the Hamilton and London exhibitions, and approaching the nearest to the Provincial Exhibition of anything yet got up.—The actual receipts from tickets sold may not have equalled some of the other exhibitions, but the success of their first attempt far exceeded the expectations of the most sanguine. The grounds are the best yet selected in the Province, having a very large space for a driving track, and gradually rising ground adjoining, so that spectators may stand around and see what is going on, without crowding or interfering with others, as is the case where the exhibition grounds are entirely level, when it any thing of interest happens to be going on in the show ring, only the few that happen to be close to the fence or ring can see anything.

On Wednesday 15,000 people were on the ground, and what will ensure the continued success of this exhibition is that the ladies were to be seen there in greater numbers in proportion, than at any other exhibition we have attended. Guelph is geographically well situated for the holding of an exhibition, being about 60 miles from Toronto, Hamilton or London. Another great reason that Guelph exhibitions will succeed in the future is, that harmony exists among the directors. No political feeling has been evinced by them. Their Fair has not been originated as a rival to either of the other sectional exhibitions, or to the Provincial Exhibition.—There may have been a desire to show that they are entitled to the Provincial Exhibition there as well as other places, and they may be putting in a claim for it. If so, we think they will be justly entitled to it, even if it should make an interval of one or two years more between its appearance in other localities. If we have it only once in six or seven years we ought to be satisfied. Whether they get it or not, this exhibition shows that they can "paddle their own canoe."

A PLEA FOR THE BOYS.

When we see the Guelph exhibition, a

little boy walked in the same direction as we were going. We said, "well, my lad, have you been to the exhibition?" "Yes, sir." "How much did you pay to go in?" "Twenty-five cents." "How old are you?" "Ten years old." "Did your father give you the money?" "No sir, father is dead." "Then your mother gave you the money." "No, sir, mother is sick and cannot work now, she could not give me the money."—"What does your mother do?" "When she is well enough she goes out washing, but she has not been able to go out for two weeks now." "How did you get the money?" "Sometimes gentlemen give me a few cents for holding a horse for them, sometimes I saw wood. I can earn fifty cents a week sawing wood. Yesterday I helped a farmer drive some sheep and a calf. I helped him about two hours and he did not give me anything." "What is your name?" "Isaac Wallace; you are not going to take me up, are you, sir? It would turn my mother crazy." "No, my boy, you need not fear being taken any where without your consent, unless you do harm. I am going to put this in a paper, to try and get little boys like you into the exhibitions at half price, or free." We need add but little to the above. The facts speak for themselves. Have you not noticed how few children are to be met with at our Agricultural Exhibitions?—Are not these exhibitions good schools for them to go to? Twenty-five cents per head for a large family is a heavy expense; the cost of admitting children may often keep an anxious and well-intentioned father and mother at home. Would it not be well to let them enter at half fare at any time? When we attended the last exhibition held in Montreal, we thought there was never to be an end of the lines of school children. They appeared in legions one day, all kept in good order, their teachers with them. They were allowed to pass through all parts of the exhibition in proper order, together, in continued lines. They also passed through the outside shows; possibly they paid a small fee outside; but we believe they passed free. It is only right that they should be admitted free at certain hours, especially when kept in such good order as they were there. Perhaps it would be well, on the last day, in the afternoon, to allow the poor that cannot afford to pay and all children to pass through the exhibition free. It is really astonishing how many hundreds of farmers stay away, and keep their families away, because of the admission fee.

A NIGGER ON THE FENCE.

The harmony with which our agricultural affairs have been managed, has resulted in establishing those beneficial institutions—Agricultural Exhibitions. The Provincial Agricultural Association has been the main source from which has emanated the township, county, and sectional exhibitions. It has taken a series of years to do this work; much time and attention has been given to it; some mismanagement undoubtedly has occurred, but the injury has been but small. The maintenance of the Provincial Association has been but a very small item of expense in comparison to what our immense lavished expenditures in other ways are. In comparison to the princely salaries that are paid to some useless but favored friends of a political party, it appears absurd to make a fuss about \$10,000 per annum given to the Association for the advancement of agriculture. At the same time, a Registrar may receive that amount, and many public officers are pocketing sums far in excess of that. Politics had nothing to do with the old Board; that is the reason that so much good was done by it, and the Association was supported by all parties. A political attempt has been made to overthrow the Board of Agriculture, and to enchain the farmers of the country to be entirely subservient to whatever political party may be in power. The Minister of Agriculture did right in causing the examination of the affairs of the old Board. If farmers had more power

than they now have over the agricultural affairs of the country, it might be an improvement. An attempt was made by the Minister of Agriculture to remove the office of the Association into the Parliament Buildings. The present Board of Agriculture, foreseeing the danger of such a course, refused to comply. The Minister of Agriculture, finding he could not control the Board, introduced a new Act to make the members elective every year, which is looked on by the Board as an attempt to wrest the power from them, by electing such persons as may be subservient to his views. One instance has been reported where the Minister of Agriculture offered his support to a person if he would oppose one of the existing members at an election for the office of member of the Board. These things have given some offence to the Board. The Minister has the casting vote when a tie of two or more elective sections occur, and one instance having already occurred by which a very active and useful member of the Board, Mr. Walton, was sent home by Mr. Carling's vote and his seat filled, so we learn, by a person less adapted to fill the situation. By the expenditure of a few dollars any member can now be easily unseated. Another means taken by the wire-puller of the Minister of Agriculture and the wire-puller's aids, has been enacted in this city, the object of which is to attack the Board of Agriculture in any way. A rival exhibition has been put on foot and every means possible has been used to engross the attention of the public and make it attractive. The political influence has been quietly worked up in other parts, and the main object has been kept out of sight of the unwary. The rival institution was of itself numerically and financially a success, which success is to be used as a platform to desecrate the Provincial Association, and to set the minds of the people in favor of dividing the money now granted to the Provincial, to break up the present Board, centre all control under political subservience in Toronto, and expend a mint of money on officers, attendants, buildings, and have in connection with politics, the 6000 acres of land at Mimico, &c., and make it a terror to every independent farmer of importance and a chain to the smaller ones; the whole machine to be entirely under the control of whatever political party may be in power, and to centre the Exhibition there. The Government commenced an experimental farm many years ago in Toronto; large expenses were incurred, but we never heard of one cent's worth of good being done by it beyond the pickings made by the controllers. This Mimico land, we believe, has been purchased expressly for one person's advantage, not for the benefit of farmers, and that person has been an erroneous adviser of the Minister of Agriculture, and the introducer of the nigger on the fence in agriculture. That nigger is party politics. The nigger must be removed from the fence, if peace and prosperity is to remain in the barn-yard.

The only way that the nigger can be removed, or that the great contemplated agricultural Controller that is to be at Mimico, will be conducted with advantage to the province or of utility and satisfaction to farmers, will be to allow the farmers of the country to have the control of it. The Superintendent and officers must be elected by the farmers of the country or those who are appointed specially for that purpose. The institution may be made either a great bond of unity and usefulness, or the greatest means of dissatisfaction and discord. If it is to be for farmers, give it to them untrammelled in every way. If it is for political purposes, dissatisfaction will arise that will sever the cords by which our country is bound together. The farmers are the class that pay for all, and they should control all, but their power has not yet been united. Let us be united in agricultural affairs at least. If any differ from the views we have taken in the above question, we shall

be pleased to insert an article from any farmer or leading gentleman that may choose to send such to this office. We are not writing this for either political party, but with a view to the interest of the farmers.

THE HAMILTON EXHIBITION.

The Exhibition held in Hamilton was a grand success. The weather was fine, and the entries for exhibition far exceeded the anticipations of its promoters. The various departments were well filled, and the arrangement and general management was good. The attendance of visitors was very large. We are pleased to find in that section a desire to maintain the Provincial Association, although there has been attempts made by some in Hamilton to speak against the Provincial Association, but that feeling is now pretty generally abandoned. We believe that the Exhibition to be held there next year will far outstrip anything before held in Canada. We have already heard of one individual that will himself expend some thousands of dollars. Hamilton is now contemplating the purchase of more land, as they know they will not have space enough to meet the requirements.

THE WESTERN FAIR.

In this city a very strong political feeling exists. The city has undoubtedly been a recipient of very large sums from the public exchequer, and the powers that at present control affairs desire to maintain and support the party that has aided and is aiding them. The Minister of Agriculture, residing here, is opposed to the Provincial Board as not being entirely subservient to him. His agricultural adviser here, having been rejected from the Provincial Board by the voice of the people, and still being desirous of the power that the people will not give him, has used his influence, and been enabled to get a majority of the local Board here to meet his views, but some opposed the clash that has occurred. As we have said before, this exhibition was run in opposition to the Provincial, and for political purposes. It was, financially and numerically speaking, a great success. But we never yet heard of any exhibition where so many complaints have been made in regard to the judging. We fear too many of the officers and judges were selected more for political purposes, than for their knowledge of the articles or things that they were to use their temporary power over. It would make a black page were we to enumerate half of what we have heard. Still the majority of the people in this part are highly elated over it; but the worst part of the tale has yet to be told. This much lauded exhibition and its principal managers have by some mishap allowed politics to be entwined in a carefully prepared speech. Dissatisfaction has commenced to work like yeast in batter, and we begin to have doubts about a Western Fair taking place next year despite all the boasted surplus cash. The main mover and smaller officials are endeavoring to clear from it as rats leave a sinking ship. Attempts are made by device and stratagem to deny that they wished to trample out the Provincial Exhibition and the Provincial Board of Agriculture. But they may as well try to stop the sun. The inhabitants of Canada are not to be hood-winked. They know that politics has been the object, and that Agricultural interests are totally ignored by them, and only taken hold of as a means whereby they may draw the wool over the farmers' eyes and entrap them.

To the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of London.

To the Warden and Reeves of the County of Middlesex.

GENTLEMEN,—It is a matter of much regret that a feeling should now be taking root in the minds of the Eastern farmers, that we in this city and county are opposed to the Provincial Exhibition. We cannot deny the fact that some among us have harbored such a feeling. We believe if that sentiment is allowed to remain, that it will be a source of discord which will result in injury to the City, County, and Province. The people of this section have been condemned from the platform at Kingston, before the delegates of Ontario. We have heard great dissatisfaction expressed in Guelph and Hamil-

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