

garden is thus not only a source of pleasure, but an educator. Railroads have educated us into promptitude, punctuality, and push; they have exerted mighty moulding influences on business; it is possible for them to give that dull scholar, the public, some lessons in æsthetics, and be an educator in the direction of rural improvement and home adornment. The question, will it pay? by which all railroad affairs are mainly settled, may, we think, be proved to be entitled to receive an affirmative answer without resorting to any very far-fetched argument. If people catch the contagion of taste and refinement, they will build better houses, import articles of adornment, freight shade, ornamental, and fruit trees, and travel more under the influence of a desire to see the far-off loveliness of nature and art.

If these improvements are made, it must be, we understand, at the cost of the station-masters. Being subject at all times to promotion and removal, the encouragement to engage in this sort of thing is not great. Might not Railway Companies apply a stimulus in some way, either by affording inducements and facilities in this direction, or by giving a prize annually for the best laid-out and neatest-kept garden along their lines? At water stations it would be easy for companies to apply what would be the most striking feature in a railway garden, namely, a fountain. This could be fed from the tank and the flow carried back to the well or reservoir, so that there would only be the pumping to provide for—a comparatively small item.

Railway gardens are very common in England. Some of them are extremely pretty, and fix themselves in the recollection of the transient traveller. We have very distinct and pleasant memories of some we saw during a tour in England nearly seven years ago. Railway gardens are also becoming numerous in the United States. There are some very handsome ones in the vicinity of New York. On the line of the Erie Railroad, also on the Lake Shore Railroad between Cleveland, Ohio, and Erie, Pennsylvania, there are many tasteful depôts. An American exchange, referring to this subject, but more especially urging a better style of depôt building, remarks: "It is not to be supposed that all railroads can immediately rush into such landscape and architectural exercises; for it is a prime principle with them to make everything pay. But we submit whether pretty depôts, surrounded by nice lawns and gardens, do not go far toward making a road popular; and if popular, of course it pays."

There are very few railway gardens in Canada, but we hope the station-masters may have a run of horticultural fever, and then there will soon be more. Kingston and Brampton are the only places on the line of the Grand Trunk Railway where we remember to have noticed gardens. The Great Western Railway at Hamilton is beautifully ornamented in this way, and some time ago there was a very pretty little garden at Harrisburg, but the station-master during whose reign it flourished seems to have had a Gothic successor, who officiates

"Near yonder spot, where once the garden smiled,  
And still where many a garden flower grows wild."

We hope more attention will be given to this matter by railway people.

## New York Agricultural Exhibition.

It is now officially announced that the next exhibition of the New York State Agricultural Society will be held at Rochester, commencing on Sept. 19th, and open till Oct. 2nd, inclusive.

We commend the regulation referred to in the subjoined notice extracted from the *Journal of the N. Y. Ag. Soc.* A rule that shall render it imperative to close all entries some time previous to the opening of the exhibition is essential to the orderly arrangement of the specimens, and a timely adjudication of the prizes without hurry or confusion. The place appointed is eminently suitable and convenient of

access, and the time will in no way clash with our own Provincial exhibition, which will be held during the week previous. The notice to which we allude is as follows:

"Attention is directed to the new regulation regarding entries. The entry books will be closed on Monday, September 14th (two weeks before the opening of the Fair), and no entries will be received after that day.

"This regulation is intended to insure the orderly arrangement of the exhibition, and to prevent the confusion and delay at the opening of the Fairs, which resulted from the reception of entries up to, and sometimes even after the time of opening. It is hoped that, under the new rule, the exhibition will be in order, and that the judges will be able to make their examinations and awards, in great part, on the first day, so that visitors on the second day may know what animals and articles have gained the premiums, and exhibitors may receive the benefit of their awards—heretofore frequently not announced until near the close of the Fair,

"Entries may be made at any time until September 14th (the earlier the better), by letter addressed to the Secretary of the New York State Agricultural Society, Albany, N. Y., or personally at the Agricultural Rooms.

"The Premium List has been much enlarged, and the regulations (to which the attention of intending exhibitors is particularly directed), have been revised, and, in some other respects, amended.

"Copies of the Premium List and Regulations will be sent by mail on application to the Secretary as above, and may be had at the Rooms."

## Report of the Secretary of the Michigan Board of Agriculture.

We have received a copy of his Report for the year 1867 from Mr. Sanford Howard, the Secretary of the Michigan Board of Agriculture. It is a thick octavo volume of nearly 500 pages, and is full of most valuable and interesting information, as a brief summary of its contents will at once indicate. The first fifty pages give an account of the State Agricultural College and its various operations during the past year. The condition and progress of this valuable institution are most satisfactory. Among the investigations conducted in connection with the College were a series of experiments on sheep-feeding, and also some trials with various fertilizers, the results of which, however, were defeated by an inroad of swine, showing the utter disregard of these unworthy republicans for authority or science. The Report next gives a statement of the characteristics of the past season in Michigan; the yield of crops, with a special record of certain new crops, viz., sorghum, hops and peppermint. The injurious insects that work such havoc in the farmers' fields, the Potato-Bug and Canker-Worm particularly, receive their share of notice. A very full report is given of the climate and general characteristics of that newly opened portion of the State, known as the Grand Traverse Country. The important subject of cheese factories, and the progress of the associated system of dairying in the State, are duly considered. Reports from Agricultural Societies occupy a large portion of the volume; and besides these various subjects of comparatively local interest, there are in the work some valuable papers that will be acceptable to agricultural readers everywhere. Among those may be mentioned the following: Agricultural Societies, their proper objects and right management; Irrigation; Cross-breeding of Sheep, by Wm. Spooner; Principles of Hay-making, by Dr. Voelcker; The Dew of Heaven—Influence of Forests, by Cuthbert W. Johnson; Food, by J. B. Lawes and J. H. Gilbert; and a most valuable dissertation on the Diseases of Cattle, by Professor Gamgee. The whole forms a noteworthy contribution to the agricultural literature of the day, and should be on the shelves of every well-furnished library in that department.

DEVON HERD BOOK.—Mr. H. M. Sessions, South Wilbraham, Mass., announces the early publication of the second volume of the American Devon Herd Book, containing over 600 pedigrees.

## The Season.

We have still to chronicle favourable weather, and the promise of good crops. Much rain has fallen since our last issue, too much, indeed, for low-lying and undrained land, but none too much for land that is high or properly drained. Any excess either in the direction of wet or drought proves the importance of drainage. Drained land endures the want of rain much better than undrained, while it soon recovers from the effect of superabundant moisture. In some quarters we hear complaints of the wire-worm as very destructive in wheat-fields, but with this exception the wheat report is most encouraging. Hay is now sure to be a good crop. Pasturage is abundant. Nature smiles with verdure, and is purpled with flowers. The land flows with milk and honey. Grain, grass, fruit, beef, mutton, and all farm products, bid fair to be abundant.

## Wool.

THE market is at present in a very dull state, and the prospect for dealers seems anything but encouraging. Stocks everywhere are large, and since the imposition of the heavy duties there is no outlet for our surplus supplies. The depressed condition of the manufacturing interests precludes the possibility of there being much demand at home, and therefore prices are expected to rule low. From 23cts to 25cts are the prices now paid by dealers for wool, and it is not expected that these rates will advance. Dealers will only pay the above prices for clean, good wool—indeed, it is now difficult to find a buyer at any price for dirty wool, or wool only partially cleaned. At any rate, much lower prices have to be accepted for any fleeces not properly cleaned.

## Officers of Agricultural Societies for 1868

PAKENHAM BRANCH.—President, Andrew Dickson; Vice-President, Young Scott; Sec. & Treasurer, Alex. Fowler. Directors:—Samuel Dickson, Charles Dunlop, James Woods, William Dickson, Junr., John J. Browne, John A. Gommill, Robert Elles, Thomas Bowes, James Elles.

PRESENTATION.—The members of the County Agricultural Society of South Ontario presented to their President, John Shier, Esq., on the 25th of May, a very handsome and valuable gold watch, as a mark of their respect and esteem.

TREATMENT OF EMIGRANTS.—We were very sorry to read in the *Globe* of June 10th a letter signed "Emigrant," complaining of the treatment which the writer and fellow-travellers had received on board ship and on their arrival in this country, treatment which the writer averred induced a number of his companions to change their destination from Canada to the United States. We hope and believe there must have been some misunderstanding in the case; for we cannot suppose that the chief authorities could be aware of the circumstances. Subordinates sometimes, in every department, give themselves fearful airs, and recklessly sacrifice their employers' interests to their own selfish whims or personal advantage. Such a statement as that to which we refer is calculated to damage the country in the estimation of neighbours, and of those especially who are contemplating a removal from the fatherland to this. Every possible kindness and assistance should be rendered to emigrants arriving here; railway officials, emigration agents, and all authorities concerned, should be especially careful to mitigate the unavoidable hardships and perplexities of the new comers, and to show them that they are welcome amongst us. We hope the letter referred to will receive some attention, and call forth a satisfactory exculpation of the chief authorities concerned.