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THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE

Home Magazine.

WILLIAM WELD, Editor and Proprietor

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New Brunswick's Provincial Exhibition.

(By our Special Correspondent.)

DEAR ADVOCATE,—My time has been so fully occupied since the close of our exhibition that I had well nigh forgotten that many of your readers (who I trust take a kindly interest in the Provinces by the sea) might desire to have a pen and ink sketch of the results.

It affords your correspondent no small pleasure to be able to say that the exhibition was a most complete success, not only as an exhibit of our products and manufactures, but financially as well, and this you know is an important thing.

As an exhibit of our agricultural productions it was generally admitted to be superior to any of its predecessors.

The classes of Short-horns, Ayrshires and Herefords were especially good, and in Devons the exhibit was good in quality, but not extensive.

In Sheep the exhibit was confined principally to Leicesters, Southdowns and Shropshire-downs, with a fair show of each as regards numbers, but as regards quality, very good. Quite a number of Shropshire-downs were also shown by W. Longworth, of Prince Edward Island, and found many admirers.

The show of Swine was very fine, Berkshires and Chesters taking the lead. The animals exhibited showed careful breeding and gave great satisfaction to our farmers, many of whom have a weakness for making fine pork, although not to the same extent as our brethren of Ontario.

The show of Horses was much in advance of former exhibits, and the result most gratifying to all who witnessed the display. The Percherons imported by the Government some three years

ago were in the show yard, together with many of their progeny, and lent additional interest to this department. The very large attendance of visitors that continually thronged the stock yard gave a positive proof of the deep interest that is now being felt and taken in the improvement of stock in this Province. We are prepared to admit that Ontario is much ahead of us in this department of our agriculture; at the same time we hope to be not too far behind. The spirit of the times is for improvement in this direction. Our people are becoming fully alive to its importance and necessity, and we are confident that they will not readily consent to see their neighbors far in advance of them. The rapidity with which the cattle trade is assuming such large proportions begets an interest to participate in its advantages, and this of itself will prompt our farmers to action.

In Farm Produce the exhibit was but a fair sample of the country's productions. We have always been able to grow vegetables sufficiently large to satisfy any reasonably minded man, and those, too, of the best quality. The most satisfactory exhibit in this department was that of wheat, the show of which, as regards quantity and quality, being a great improvement over that of any previous exhibition. Some forty-five samples were shown—all bright and plump—weighing from 63 to 65½ lbs. per bushel. Lost Nation variety seemed to predominate, but many good samples of White Fife and Rio Grande were shown. The increase of wheat grown in the Province this year will be equal to 25 per cent. over that of last year. The result is that the rural population of the Province will about have their bread, leaving only the cities and towns to be provided for.

In Domestic Manufactures the show was not any more extensive than we remember to have seen on former occasions, but the quality we judged superior. In domestic cloths, knit goods and ladies' fancy work the display was very fine indeed, and many were the encomiums passed as laces and needlework of beautiful designs and exquisite workmanship were examined.

The show in Manufactures of Metal, although not as extensive as it might have been, under other circumstances, was very creditable. Possibly before going into details I had better explain those other circumstances. A few years ago St. John had a manufacturers' and mechanics' exhibition, which was a great success. At that time our manufacturers had ample time and orders were not pressing, but, on the contrary, were few and far between, and it was not necessary then to make any sacrifice or refuse orders, that they (the manufacturers) might take part in the exhibition. Now, however, the case is different. Nearly all our manufacturers are unable to fill their orders as fast as required, while they are working overtime to enable them to keep abreast of their work. From this cause many of our leading manufacturers were unable to take part in the exhibition or show their goods; and while the reasons must be very satisfactory to the country, it nevertheless detracted from the display made.

The heaviest piece of machinery on exhibition was a turn-table, made for the Canada Pacific Railway by Mr. Hazelhurst, of St. John. This monster casting, capable of carrying the heaviest locomotive and tender, was easily moved on its circle by a slight pressure of the hand. Its construction was quite simple, but very effective. The centre is composed of a circle of steel rollers, which carry the weight of the table and all that may be placed upon it. Mr. Hazelhurst has quite a large contract with the Dominion Government for turn-tables for the C. P. R. R. He also exhibits stoves, ploughs, &c.

Harris & Co., of St. John, showed heavy shafting and nail plate, together with quite a display in stoves, &c. This firm is now very busily engaged in furnishing cars for the Grand Southern Railway, and their orders prevented them from doing as much as on former occasions.

Chesley Bros. exhibited ship knees, of which they are extensive manufacturers.

In Agricultural Implements Messrs. McFarlane, Thompson & Anderson, of Fredericton, and Messrs. Cossitt Bros., of Ontario, by their agents, Johnston & Co., of Fredericton, were the largest exhibitors. Each had a fine display of labor-saving machines. Messrs. Todd, of Fredericton, also had a large display of ploughs.

The products of our manufacturing establishments were the subject of very favorable comment.

The exhibits of Messrs. Parks & Son, of the New Brunswick Cotton Mills, were a fine display, as visitors to the Ontario Exhibitions, where Messrs. Parks & Son have exhibited their goods, can fully testify. This firm have erected extensive additions to their manufactory, and will in a very short time be in a position to double their production. Their goods have an excellent reputation, and find ready sale in the several Provinces of the Dominion.

In Cloths, all wool and cotton and wool, or union, the products of the Elgin and Mispec Mills were fine samples.

Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison made a fine show in ladies' and gents' furnishing goods, of which they are extensive manufacturers. We also noticed that in furs Messrs. C. & E. Everett, of St. John, had a very rich and costly display.

Probably in no department of our Provincial manufactures has there been such rapid strides for the last two years, as in the manufacturing of Furniture. In this department Messrs. Stewart & White, of St. John, stand at the head. This firm, previous to 1878, imported large quantities of furniture from the U. S., and much of it of a very costly kind. Since the new tariff, however, they have manufactured at home, and the results are very satisfactory. They are now enabled to give their customers a better article than formerly, at less price. Their display at the exhibition was far ahead of anything of the kind either imported or manufactured previously in St. John. Perhaps no department in the whole exhibition proved more successfully that our mechanics only require a fair field in order to prove their skill and cunning. The Messrs. Howes and C. E. Burnham also showed goods in this department.

Leather goods were shown in great variety, as were also carriages and sleighs.

Pianos in various styles were exhibited by G. R. Bent, whose musical instruments have quite a Provincial reputation.

While writing of the display in metal castings I ought to have made mention of the very fine display of stoves, furnaces, &c., made by Mr. Faucett, of Jackville, and by Emerson & Fisher, of St. John.

There are still many departments that deserve to be mentioned, did space permit. It must, however, answer for the present to say that all departments were well filled. The throng of visitors was large during Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The opening on Tuesday, although raining hard, was good, and came off with much *eclat*. Governor Wilnot opening the exhibition with a short address, and supported by Governor Harverland, of P. E. Island, who referred to the satisfaction it gave him to be present. Much credit is due to J. L. Inches, our Secretary for agriculture, who had the larger share of the burden of management.

S. L. P.