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The Rural Canadian.

EDITED BY W. F. CLARKE.

TORONTO, AUGUST 1st, 1882.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

It is proverbial that "a bad beginning makes a good ending." We do not put absolute faith in this axiom, but hope very sincerely that it may prove true in regard to the forthcoming Provincial Fair at Kingston. Certainly the matter was badly bungled at the outset, and there have been many unpropitious circumstances to surmount. There seems, however, good reason to hope that a grand success will ultimately crown the efforts which are being made to secure a creditable exhibition. Financial profits are not to be expected. A Provincial Fair so far eastward has never been a paying institution, and probably will not be for some years to come. But our fellow-provincials in the eastern part of Ontario need the educating and stimulating influence of such an occasion, and as they pay their share of the taxes out of which the Association gets its annual grant, they have a right to it in their due turn.

THE TORONTO INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION ECLIPSED.

Until very recently, we thought the fertile-brained managers of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition had outdone all competitors in providing attractions for the public. But it would seem that the managers of the Iowa State Fair have distanced them. It is announced that on Sunday, Sept. 3rd, a sermon will be delivered on the Fair Grounds, Des Moines, by Rev. Wm. Fawcett, of Grace Methodist Episcopal Church, Chicago. On Tuesday, Hon. James Wilson will deliver an address. On Wednesday, Governor Kirkwood will "orate." On Thursday, Dr. Loring, U.S. Commissioner of Agriculture, will speechify. "Thus," says the *Prairie Farmer*, "there will be an oratorical contest of no mean proportions." In addition to foot races, the "agricultural horse trot," and other common amusements, there will be "chariot races after the old Roman style." Toronto must burnish up its wits.

THE CROPS IN ONTARIO.

The July Report of the Bureau of Industries recently established by the Provincial Government is on our table, and comprises a large amount of useful and interesting information about the condition of the grain, hay, and fruit crops of Ontario, and the year's clip of wool. The statistics are made up from the reports of five hundred correspondents, mostly farmers, rendered up to July 1st, and covering nearly every township in the Province. It is not claimed that these statistics are complete. That could hardly be expected. But we are assured that they do not err on the side of excess. As the only fall returns hitherto made of the acreage of cereal crops in Ontario they possess great interest, and their attentive study cannot but awaken patriotic pride in regard to the land we live in. Our space does not admit the publication of more than a general

summary of this report, and we quote this as given by the Secretary, Mr. Blue:—

"The summary of acreages shows that there is this year a very large area under cereals, the total being nearly 5,000,000 acres. Wheat takes the lead, with 1,768,876 acres; oats come next, occupying 1,425,948 acres; barley is third, 885,466 acres; peas fourth, 554,464 acres; corn fifth, 210,080 acres; and rye sixth, 182,008 acres.

"The area under fall wheat is 1,170,284 acres, and under spring wheat 584,592 acres, with an estimated produce respectively of 21,787,841 and 9,046,848 bushels. This is a great relative change since 1870, when the total area was 1,865,872 acres, and the product 7,801,989 bushels of spring wheat and 6,841,460 bushels of fall wheat. The change has taken place chiefly in the West Midland, Georgian Bay and Lake Huron counties. In the last-named group, in 1870, the total produce of spring wheat was 1,161,841 bushels, and of fall wheat 848,558 bushels, or in the proportion of 888 to 1; the estimated produce for this year is 538,816 bushels of spring wheat, and 8,598,248 bushels of fall wheat, or in the proportion of 1 to 6.75.

"The fall wheat is reported very good on 1st July throughout the western half of the Province. It has recovered admirably from the effects of spring frosts, and if the weather continue favourable until the harvesting the yield will be better than an average. In the eastern half the reports are less favourable. In the St. Lawrence and Ottawa counties there will not be more than half a crop. It must be remarked, however, that eastward of York county a much greater area of spring wheat is grown than of fall wheat, and the condition of spring wheat is reported excellent. Assuming that the estimated produce is fairly realized, and that the crop is safely harvested, Ontario will have a surplus for outside markets of fully 20,000,000 bushels.

"Oats promise to be an excellent crop in all sections of the Province, and barley and peas fairly good. The heavy rains of May and June, while favourable to the former grain, were somewhat injurious to the latter; but the warm days of the last two weeks of June caused all crops to thrive wonderfully. The season is one of slow maturity for cereals, and harvest time will be fully two weeks later than usual. Corn seems destined to be a failure; the temperature has been too low for it.

"The clover crop will be short in consequence of the plant having been heaved by spring frosts; in many districts it has been ruined. Timothy meadows had a late start as the result of a cold May, but they picked up finely throughout June, and the crop will not fall far short of an average.

"Fruit has suffered severely throughout the western counties, the cold weather and east winds which followed the blossoming season having blighted it. In the eastern counties the trees came later into bloom, and apples especially promise to be a large crop. There will be a scarcity of peaches and plums, but small fruit is abundant.

"The wool statistics are incomplete, and the figures will doubtless be considerably increased by later and revised returns. They are interesting, however, as showing, first, the high average of wool clip that has been attained through years of careful breeding; and, secondly, that (in obedience to what appears to be an inexorable demand of fashion) Ontario farmers have already made some progress in the change from coarse-woolled to fine-woolled breeds."

The upheaval of clover alluded to in the foregoing report results from the improper manner in which this important product is cultivated. Too many farmers depend on its re-seeding itself, which it will do in the fall of the year. But if the winter prove an open one, or there is freezing and thawing weather in early spring, these young plants, not being sufficiently rooted, are heaved out of the ground. It is a mistake to grow clover as if it were a perennial. It is not. At the close of the second season of its growth the old plants die, and there can only be renewal by means of the young fall seedlings. Clover should be treated as a biennial, and grown for only two successive seasons at a time. Thus treated, it is of great value

both as a crop and a renovator of the soil. When farmers give clover its true place in the rotation, there will no longer be disappointment and loss from its upheaval, while its function as a fertilizer will be more fully performed.

The Government of Ontario is to be congratulated on the good beginning which has been made in the collection of crop statistics—a matter of the greatest importance not only to farmers, but to the commercial classes. We notice, however, that some products which do much to swell the annual volume of national wealth are not embraced in this report. We refer more especially to roots, hops, poultry, eggs, and honey, and beg to suggest that these be comprised in future returns.

Mr. Blue has done his work well, in the face of many difficulties, and will doubtless improve on it as he gathers experience. It is a new and untrodden field. When familiar pathways come to be trodden through it, Jordan will not be so hard a road to travel, and a more complete survey will be obtained of the goodly land which we have for an inheritance.

FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR RACES.

Concerning the prize list of the approaching Iowa State Fair, some peculiar features of which are noticed in another editorial paragraph, the *Prairie Farmer* makes the following highly suggestive observations, which will apply with equal force to some other exhibitions that we wot of:—

"The Iowa State Agricultural Society offers an aggregate of \$18,000 to be distributed as premiums at the State Fair at Des Moines this year. Of this the sum of \$5,800 goes for racing, \$2,100 to horses and mules, \$8,100 to cattle, \$900 to swine, \$500 to sheep, \$400 to poultry, \$600 to dairy products, \$400 to fruit, etc. Thus it will be seen that, in the opinion of the managers of the Iowa State Fair, racing, for the purpose of maintaining an agricultural show, is worth nearly three times as much as horses and mules for general purpose work; nearly twice as much as the best specimens of cattle that the farmers of the State can bring forward; six times as much as the swine of the State; more than eleven times as much as a sheep exhibition; more than fourteen times over either poultry or fruit, and over nine times more valuable than butter and cheese. Horse racing is worth more in gate fees, nearly thrice over, than the combined exhibits of swine, sheep, poultry, dairy products and fruit, and considerably more than half as much as all the live stock, dairy and fruit attractions that can be crowded into the Fair Grounds. Well, we suppose the managers of the society know what features draw best, and place their money accordingly."

IMPORTATION OF GALLOWAY AND ANGUS CATTLE.

The *Breeder's Gazette* of July 6th contains the following item:—

"Mr. Thomas McCrae, of McCrae & Co., Guelph, left Glasgow, Scotland, on the 22nd of June, by the Allan line steamer *Lucerne*, with forty head of thoroughbred cattle, thirty-four Galloways and six Angus. The pedigrees of the latter have not yet been received, but the former are as fine a lot of Galloways as has ever left Britain. Among the bulls are Sam of Gartleston (1810), bred by the Earl of Galloway; Autumn (1698), bred by Messrs. Shannon, of Balig, from their celebrated Normandy line, and Macleod 2nd of Drumlanrig (1676), bred by his Grace the Duke of Buccleuch, K.G. The cows and heifers comprise Lucettas, from the herd of the Earl of Galloway; Killimings, from the herd of J. Neilson, Dumfries; Torquhain, from Mr. J. W. Wilson, of New Galloway; Blossom, from J. Cunningham, of Tarbreoch; Elrigs, from Wm. Routhledge, Port William; Beautys, from the herd of Capt. F. E. Villiers, Closeburn Hall; and a splendid lot of heifers from Thos. Biggars & Sons, Chapelton, of