

Agricultural Intelligence.

The Flax Interest.

COMPLIMENTARY DINNER TO MESSRS. PERINE AND YOUNG.

We learn from the *St. Thomas Home Journal* that on Friday evening, the 11th ult., the "Thompson House" was crowded with the leading men of St. Thomas, assembled for the purpose of doing honour, by means of a complimentary banquet, to the enterprise of Messrs. Perine & Young, in establishing a new branch of manufacture in that town. The chair was filled by Dr. Southwick, Mayor of the town, and the vice-chair by Colin Munro, Esq., sheriff of the county.

The VICE-CHAIRMAN proposed "Our Guests." He said they had met for the purpose of doing honour to the very enterprising firm of Messrs. Perine & Young. About the time of the building of the Great Western Railway, the Perine brothers came to Canada, and took an active part in its construction. They saw in Canada an open field, and a paying one, in which they might use their capital to advantage. They came, and they prospered. They very quickly found that railway jobs in Canada were not any too remunerative, and they turned their attention to the growth and manufacture of flax, and since then have established in different parts of the Province branches of the flax manufacture. The branch lately established in this town was the eighth that had been put into successful operation by this enterprising firm. The surrounding country was as deeply interested as the town in this enterprise, and gentlemen from the country who were present would lay the advantages of flax-growing before the meeting. Messrs. Perine & Young, during the past year, had expended the large sum of \$11,000 in our midst, and it was our obvious duty to show our marked appreciation of such enterprise. The county of Elgin is unsurpassed in its excellent adaptation for flax-growing. The rebellion at present raging in the United States had raised the price of cotton to such a height that flax would be rendered more than ever remunerative. Messrs. Perine Bros. saw these advantages, and entered into this branch of business. It is true that they were influenced by motives of personal profit, but such are always an element of enterprise. Finding themselves unable to carry on so many branches alone, they sought a partner, and succeeded in getting a very able one in the person of Mr. Young, who, by the way, is a Scotchman, so that we have united in the firm the go-ahead principles of the American with the cautious and keen sagacity of the Scotchman. The firm had introduced many new improvements into their mill machinery. Great success had attended them during the last year, which, no doubt, would be increased during the coming one. The enterprise was not only a benefit to themselves, but would prove of inestimable service to us, inasmuch as they required tradesmen of nearly every kind to assist in carrying on the business.

Mr. Young, in responding, said he was, on his part, very much gratified for this kind expression of their good-will, and for the uniform kindness they had experienced from all. The county he said was well fitted for the growth of flax, and the seed produced, even this adverse season, was of a superior quality.

Mr. PERINE then rose, and said it was the first time he had the pleasure of meeting the majority of those assembled. He had first come to St. Thomas simply on a visit to his esteemed friend, the Rev. George Cuthbertson. He saw that the county was well adapted to flax culture, and that the prospects were good. He at once entered into the business, and for that purpose associated Mr. Young with him. He (Mr. P.) was the first person who entered into the flax business in Canada. He came into the Province in 1851, to assist in the construction of the Great Western Railway, but finding by experience that public works in Canada were not very profitable, he concluded to look for a better business, and had chosen the manufacture of flax. He first started it in the county of Waterloo. The fine water privileges that obtained there, and the preponderance of an industrious German population, were alike particularly adapted for the work. He began by sowing with his own hands one hundred bushels of seed, the farmers being at that time very unwilling and very much prejudiced against it. From year to year the quantity produced increased until he might say, it had become an established branch of manufacture in the country. Up to 1860 there had been but little chance of success, but since

the price of cotton had increased as a result of the American war, it had greatly improved, and he had confidence it would prove a successful branch of manufacturing industry in Canada. He was glad that St. Thomas had shown such good judgment in countenancing the culture of flax, and had so earnestly seconded their honest, humble efforts to do good by promoting a useful branch of manufacture among them.

Mr. RANDALL, in replying, to the toast, "Our friends from a distance," said we could not well separate the manufacture and the growth of flax. Twenty-five years' experience as a spinner had taught him that we could manufacture flax as easily as cotton. This country is as favourable as any to the growth of flax, and could as easily manufacture it. Mr. Randall made a practical speech, and concluded by wishing the flax enterprise every success.

Mr. SCAMBERT, of the Union Mills, responded to the toast, "The flax interests of the country," in an excellent and forcible speech, in which he stated that he was connected with the flax interests of the county as a manufacturer. The flax crop, he observed, was always a reliable one, and extensively cultivated would prove of inestimable value to Canada. Messrs. Perine & Young had done much to advance the flax interests in this county, and he for one expected to derive benefit from having, as near neighbours, men of their practical character and enterprise. Canada was a fine field for the growth of flax; but we required more than its growth and cultivation—we required manufacturers to produce a larger amount of home consumption.

Ploughing Match in the Gore of Toronto.

A PLOUGHING match was held on the 16th ult. at Richview, Toronto Gore, on the farm of Mr. John Davis; and, taking everything into consideration it was a decided success. In the first place, it was the first of the kind got up in the neighbourhood; and secondly, the snow of the day previous had to be contended with; and it would have been a larger match if the weather had been more favourable. However, as it happened, the committee and ploughers were determined to make the most of it, and they came to the conclusion that, sooner than be balked, they would scrape the snow off the lots to be ploughed; and at it they went, and by attaching a couple of horses to as many scrapers, by twelve o'clock they had the field ready for the ploughs to start. A great many spectators made the remark that it was ploughing under difficulties, and no doubt with a great deal of truth, as many of the ploughmen brought their ploughs to the field in their sleighs. However, at a quarter past twelve, twenty ploughers started, and having four hours to plough the quantity allotted to each, over one-fourth of an acre, when the time was up and the gun fired there was not a solitary team in the field, showing a praiseworthy determination on the part of the ploughers to be no hindrance to the judges coming to a decision before night set in, which they (the judges) did, and to the general satisfaction of all concerned. The following is the prize list:

FIRST CLASS—open to all comers who would plough with metal-beamed ploughs—1st prize, Joseph Christie, Toronto township—a metal-beamed plough, steel mouldboard, presented by Mr. Butterfield, of Bradford. The plough used by this plougher was Mr. Butterfield's manufacture. 2nd prize, Charles Hunter, Toronto township—\$6 cash. The plough used was by the same manufacturer as the first. 3rd prize—William Blanshard, of the township of Seneca—\$1 cash. The plough used was the manufacture of John Abell, Woodbridge, Vaughan.

SECOND CLASS—open to all persons who had not taken a prize since arriving at manhood: 1st prize—Thomas Brunsell, Etobicoke—a metal-beamed plough, presented by Mr. John Abell, of Woodbridge, Vaughan. The plough used by the plougher was a wooden one, and manufactured and patented by Wm. Knaggs of Etobicoke. 2nd prize, Leonard Fligg, York township—\$6 cash. The plough used was iron, and manufactured by Peter Mallaby, Weston. 3rd prize—William J. Brown, of Toronto township—\$1 cash.

THIRD CLASS—open to all boys under eighteen years: 1st prize—Jonathan Akrow, Etobicoke—\$6 cash. The plough used was wood and the manufacture of Isaac Modlund, Brampton. 2nd prize—John Gilroy, Toronto township—\$1 cash. The plough used was iron, Grey's pattern—imported. 3rd prize—John W. Weatherell, Etobicoke—\$2 cash. The plough used was wood, and manufactured by James Hayes, Etobicoke.

Weather and Crops.

"I," writes from Hay, Co. of Huron, Nov. 16, 1861. "Your 'Weather and Crop' correspondent, so far as the crops are concerned, finds himself at this season of the year like Othello—'his occupation gone.' We have still weather, of course, but since I wrote last it has been so changeable, so disagreeable and unsettled, it would have been hard to have kept track of it and worse still to describe it. I have not seen so wet a fall during a residence of twenty-one years in Canada. We always used to have an Indian summer, less or more, but it appears that this year we are even to be deprived of that often short, but always sweet consolation. For these six weeks past rain and mud have reigned supreme; as a consequence, fall ploughing has been a poor job, and not near as much of it done as ought to have been. To keep our courage up, I hinted in my last that the tinkling of the sleigh bell would soon be heard. We are at it sooner than I expected. The great Canadian McAdam commenced operations in earnest last Saturday, and has kept adding a little each day since, till six inches of snow is the result. I had a sleigh ride to-day. This is not winter yet, I think, and many hope it is not, for but few turnips have been taken up."

"JOHN JOHNSTON" writes from Flos, November 22, 1861. "Among all the interesting communications that have appeared in THE CANADA FARMER, there is none that I have yet seen from Flos. The reason for this, I am happy to say, is not because our township is so barren that the farmers have nothing favourable to communicate. I am glad to say that the case is far otherwise. Flos is almost unrivalled in the county for the growth of spring grain, especially wheat; and for the last two years, fall wheat has done well in this locality. Many realized this year as much as thirty bushels per acre. There is a large surface sown this fall with winter wheat, and I hope that you may hear a good account of it during next spring and harvest. Potatoes, with many, are an excellent crop. Those who were fortunate enough to obtain a braird of turnips have good crops. There were some white globes grown on my farm this year that I think cannot be beat for size in the county. One which we had the curiosity to weigh went as high as thirty five pounds.

Our Township Show was held on the 11th ult., and was fairly attended by competitors and sight-seekers. Farm stock and dairy produce were commendably represented; but I am sorry to say that the cereals and horticultural products were entirely wanting. It is to be hoped that these will not be absent next year."

GODERICH CATTLE FAIR. The *Huron Signal* says: "The public fair on Wednesday, the 16th, was successful in drawing together a great number of cattle from all parts of the country. There could not have been less than between four and five hundred head on the ground during the day, but we are sorry to have to say that, owing to the inferior quality of a large portion of the stock, and the want of competition on the part of buyers, prices ruled low, and many farmers went home disappointed, without having had a bid at all."

FAT CATTLE SHOW.—The annual fat cattle show, under the auspices of the South Wellington and Guelph Township Agricultural Societies, will be held on the fair ground on Tuesday, the 13th December. The following prizes will be awarded:—Best fattened ox, 4 years old and upwards, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1. Best fattened steer, under 4 years, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1. Best fattened cow, 4 years and upwards, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1. Best fattened heifer, under 4 years, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1. Best fattened beast of any class (in addition to the above), a sweepstakes of \$2. Best pair of fattened sheep, of any age, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1. Best pair of fattened sheep, under 2 years, \$3; 2nd, \$2; 3rd, \$1. Best fattened hog, \$1; 2nd, \$3; 3rd, \$1. Special prize for the best pair of fatted and fatted, hog, \$1. Special prize for the best pair of fatted Spring pigs, \$1; 0. Best pair of fat turkeys, \$1; 2nd, 50c. Best pair of fat geese, \$1; 2nd, 50c. Best pair of fat ducks, \$1; 2nd, 50c. Best pair of fat fowls, \$1; 2nd, 50c.—*Guelph Mercury*.