

The Western Fair.

This is the name of a combination of the East Middlesex Agricultural Society and the London Horticultural Society. The Exhibition was held in the city of London on the 4th of October and four following days. The prospects for its success were very gloomy. The Provincial Exhibition had compelled its being held later in the fall than usual; the great Elgin exhibition, only twenty miles distant, had just been established the previous week, and every exertion had been put forth to draw the masses, and the Governor-General had attended the exhibition.

The Directors of the Western Fair had held out no extra inducements to attend; no secret society of any kind had been induced to visit it; no balloon ascension, races, regatta, or lady riding, or any inducement whatever, except the usual agricultural exhibition, was made known; in fact, the Directors had, we think, indiscreetly refused the usual encouragement to stockmen, and had reduced the prize list to such an extent that not a single Hereford or Alderney was to be seen. The citizens had been divided—as many had wanted to make it a failure, so as to enable them to dispose of the ground. No government stock was to be seen at this exhibition. The first day being wet, and other causes, prevented some exhibitors from attending, yet to the astonishment of the President, Directors and almost every one, the fair proved beyond a doubt the most successful of any of the large exhibitions held this year, and we may add the only purely independent agricultural one. Exhibitors who had gained prizes and honors at other exhibitions flocked to this one; thus, if the stock was not quite so numerous as at the exhibitions held earlier in the season, the best stock was to be seen here; the quality of many classes was pronounced better than ever had been exhibited at this fair. In implements at this exhibition many large and extensive manufacturers that had not displayed at any of the other exhibitions, here made a magnificent display. For instance, the Joseph Hall Manufacturing Co. of Oshawa did not exhibit in Toronto or Hamilton, but here they had their steam engine driving an immense quantity of belting and shafting running threshing machines, reapers, mowers, &c. We hardly missed any thing that had been exhibited at either of the other exhibitions, namely, the Dominion, the Industrial or Provincial, but in the single instance of agricultural engines there were four or five more of the manufacturers of these, the greatest labor savers, than were to be seen at any other exhibition, namely, the Oshawa Engine, McPherson's importation from Ypsalanti, Mich., and no less than four agricultural engine manufacturers in this city alone, namely, Haggart Bros., E. Leonard & Sons, White, and Stevens, Turner & Burns. The two last named firms are loudly clamoring for trials and tests of actual work done on the farms. They did not, in fact they could not, exhibit at Toronto and act honorably with their customers, the demand has been so much in excess of their capacity to produce.

Mr. John Able carried off a diploma with his mill in Toronto, and Messrs. Waterous had one of their engines drawing a threshing machine about the grounds. The different binding harvesters were represented by the Toronto Reaper and Mower Company; Harris & Sons, Brantford; and John Elliott & Sons, London. Mr. John Watson exhibited his gleaner, or binder, an implement we must speak about when we have more space. We did not count the number of reapers and mowers, or of other implements, but the display on the whole was considered one of the best ever made in Canada.

In the Machinery Hall the display has been

larger. J. Cowan & Co. were by far the largest exhibitors here; they have so many valuable wood-working machines, that their circular would be found to suit those who desire to have the best class of machinery.

In the Main Building the largest amount of space occupied by any one firm was filled with stoves, furnaces, &c, made by Copp & Co., of Hamilton. Their exhibit eclipsed that of all other stove men combined—not only in quantity, but in style and finish. You should just examine the improvements made in these stoves; we cannot see how any further improvement can be made. The other departments of this building were as well filled with works of art, fancy and utility as they always has been, with the improvements of each year added.

The Carriage and Waggon Sheds were overcrowded; and as for the Horticultural Building, the display of fruit, more particularly of apples, was pronounced by judges, visitors, English, Irish and American, to be beyond that seen in any other exhibition they had ever visited. Roots, vegetables, &c., were very fine. The floral exhibit was not as good as usual; of course, the lateness of the time of holding the exhibition was the reason of the difference in this department.

You all know that butter and cheese would not be neglected in this locality.

We must leave the poultry department for our special correspondent; also the stock department for some remarks from "Stockman," and also "Dairyman's" report.

Poultry at the Western Fair.

The show of poultry at this fair was first-class, and the general character of the whole was excellent. Very few inferior birds were shown, although some choice ones were sadly infested with vermin. Long before the doors were opened eager crowds were anxiously waiting an entrance, and all day the narrow passage was crowded to its fullest extent. We sincerely hope our directors will double the width of passage and add about one hundred feet in length to the same department in the new grounds for the next year. Every coop and box were full, and 50 feet more outside were taken up with exhibit coops. This branch of farm industry is steady on the increase, and surpasses many others, as is proven by the statistical report for foreign export. The directors should in future choose three judges, as two do not always agree. We do not say that this was the best show ever held in the city. Yet there were some birds which excelled anything ever yet shown here. Chief among those were the Plymouth rocks, the colored dorking, black cochin, buff, polish, white game bantams, bronze turkeys, Pekin and crested ducks. We think it would be wise to add those to the prize list that are not in. It would be the means of adding members to the society. An idea strikes not only us but many that there ought to be a class for amateurs. We see by the prize list that the successful ones are the same old breeders, with few exceptions, that have run a certain strain for years, and have become as it were experts in the show ring. Having a large number on hand to select from they are able to place in the exhibition coop a pair for the purpose, which in all probability would not get as good stock as some which were left at home. The best stock are those that are mated for breeding purposes, not for show. Beginners know this, and not only keep their birds at home but their dollars also. R. A. BROWN, Cherry Grove, Ont.

Tomatoes and Tomato canning in New Brunswick.—The Maritime Farmer informs us that a new industry has been commenced in Fredericton, N. B. Up to the present time they had imported canned fruit and vegetables from the "States," but it is now proposed to can tomatoes and all descriptions of fruit grown in the Province, as also vegetables and meat. Contracts for the tomatoes have already been made.

What Have We to Learn from the Agricultural Exhibitions of 1880 and Previous Years?

What have we to learn from the exhibitions just closed? How many times have these instructors been before our eyes? Should these exhibitions pass without comment, as they generally have done, excepting laudation often undeserved and unmerited. Praise becomes disgusting, and strong censure is galling to some, but facts should be fearlessly published, to enable Directors and others to remedy and improve where necessary. We will give \$5 for the best essay, to be written by any one of our subscribers, on the above subject. The article to be in this office by the 15th of December; the essay to be written for the benefit of farmers.

Accidents.

It is wonderful that so few accidents occur at the great excursions and large gatherings. In London one lady while walking among the shafting of the machinery was caught by the skirt of her dress and dragged to the ground; the shafting was fortunately close to the floor, so that it could not draw her under, or she would have been instantly killed; as it was, she was badly bruised and rendered insensible, and her dress and underclothing were torn off her, separating at the waist. In Toronto one of the rakes of a reaping machine struck a careless little boy on the head and knocked him in front of the reaper knives; the following rake would have taken the boy on to the knives had not a man close by had the presence of mind to seize him just at the instant or he would have been cut to pieces. Would it not be well to have guards or ropes to keep children and ladies from going too near machinery in motion? At the trials of speed a censurable practice is too often indulged in by drivers and riders coming too near the centre of the ring, to the peril of spectators. At one exhibition a driver was thrown from his sulky, and a great many were in danger of being killed, by the horse running away; as it was, only three were injured.

Complaints

There always will be, and our object should be to give publicity to those that are just, and thus endeavor to prevent repetitions.

If you have carefully perused the articles in the several exhibition numbers, you may have seen some remarks deserving attention. We have for years past heard of the plans adopted by some poultry men, namely, the borrowing of birds from different farm-yards, also the borrowing of fruit, flowers and vegetables; also the exhibiting of grain not grown by the exhibitor, and carrying off the prizes. These practices are most common by those that have figured extensively in the prize lists for many years. There are complaints about favoring local exhibitors and of interested parties in one or more of the boards of directors endeavoring to put in and keep in such judges as are known to be subservient. Legal proceedings are pending a protest against the appointment or disqualification of a judge, of which we may speak in the future.

Now that the main event of the year is over, and the long evenings give ample time for reading and preparing for next year's labors, we shall feel obliged if every old subscriber will use a little exertion to obtain one new subscriber. Please speak to those whom you think the Advocate would benefit. Every additional subscriber enables us to improve the journal.