

spectators moved continually around" the field and through the centre of it, examining and criticising the work. Each ploughman had a few admirers who would insist upon travelling alongside of him—advising him with the best possible intentions, though often to his material disadvantage. Some of the competitors bearing in mind that they had so much work to do in two hours, pushed ahead as if that were the sole consideration in the match. Others proceeded more cautiously, watching, almost nervously, every sod they turned to see that they made good work. There was some capital ploughing done. Here and there a ploughman would cut his furrows straight, "pack" them finely, and cover almost every blade of grass. But this last achievement seemed the most difficult. There were some who neither succeeded well in "packing" nor in "covering," but a good many who succeeded well in the former failed to come fully up to the mark in the latter respect. The practical men who had come there to see excellent ploughing, and to be satisfied with nothing else, were not slow to detect any shortcomings of either kind, and many a poor fellow who was making work that anywhere else would have been passed as good, was most unfavorably criticised.

The average time made was not quick. The record made of it would indicate that only one-fourth of the whole completed the task within two hours. This record, however, was not very accurate. The confusion in reference to the "resting spell" allowed after the completion of the first six furrows formed one source of inaccuracy. The Association had not provided the Secretary of the Match with any shed or stand to serve him as an office, and it was sometimes difficult to find him—a circumstance which doubtless led to other inaccuracies.

The judges moved about vigorously during the afternoon, examining the work of the candidates, and by the time the ploughing was completed, were apparently pretty well prepared to make their report to the Secretary of the Association. Soon after their return to Exhibition headquarters, the following award was made public:—

FIRST PRIZE.—For the best ploughing, according to the rules of the Association. Prize presented by Mr Joseph Hall, of Oshawa—one of his Combined Ohio Reaping and Mowing Machines, with all the latest improvements, finished in superior style, Walter Hood, Ancaster, valued at.....\$150

SECOND PRIZE.—For the next best ploughing, according to the rules, the Iron Plough which shall take the first prize at the Exhibition, Dougall McLean, York Mills, value, say.... 40

THIRD PRIZE.—For the next best ploughing, the Wooden Plough which shall take the first prize at the Exhibition, Andrew Hood, Milligan, value, say..... 30

FOURTH PRIZE.—For the next best ploughing, a set of Harrows, Ira Rymal, Barton, value, say..... 20

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED.—Alexander Smith, Barton, (a lad of 17 years of age.)

The Secretary and Manager of the Match—upon whom devolved no small amount of work—was Mr. Jacob Rymal, of Ancaster. In one or two matters of detail the arrangements were a little defective. But, all things considered, the match was a great success—enthusiastic people on the ground pronounced it the best ever held in the Province. Such contests have a most beneficial influence. It is the opinion of old and well-informed agriculturists that the style of ploughing throughout the country has vastly improved since the introduction of these ploughing matches. A good effect is produced, not simply upon the actual competitor, but also upon the thousands of agriculturists who come to witness their work. It was a pleasing feature at the match in question to see so many farmers' sons—youths scarcely "out of their teens"—in the gathering. The interest manifested by them in the profession to which they are being bred, encourages the hope that when they come to be the farmers of the country our agricultural interests will not suffer in their hands.

Report of the Judges on Grain.

The following is the report of the Judges in Class 31, comprising grains, field seeds, &c.:—

We, your Judges in Class 31, beg to report that we are well pleased with the arrangements of the various articles in this department, each section being so arranged that we could proceed from the one to the other in regular order.

We are deeply sensible of the importance of this department, and hence have proceeded with our work

with much care, and have endeavoured in all cases to arrive at our decisions and render our judgments according to just merit. It is quite impossible to render a just decision without due comparison. This we have been most careful in, using magnifying power where necessary in detecting defects. This we found most particularly essential in the lesser grains and seeds.

Notwithstanding the general cry of the failure of the wheat crop, we were pleased to find such a fair representation from various sections of the Province, and the samples being so extremely good, inclines us to think that the statements generally made of the failure of crops, have been somewhat exaggerated; the quality of the several lots are also very good.

In the competition of 25 bushels for the Canada Company's prize, we have seldom seen such fine lots, they being particularly free from any intermixture.

We consider a great improvement has been made by the Board in the new arrangement of classification in several of the sections, particularly in the spring wheat. Although several entries were made in the additional section for any other variety besides the two preceding, "Club" and "Fife," yet we did not deem it proper to award a premium, as we did not consider them distinct varieties from the two other sections, notwithstanding that they had various names attached to them, and in some instances the very identical wheats were shown in two sections. We cannot speak too strongly condemnatory of the practice carried out by many exhibitors, who know they are infringing the rules. We, however, lay the various samples before the Board for your inspection and consideration, and if deemed necessary, will award as the Board may determine. Your Judges did take upon themselves to open another class in "white field beans;" there was no section for the large kind, and we have awarded the same as in the small, thinking it had been omitted by mistake.

In the extra class, some of the articles could not be found, and others were so trivial in their nature that we did not deem them worthy of consideration. We have, however, recommended a prize for entry No. 2, "spring rye."

In conclusion, your Judges would take the liberty of suggesting to the Board to discontinue the method adopted this year of putting the names of the exhibitors upon the entry cards; unsuccessful competitors are apt to cast a slur upon the judges and attribute their decisions to favoritism.

E. A. McNAUGHTON,
E. C. FISHER,
ALEX. KERR,
GEORGE WALKER,
J. G. WORTS.

The Flax Meeting.

A MEETING was held on Thursday at the Royal Hotel, Hamilton, with a view to the formation of an Association for the growth and cultivation of flax. Colonel Johnson occupied the chair, and Hugh C. Thomson acted as Secretary. The chairman having called the attention of the meeting to the object for which it had been convened, entered at some length into the importance of the cultivation of flax. The meeting was also addressed in practical speeches by Messrs. Donaldson, Ferguson, Denison, A. E. McNaughton, Hon. A. A. Burnham, Hon. H. Rutten, and others, all of them dwelling upon the importance of the subject. A resolution was passed to the following effect, and the influence of the gentlemen present at the meeting, augurs well for the success of the movement:—"Resolved,—That this meeting, feeling it important that something should be done for the growth of flax, do memorialize the Agricultural Association and the Board of Agriculture to take into their consideration the propriety of joining in the formation of a Flax Association." A committee was appointed, consisting of Professor Buckland, Col. R. L. Denison, and Col. E. W. Thomson, who have been instructed to associate with themselves four other gentlemen from different parts of the Province, with the view of preparing a constitution for the proposed Association. Such a society, assisted in its earlier stages by the helping hand of the Agricultural Association, will prove, we doubt not, a very valuable institution.

The Annual Meeting of the Provincial Agricultural Association.

THIS meeting was held as usual on the last day of the Exhibition, the President, Col. Johnson, in the chair. J. C. Rykert, Esq., of St. Catharines, was elected President of the Association for the ensuing year, Neil J. McGillivray, of Glengarry, First Vice-President, and J. P. Wheeler, Esq., of Scarborough, Second Vice-President. R. L. Denison, Esq., was re-elected Treasurer of the Association. On motion, London was unanimously chosen as the place for the next exhibition. Some discussion was then had in reference to the amended Agricultural Bill, and a resolution passed approving of it. The resolution of which the Council had given notice in THE CANADA FARMER and Journal of the Board of Arts, to the effect that the by-laws be amended, so that members, instead of receiving season tickets, should receive four single tickets, each admitting one person, was put and carried. Votes of thanks were passed to the retiring President, the railway and the steamboat companies, the Hamilton Local Committee, and Mayor and Corporation, for the manner in which they had aided the objects of the Association. The meeting then adjourned.

The Retiring President's Address.

On leaving office, Col. Johnson delivered a very able, and practical address, which we regret our inability to do more than briefly refer to in our present issue. In our next we hope to be able to publish, if not the whole of it, at least the more valuable portions.

Opening of the Halton Agricultural Hall.

THE Agricultural Society of the County of Halton having erected a spacious hall in the town of Milton, for exhibition purposes, the building was formally opened on Friday 23rd ult., when a celebration of a very interesting character came off. A large and influential assemblage of the yeomanry of the county, with their wives and families, gathered together to do honour to the occasion. The exercises consisted of addresses, music and refreshments, and the liveliest interest appeared to be taken by all present in the various proceedings. The hall is a commodious frame building, ornamental in external appearance, and convenient as to internal arrangement. It is forty feet wide by eighty feet long. The posts are twenty-two feet high, giving ample room for a gallery which runs around the interior of the building. It is built on a plot of land eight acres in extent, which has been purchased by the Society as a permanent show-ground, and which it is intended to improve, ornament, and fit up as means may admit and occasion require. The agriculturists of this fine county have done themselves much credit by their praiseworthy energy in this matter, and the arrangements they have made for the convenience and efficiency of their fairs, cannot fail to have a most beneficial influence upon the farming interest in that region of country.

The proceedings of Friday last commenced about three o'clock in the afternoon, the hall being well filled, both above and below, with a highly respectable audience. Joshua Norrish, Esq., of Nassagaweya, President of the Society, occupied the chair. The Rev. Mr. Tremaine offered up a prayer for the Divine blessing on the occasion, and on the community at large.

Colonel E. W. Thomson was then called upon to deliver an address. He spoke but briefly, congratulating the assembly on the auspicious circumstances under which they had met, and on the evident signs of thrift and progress which were to be seen in the town and county. He also made some practical observations on the best modes of farm management, and concluded by expressing the hope that the new hall might be the scene of many pleasant and useful gatherings in time to come.