

The Guelph Central Fair

Some people are in the habit of asserting facetiously that there is nothing like a gathering of teetotallers or a fair for ensuring rain. Though the proposition is not one of which anyone would be found willing seriously to undertake the defence there would seem to be something like an argument from example furnished in support of the latter portion of it by the sudden change in the weather which the people of Guelph have experienced since last night. For weeks we have had the unintermitting period of drought, and last night there was no sign, unless it was furnished by the barometer, to indicate that there was about to be a change. This morning, however, the morning of the opening day of the Central Fair, a slight shower of rain fell shortly after daybreak. This did not last long, but about eleven o'clock another set in, and the rain continued to fall smartly for upwards of an hour, turning into mud the dust of which people complained grievously yesterday, and from which they anticipated much discomfort to visitors to the fair ground during the week. Since then the sky has been overcast, and there is, at the present writing, a good prospect of the continuance of the rain.

The railway stations and the show ground are uncommonly lively this morning, with the arrival of animals and articles for the exhibition, which continued coming in to so late a period in the forenoon that it was not until after one o'clock that everything was in its place; and the judges were enabled to do but little to-day.

Mr. Merton, the secretary, had a hard time of it endeavoring to gladden the hearts of exhibitors who had received tickets to put upon their exhibits, but lost them; in issuing tickets and exhibitors entry tickets, in answering questions on every subject connected with the fair, &c. He is a man possessed of a great amount of patience, however, and is disposed to be obliging, and therefore managed to do his share towards getting everything into running order, without losing his temper.

Below is the complete list of entries for 1873, as well as those for 1874, from which it will be seen that there are upwards of 300 less this year than last. On the whole, the show is not equal to those of previous years, though in some departments, notably in that of horses, there is a large increase.

	1873.	1874.
Blood horses	21	11
Agricultural horses	171	164
Road or carriage horses	132	946
Heavy draught horses	86	122
Durham cattle	112	109
Devon cattle	72	24
Hereford cattle	75	46
Ayrshire cattle	41	39
Galloway cattle	42	57
Thoroughbred bulls	6	48
Grade cattle	51	50
Fat and working cattle	46	50
Cotswold sheep	104	103
Leicester sheep	103	103
Lincoln sheep	35	35
Other long-wooled sheep	69	69
Southdown sheep	69	69
Fat sheep	62	62
Yorkshire pigs	63	63
Suffolk pigs	63	63
Imperial Berkshire pigs	63	63
Essex pigs	63	63
Poultry	499	587
Grain, seeds, hops, &c.	285	409
Roots and other field crops	4	42
Fruit, &c.	84	116
Garden produce	261	261
Plants and flowers	267	213
Dairy produce	24	22
Groceries and provisions	24	106
Agricultural implements	71	70
Agricultural tools	24	39
Cabinets, wares, &c.	63	59
Carriages, sleighs, &c.	11	11
Chemicals, &c.	10	16
Drawings, engravings, architectural and mechanical, &c.	8	80
Building materials	136	173
Fine Arts (professional)	236	251
Fine Arts (amateur)	110	141
Ladies work	43	4
Domestic manufactures	26	26
Machinery, castings, &c.	10	25
Sewing and knitting machines	43	43
Metal work	23	23
Musical instruments	20	20
Natural History	2	2
Paper printing, &c.	22	22
Saddlery, trunks, &c.	48	48
Shoemakers' work	48	48
Leather	48	48
Woolen, flax and cotton goods, &c.	48	48
Total	5,453	5,136

A New Source of Food Supply.

Much good has unquestionably been effected by those practical naturalists who have devoted attention to the discovery of new forms of nourishment. Even the hippophagists and other amiable enthusiasts may have indirectly benefited the world by proving that food capable of sustaining human life is often thrown away as worthless. The latest suggestion in this way comes from Mr. Frank Buckland, who, in the current number of *Land and Water*, gives an amusing description of hunting, cooking, and eating wild cats, in the mountainous country between France and Spain. Before a hunt takes place, baits fastened with wire are put down, to ascertain whether any of the required game happen to be in the vicinity. This point being decided, sportsmen carry forth, the ground is beaten backwards and forwards, until the cats seek refuge in the trees, when they are shot down. At the end of the battle the dead cats are hung up in a cart covered with garlands, and the victorious party, generally headed by some provincial magnate, march in triumph through their native town. Then comes a grand feast, presided over by the mayor, at which the chief food is wild cat, served in different ways. It is difficult to imagine this dainty finding a place at the next Guildhall banquet, since English prejudices are not easily overcome. But perhaps the fact that wild cat is for the table costs twice as much as fine hare, while its flesh is "exquisite in the opinion of every gourmand who has eaten it," may lead to the introduction of this dainty into city circles. The intrinsic value of the animal does not, however, appear to depend altogether on its qualities as an article of food. Formerly the kings of Arragon used wild cat fur as trimmings for coronation and ceremonial robes, and even at the present time it is in high esteem among the Madrilenas. Admirable parchment is also made from the skin, which is reserved for documents of the highest importance. The town hall of Navarre contains a valuable registry, dated 1481, and numbering 2,500 pages, written on *parchment de chat*. Viewing the fact that cat's flesh formerly was esteemed a choice dainty for the table, and the skin of the animal excellent parchment, Mr. Buckland expresses his intention of reviving the demand for both articles. Whether he will succeed in this laudable object seems doubtful when the obstinacy of English prejudice is remembered. If he does, dwellers in the cat-haunted suburbs of London will have solid cause of gratitude to the reformer who abolished a greater nuisance even than teetotal bands.—*Globe*.

Good Advice to Settlers.

At a late celebration of Queen Victoria's birthday in Virginia, Mr. St. Andrew is reported to have given his countrymen the following sensible advice, which is equally applicable to Canadians intending to migrate. He said—

- I. Come in colonies, or go to colonies.
- II. Bring money in your purse.
- III. Leave your prejudices behind.
- IV. Don't expect too much.
- V. For land or business, pay cash.
- VI. Keep two-thirds at least of your money for working capital.
- VII. Avoid land sharks. You can easily find out the reliable land agents.
- VIII. In buying land, don't get too much of a good thing.
- IX. Adhere to the old-fashioned principle of British honor. Don't attempt "smartness." Better class Americans don't admire it; but they can beat you at the game if you challenge them to it.
- X. Remember that success is more in the man than in the country.

The Plague of Locusts.

The present has been a season of tribulation to the western settlers. The drought and the chinch bug have greatly reduced the early crops, and the later harvests have now totally disappeared from hundreds if not thousands of square miles of territory beneath the singly insignificant, but collectively terrible locust. This visitation has reduced thousands of farmers to destitution. These men, with their helpless families, stand just now upon the brink of starvation. Without help, the western parts of Kansas, Nebraska and Minnesota, but more particularly the first, must be temporarily depopulated. One of the fairest countries beneath the sun must be abandoned lest the inhabitants should starve for food. Kansas to-day bleeds once more. It is a heroic attitude

which the state by its governor takes, when he states that the commonwealth will take care of its own distressed people. But we doubt not that the governor of Kansas would willingly become the means of dispensing the free gifts of feed or money which thousands of farmers, happily in the enjoyment of a wealth of golden harvest in all other parts of the Union, would gladly contribute for the assistance of their suffering brethren in the west. Seed wheat for the fall crop would be particularly acceptable. Fall wheat is, perhaps, the most certain crop in western or central Kansas, and the denuded corn-fields may be at once sown with it. We wish there could be a stream of seed poured into Topeka, or its equivalent in money, which would probably be the most feasible method of conveying assistance. It is an honorable pride which refrains from asking help, but it is equally honorable to accept what is offered in true sympathy with misfortune. Immediate help might prevent the abandonment of many farms and the fruits of much labor. Every man who has a friend or acquaintance in Kansas, or other stricken places, may now seize upon an excellent opportunity of doing good by immediately conveying such help privately as may be possible; but to help promptly is to help effectually. Fourteen days' delay may make assistance too late to be serviceable.—*N. Y. Times*.

Canadian Flies.

A correspondent of the *London Times*, who has been in Canada, writes, "I had the felicity of being in the backwoods throughout one fly season. It is no use trying to describe the agonies I suffered to people whose experience of this, at the worst, is a swarm of gnats on a summer's evening, but enough when I say I shall carry the scars they made to my grave."—*Id.*

[The thin-skinned counter-hopper who peened the above should immediately set about putting his house "in order, for his end is evidently not far off. It is really astonishing how a journal like the *Times* could allow such arrant nonsense into its columns.]

SUN-BROKERS are uncommonly numerous in the South, the sun having been extremely hot there.

THE KENTUCKY tobacco crop will be an unparalleled failure, yielding not over 13 per cent. of the usual amount.

WITHIN the past two years \$200,000 worth of sheep have been destroyed by Kentucky dogs, and history promises to repeat itself.

MR. ROBERT WILSON, London township, has just threshed out the crop of nine acres of barley, the result being 500 bushels, over 55 bushels to the acre.

THE Southern Ohio state fair, which commences Sept. 29th, offers \$10,000 in premiums on fast horses. How much for useful things?

THE FARMERS of St. Joseph, Co. Mich., are on a strife as to who has the tallest corn. A stalk from a field planted by Wm. Fieldhouse, of White Pigeon, measured thirteen feet and nine inches.

THE MUSHROOM CROP in Anglesey is so heavy that for three days the London and North-Western Railway Company were obliged to run special trains for the conveyance of the crop to the English market.

GOOD PRICE FOR A LEICESTER TUP.—At the Inverness Show, we learn that Mr. Torrence, Sisterpath, disposed of his first prize shearing Leicester tup to the Duke of Richmond, Gordon Castle, Fochabers, at the handsome figure of 100 guineas.

THE APPLE CROP along the Mohawk Valley will be quite as abundant as the crop of last year. The trees are burdened with a larger yield than usual, but worms are very prevalent, and a great share of the crop is fast being destroyed.

THE *New York Tribune* tells a correspondent:—Rotted pine sawdust is of little value upon sandy land. In any case it possesses but little fertilizing properties, but upon stiff clay it tends to open the soil and make it lighter. The muck from bottoms of ponds or swamps would be much more valuable as a material for composting with manure.

IN THE skeleton of a horse, an ox, or even a dog or cat, there are about from one to four pounds of phosphorus. The carcass of any of these animals, cut up and distributed among fruit trees, instead of being buried out of the way as a nuisance, would be to them a rich entertainment of delicious food.