

## WEST KENT AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

Has 20 acres ground, race track, grand stand, cattle sheds and buildings equal to those of any other county, which were built and opened by the Lieut. Governor during Henry Smyth's presidency. The present President, John A. Walker, is a prominent barrister in Chatham and takes a deep interest in farming, more especially raising Jersey cows. From a strictly agricultural and object-lesson standpoint this year's Fair was a great success, both in stock and produce. Not so from a money point of view. Gate receipts talk. They talked small. Time was when every farmer's boy calculated to spend \$5 to \$10 at the fair as the holiday of the year. The directors may say to the public, "We have piped unto you and ye have not danced. We have mourned and ye have not lamented. We have given you a fair with horse racing Ye said no; give us a purely agricultural show. We do so and ye leave us to suck our thumbs over meagre gate-money, with a small Government grant, a generous one of \$200 from Chatham and a penurious \$50 from one of the wealthiest County Councils in Ontario." However, Elgin is worse off, having given up its fair this year. Young farmers and some old ones say, "We don't want to drive in ten or fifteen miles to see a big squash or a big pig; give us horse racing, give us female baloonists." If the strict sort object, let them put their hands in their pockets to cover the Society's loss, or else the fair must go. Something might be done by consolidating minor fairs with W. K. A. S., following example of Strathroy.

## CITY COUNCIL, 1895.

Mayor, Manson Campbell; Ward No. 1, Henry Smyth, Hy. Weaver; Ward No. 2, F. Stone, R. Cucksey; Ward No. 3, P. Rutherford, F. Marx; Ward No. 4, John Carpenter, G. G. Taylor; Ward No. 4, James Dillon, T. A. Smity. City Clerk, John Tissiman; Treasurer, R. G. Fleming; Collector, Wm. Rannie; Chief of Police, W. Young; Police Magistrate, M. Houston; Chief of Fire Dep't., A. Jacques. The rare name in this country of Tissiman, is well-known in Yorkshire. Mr. Tissiman has been 57 years in Chatham, 31 years Town Clerk. Like his prototype of Ephesus, he counsels to do nothing rashly, and saves his employers from many a pitfall. Mayor and Councillors come and go, but he abides. He has been justly called "almost infallible" as to municipal law. When in my reporting duties, I ask the best of our many good lawyers, information as to points of obscurity and of some seeming conflict in the municipal code, such a one, though in more courtly phrase will reply, "Don't bother me—ask Tissiman." His transcript of the session is so accurate that he can trip up the best of our reporters. He finds an able assistant in Pro. Clerk Weir. Tissiman's last work has been boiling by-laws into a compact shape after pruning and weeding them. The pamphlet embodying this, as finally approved by the Council. H. Smyth, Mayor, represents a herculean task, which nobody else could have accomplished, and which debarred him from many holidays in '94. Tissiman's hobby is "pets." His eagle having died, he has adopted two gaunt herons, tyrannized over by a plump sea gull. He is negotiating to import storks from Holland. 20 years ago he could do the work of the office easily single-handed; now fully occupied, though having Pro. Clerk.