

of the New Zealand farmer. The illustrations of the School of Agriculture, for example, suggest in appearance such a building as Melbourne University rather than the weather-board structure erected at Dookie. In the photographs exhibited of the wheat-fields at Pareora, South Canterbury, is shown a spectacle rarely seen elsewhere in Australia—namely, a dozen “reapers and binders” moving in train across the same wheat-field, which appears to cover a beautiful undulating country entirely unlike the levels of South Australia. The wheat in the field seems high and heavy in the head; but higher and heavier still are the samples of corn in ear ranged on the walls of the court. There is a sample, for example, of Tuscan wheat, exhibited by the Hon. Mr. Holmes, of Oamaru cut from a field which averaged 66 bushels to the acre; Mold’s, 40 bushels; red-chaff, 52 bushels, purple-straw, 50 bushels; and white-velvet, 40 bushels: all yields to make a Victorian wheat-grower envious. Although the general disposition is to regard New Zealand as largely traversed by mountainous land, unsuitable for agriculture, we learn from the statistics exhibited on the base of the grain trophy that there are really some 12,000,000 of acres available for agriculture, and an additional 50,000,000 suitable for pastoral purposes. The year 1887–88 was an exceptionally bad one, yet the average yield of wheat was 22·94 bushels for the whole country, and the average for the last five years has been 27·62 bushels. The average yield of oats and of barley in New Zealand for 1887–88—a matter in which the Victorian farmer takes another than a kindly interest—was for the former 31·24 and for the latter 27·26 bushels per acre. Most of the cereals of the court are shown in a large show-case with glass front, so that every facility is given for comparison.

The Hon. Mr. Holmes, M.L.C., of Dunedin, is, judged, by his display in the court, one of the largest of New Zealand agriculturists, his exhibits including the fine sample of wheat already mentioned.

J. and T. Meek, of Oamaru, have also sent some very fine cereals, some of their samples showing the following results for the measured bushel: White Tuscan wheat, 70½lb.; red Tuscan wheat, 71lb.; white-velvet wheat, 70½lb.; Mold’s Enoble wheat, 70lb.; Canadian oats, 56½lb.; Danish oats, 49½lb.; long Tartarian oats, 49½lb.

Other exhibitors who figure creditably in this peculiar department are, Messrs. Chamberlain Brothers, of Masterton; Fulton and Southwell, of Napier; Manning and Co., of Christchurch; the New Zealand and Australian Land Company, of Dunedin; the New Zealand Loan and Mercantile Agency, of Invercargill; Evans and Company, of Timaru; and others.

At the Colonial and Indian Exhibition very high testimony was given by experts as to the excellence of the New Zealand cereals. The report states, “The average produce of over 26 bushels per acre of wheat, of over 27 bushels of barley, and of over 32 bushels of oats demonstrates the fertility of the soil, and places New Zealand in the position of being among the most prolific countries in the world.”

“A large number of other samples were shown, such as pearl wheat, weighing as much as 66½lb.; Tuscan wheat, 67lb.; Tuscan white-purple straw, 69lb.; velvet chaff, 67lb. These weights show the excellence of the quality: in fact, nothing finer than these wheats has probably been seen. The wheats of commerce which are shipped to England do not approach in quality these fine specimens. The samples of barley were simply magnificent; and such barleys as the Chevalier would bring enormous prices in England. In the quality of its oats, again, New Zealand is in the front rank. The samples of potato-oats are unsurpassable. Whether such splendid grain as is here exhibited is common, and can be obtained in quantity, is doubtful; but still the fact remains that in all the chief grains New Zealand has shown, by these samples, a production of superb quality and in prolific quantities.”

Dairy-produce.

Long before Victorians had given anything like the marked attention now paid to dairying and dairy-cattle, the excellence of the milk-cattle of New Zealand, and more especially Ayrshires, was admitted; and many of them have, of late years, been sent to the leading shows in Australia. The exports of dairy-produce from New Zealand have more than doubled within the last three years.

The Taranaki Butter-packing Company, of New Plymouth, which has established an export trade with Fiji, South America, Honolulu, China, and elsewhere, shows butter, as packed for such markets, in tins very much like those used by the Americans for canned fruits. For the Home market the butter is packed chiefly in kegs and boxes, of which an improved form is exhibited by Messrs. Pond, of Auckland. The special advantages gained are that the enamelled surface preserves the butter, and the boxes are easily taken to pieces, cleaned, and repacked in very small compass as returned packages. There are altogether nearly a score of dairying companies represented by their produce in the New Zealand collection.

Upon one point a New Zealand exhibitor claims credit as against all others in the Exhibition, viz., for a display of winter-apples. There are, altogether, twenty varieties—a very good collection for the present time of the year—though the New Zealand grower, by reason of difference in climate, has probably an advantage over a Victorian for such a display. The grower is Mr. W. L. Beloe, of Pukekohe, and, as displayed, his exhibit is as attractive in appearance as a stand of sea-shells or a case of natural-history curios. The apples are rich in colour as in aroma, and all apparently sound in flesh. The Executive, however, find the dampness which prevails in the court a great disability in displaying winter-fruits, for even the soundest decay unless favoured with a dry atmosphere.

Another garden-product, so tastefully packed that any one seeing it becomes a purchaser almost as a matter of course, is the honey sent by Mr. G. Stevenson, of Waerengaahika. The extracted honey is bottled as usual, but the honey in comb is packed in little cardboard boxes, and has a most attractive appearance.

While the alimentary exhibits of the court generally impress the observer, they are not of a kind permitting detailed description.