

varieties of religion and opinion existing in our population. The Empire and the nations of the world may be becomingly invited to assist at the ceremony, as the Festival of Canada's coming of age.

The history of Canada may be regarded as the history of the series of European settlements attracted into the great northern estuary of the continent, the Gulf of St. Lawrence, spreading along its coasts and tributary waters, overflowing into the territories westward to the Pacific Ocean, and ultimately becoming grouped under the united government and common name of Canada. The history of Canada is the history of that Northern Mediterranean; of the various migrations and settlements; of rivalries and conflicts which attended its occupation by men springing from different European races; and of unification, first by fortunes of war, afterwards by the peaceful co-operative processes of time.

A general scientific interest as well as a local patriotic interest attaches to the occasion. The study of the principles of national genesis is a branch of social science. Of the spontaneous growth and organization of a nation Canada is one of the most remarkable object lessons in modern history.

There may be indicated three different characters for the celebration now proposed.

First. It is to be a commemoration of an historical and geographical event; the discovery of the Continent of North America.

Secondly. It will take the character of a great Canadian patriotic celebration, commemorating the historic development, materially and politically, of our country, now taking its permanent place as one of the states of a great Empire, Federal and Republican in substance, under the forms of an ancient and illustrious monarchy.

Thirdly. It is intended to illustrate, by a collection of historical exhibits, the course of northern continental discovery from the St. Lawrence gateway westward, and southward, along the St. Lawrence River, the Great Lakes the Mississippi and the Western plains, and the development of social and political civilization traceable from the colonization of North America. Such a purely historical international exhibition, on a fitting scale as now proposed, has never yet taken place.

A general Industrial World's Fair would probably meet with a cold response in Canada, and from other countries. On the other hand, a purely historical exhibition is quite within the limits of our means, and of our claims upon the attention of the world.

For this international historical exhibition ample accommodation has been offered free of expense by the Government of Ontario, the University of Toronto, Victoria University, and the Ontario School of Science. Their magnificent buildings, all in close proximity, and adjacent to Queen's Park, Toronto, are placed at the disposal of the preliminary local committee.