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Editor and Proprietor. }

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### General Editorial.

#### THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION

As you are all aware, was held in Kingston this year, and, as usual when held there, the exhibition is not so good as when held in the western cities, and the receipts are not equal to the expenditure, although they were in excess of what has been received at Kingston in previous years. The exhibition was a good one, and a better lot of cattle and sheep, we believe, have never been exhibited in Canada before. We have seen quite as good a display of implements, seeds, roots, etc.—The fruit exhibition was very fine. The ladies' department we do not think equal to some of the sectional exhibitions, and this department is one by which the prosperity or favor of the institution can be judged.

The principal reasons, we think, why this exhibition has not been a greater success, are these:—The accommodation for visitors at Kingston is of the worst description, and more expensive than in any city where the Show is held. Comfortable beds were not to be had, and a meal not worth ten cents would be fifty cents, and wait half an hour to get it. Every boarding house and tavern crowded to excess; in some places ten or fifteen would have a kind of shake down on the floor, and for this they would have to pay fifty cents, or stand up or walk about all night. It was hard to find sitting room, unless on the ground. No person in their senses would think of taking a lady to Kingston at exhibition time, consequently their faces were scarcer than at any exhibition we ever attended. We believe there were three ladies at the Guelph Fair to one at the Provincial at Kingston. There is an old saying that "there is no mischief but what has a woman at the bottom of it." We will add that but little good will be the result of our exhibitions; unless we have the good graces of the ladies with us.

Of course, neither the aldermen of the city, nor no one else, cared what became of the visitors as long as they got about \$1000 for licenses of extra cabs, and a good quota for saloon licenses. Why, talking about charges, one person from our county had to pay \$3 for one load of stuff from the station to the ground. \$2 and \$3 a day was charged for accommodation not worth 37½ cents—in fact, dear at any price. It is a disgrace to Canada that the Corporation should grant licenses to every little drinking hole, under the name of a saloon, without compelling every one of them to have beds and accommodation for 25 or 50 persons. Such a course would increase accommodation and decrease public nuisances, and might be advantageously followed by all cities. There are, unfor-

tunately but few farmers who can afford to visit a Provincial exhibition on account of the great expense. If there were extra trains run to and from the exhibition during the week, very few people heard about them.

On Thursday, one of our Western men, an observer and non-exhibitor, said to your humble servant: "W. W., will you take a glass of beer?" "No objections." We discussed matters about the Exhibition and we also spoke of cost and accommodation. He drew out his wallet to pay the ten cents, and laid down a \$5 bill. He said that was the fifth one he had taken out since his arrival in Kingston, and added that he had been in no way extravagant. We asked him, as he is a sober, steady person, how he had spent so much already, and he answered that he paid \$3 per day for board, viz., supper, bed and breakfast, (dinners on the ground) and cab and bus' expenses, etc. But few farmers can afford \$20 per week, and the accommodation received was not, in reality, worth the sum paid for it.

Another drawback to the attendance might be accounted for by the races taking place in Kingston, on Wednesday and Thursday, the two principal days. The Exhibition is quite sufficient to draw enough to fill Kingston at such a time, and they should not interfere with one another. The regatta also tended to draw some away that would have attended. The distance at which the Exhibition is held from the city, about two miles, prevents so large an attendance of the citizens as would be otherwise obtained. The County Council of Frontenac might and should give their influence to aid the Provincial Board, but they wanted to make a little money, instead of giving the grounds for the time to the Association; the outside of the grounds they rented for liquor purposes, there being, we believe, a saloon open on the grounds, from which the Association received no benefit. The County and City Councils should both strive to make the Exhibition a success every way. Without the aid of our western exhibitors, the Exhibition in Kingston would be but a poor affair; in fact very little good stock is sold in that vicinity. Some two or three hundred of the best farmers within 25 miles of Kingston look on the Exhibition as a good thing, because they can send in a waggon and team, pay \$4.50 for license, and make from \$10 to \$25 per day drawing passengers from the city and station to and from the grounds, the grounds being such a distance from each place as to require that number. If the grounds were nearer to the station or the city, these teams might bring in the farmers and their wives and families. Another drawback to the Kingston Exhibition this year, has been the London Exhibition,

taking place at the same time, but we think that did not do it much harm, as most of the principal breeders and manufacturers were represented at Kingston, and we hardly ever see a farmer from Kingston at London, or from London at Kingston to see the Exhibition, unless they are largely engaged in breeding or manufacturing. The local exhibitions are sufficient for them to attend.

The Governor General, John A. Macdonald, and leading gentlemen from the other provinces were present. The weather was fair, and despite the above remarks, which we make more with a view to improvement in future than for censure or disparagement, the Exhibition was a success, and the effects of it must be of benefit to Canada, particularly to that section of the country where it has been held.

The great and important business that calls so many delegates from all parts of the province together, is to decide where the Exhibition is to be held on the following year. This is always a question that causes considerable discussion. It is interesting to hear the claims sent up by sections that desire it. This year the claimants for it were Ottawa and Hamilton. Hamilton gained it by an overwhelming majority, and we are right glad it did, as taking the Provincial Exhibition east two years in succession would prove ruinous to the Association.

#### OTTAWA OR NOT.

Ottawa has a powerful and strong claim to put in, and it is right that we should fairly consider their claim and act honorably towards them. For the benefit of those that were unable to attend, although very few of our readers were there, we will endeavor to lay a few of Ottawa's claims before you. They say that they have the largest tract of land; that they pay a much larger rate of tax per head than we do towards this Association; there are numerous and wealthy farmers in that section; they are inclined to travel less than the western people; that the Exhibition would do more good by going there than to any other point, as nothing of the kind has ever been there; that the farmers of that part of the country would be awakened to activity, and it would be the means of setting in operation such exhibitions as we now have in this section; they say their wealthy farmers will purchase our stock if we take it there, and that implement makers will open a field for their productions, if they will show them there; they have already prepared grounds, as good as any we now have, and they will guarantee every necessary accommodation; further, they will undertake to find ample accommodation for visitors; they have two railways and wa-

ter communication to the grounds; if we go there, Quebec will join us with their Provincial Exhibition, and the other provinces will also meet us there as soon as they can do so; and instead of having a Provincial Exhibition, we shall have a Dominion Exhibition, which they hope to bring about; they think it will be one of the best means of binding us together in unity and friendship, and if we do not accede, they will be obliged to apply for their share of the money for which they are now taxed, get up their own exhibitions, and be cut adrift from us altogether.

Our Western men say, "we always impoverish ourselves when we go to Kingston; it is too far east; the farmers are too poor and have no enterprise there; to go to Ottawa would be worse than Kingston; the distance is too far, and the expenses will be too great; we shall be charged Parliamentary prices there. Ottawa is an awful dear place to live; if they once get the exhibition there, we shall not be able to get it back again, it will be too near the Parliament buildings to be safe. The Ottawa people never come to purchase our stock even when we go to Kingston.—The Provincial Exhibition is a school and we have learned by it; let them come to school. They might have met us at Kingston. As it is, Kingston is too far to take our stock for profit. We of the west have made the exhibition a success, and we decline to take our stock there."

Some of the manufacturers say it is too far from them; they would not go.

We say, let us western people go down to Ottawa, join with the Quebec inhabitants, and make a grand union or Dominion exhibition, once in 6 or 7 years. The other provinces will join us. Let us unite as farmers, and cast aside all political or sectional feelings. If we are to be one, the sooner the bonds of friendship are entwined about us the better. In what better way can this unity be brought about than by our agricultural and commercial intercourse. We want unity and friendship. Let us meet our French, Nova Scotian and New Brunswick brethren in Ottawa. The government might grant an additional \$5000 to the Board for such a purpose. Large prizes might be offered, to induce our breeders to go to Ottawa; and to prevent dissatisfaction and disgust, ample provision should be made to accommodate visitors at reasonable rates. The whole country is heartily sick of these 50 cent and \$1 charges for nothing.

To make this Dominion Exhibition, or any other agricultural exhibition or school, a permanent success,—political feelings must be entirely discarded. A momentary success may be obtained, but the reaction will be ruinous. It is certain that a rival feeling