

"At the time we write this extensive Province is peopled with one million freemen, in possession of those civil and religious blessings which alone be won and enjoyed by an enterprising and vigorous people."

The number of entries at this Exhibition was upwards of 3,000; the number of visitors computed at about 40,000, and the total expenditure amounting to £2,400.

In 1852 another charge, greatly affecting the interests of agriculture and the mechanical arts in the Province, took place. A new department was added to the Provincial Government, under the designation of the "Bureau of Agriculture."

The object of the new governmental department was "to centralize and perfect, by means of the appointment of a member of the Executive Government specially charged with such duties, the system or organization under which Agricultural Societies, the Provincial Agricultural Association, and Boards of Agriculture, had been for some time in existence; to give these bodies, in both sections of the Province, a more direct means of communication with the government; to increase the facilities for carrying out their objects, so as to produce more valuable results; and to afford to the Legislature, and to the Province generally, a ready means of ascertaining what those results were." The Hon. Malcolm Cameron was the first incumbent of this new office, under the title of "Minister of Agriculture."

The eighth Provincial Exhibition was held in Hamilton. The whole amount of prizes offered was £1,602, being an increase of £130 on the previous year; the number of entries was 2,820. This Exhibition was considered as an improvement on that held at Toronto. The general display of mechanical work and of domestic manufactures was very good, showing both progress and confidence in home productions. The number of visitors was about 30,000. In the annual address, the senior Vice-President, Mr. Bradwell, who in the absence of the President, Mr. Matthie, was called upon to perform that duty, said: "Our railways have been located, and are in progress of construction." Time and money have finished the work, and we are now reaping the benefits of those gigantic enterprises which at these earlier Exhibitions were only spoken of or slowly progressing.

In 1854 the Board of Agriculture presented a report to the Government, in which they expressed their opinion of the character of the Provincial Exhibitions, and the use they had been to the country in the following words:—

"The last two Exhibitions, held at Toronto and Hamilton, respectively, were attended by a vast concourse of visitors; and not only were the stock and articles for competition much larger in amount than at previous shows, but several new things were introduced, and the

general quality of the whole was of a higher character than heretofore. In implements and machinery a very marked improvement was obvious, and in the varied productions, adapted to a northern climate, it is believed that the Exhibitions of the Upper Canada Association are not excelled by any on this continent."

The year 1854 brought the ninth Exhibition to London. The site selected was the old Parade ground, about twenty-eight acres in extent. The influence of railways began now to be felt. The Great Western Railway Company offered to convey articles to and from the Exhibition free of charge. The influx of visitors was very great, and at one time it was stated that 25,000 persons were present,—while the total number of visitors was thought to be not less than at Hamilton and Toronto. The amount offered in prizes was £1,794, and the number of entries 2,933. The pecuniary condition of the Association was rapidly becoming more flourishing, the balance in hand, on the 21st Sept., 1854, being £1,332 14s. 4½d.

The tenth Exhibition was held at Cobourg. The prize list for 1855 amounted to £2,304, or about £520 more than had been offered at any previous Exhibition. In agricultural implements and domestic manufactures it fell short of its predecessors; but in the cattle department it was considered to be equal, if not superior, to any which had taken place on this continent. The President David Christie, Esq., M.P.P., stated in the annual address that, "We think we can mark in each succeeding Exhibition unmistakable proof of the rapid progress which Canada is making in the social scale. But such evidence is not confined to our Provincial Exhibitions. At the Industrial Exhibitions of London, New York and Paris, those great milestones in the pathway of the world's progress, the word 'Canada' is broadly marked."

The eleventh Exhibition was held at Kingston in September, 1856. Here the first permanent building for the purposes of the Association was erected. The Government granted a license of occupation for the term of twenty years on a part of the Penitentiary farm lot, of about twenty acres in area. Here the Local Committee erected a building of wood and glass. This structure is of the form of a Greek cross, the transepts being 190 feet long and 56 broad. The height of the cupola is 60 feet, but the general height of the building not more than 34 feet. The grounds are enclosed with a permanent board fence. The entire expense of the building, offices, &c., amounted to £3,918. The number of entries at the Exhibition was upwards of 3,790. Agricultural implements, manufactures in metals, carriages, cabinet ware, woollen goods and manufactures generally were well represented, and the entries considerably exceeded those of any former Exhibition. The amount offered in premiums was