

and give to the town an air of permanence and prosperity which it hitherto did not possess. The evolution from frame to solid brick and stone buildings has been gradual, but it has been accomplished without the usual serious conflagrations customary to western wooden towns. It would be impossible now to have any serious fire, as the risk in cases where the blocks were entirely of wood has been materially reduced by erection of fire proof blocks.

OUR AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL EXHIBIT AT TORONTO EXHIBITION

was quite up to the mark ; but it appears to me questionable whether such an exhibit of minerals is productive of any practical result. The people who visit the Toronto fair are not of the class which invests in mines or mining property. In nearly every case the richest specimens of silver would be passed over by them without notice or comment, and when it is remembered that the Port Arthur silver district produces the richest native and sulphide ores in the world, it is, to say the least, disheartening to exhibit it to an inappreciative audience. We want mining men, capitalists, and those whose experience renders them capable of judging of the great resources of this district, to visit us ; men who when they see a good thing know it ; not those who cannot tell sulphide of silver from lead.

The visit of

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would have done more to disseminate correct information about this district than half a dozen Toronto fairs. It was a grievous disappointment that their proposed trip was so unavoidably postponed in October, but I am pleased to note that some correspondence has been had with the Secretary, Dr. Raymond, with a view to having a regular meeting of the Institute held here, and that the project seems to be well received and likely to be carried out, though probably not earlier than 1891. Every inducement should be offered them.

PORT ARTHUR IS NOW A COMMERCIAL CENTRE.

It promises in the very near future to be a railway centre ; but before we can have that degree of prosperity to which we are entitled it must be made a manufacturing centre. We have all the necessary requirements, but the initiative must be taken by our people. A start once made, the remainder is easy, and comes naturally. The failure of the flouring mill negotiations has thrown us back a year ; and unless some organized effort