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A Dominion Exhibition.

THE project of a Dominion Exhibition to be held in this city, which progressed most hopefully up to a few months ago, was not abandoned, but postponed. We note that the managers of the local exhibition at Toronto have taken up the idea, and have utilized the opportunity of a visit of a Cabinet Minister to that display, to urge that assistance be given by the Government towards a Dominion Exposition being held in that city. While we cordially admire the enterprise and skill shown by the Toronto Exhibition, we regard this attempt to steal a march on this city as hardly creditable. Unless a more patriotic spirit is manifested, Canada can never have a national Exhibition, and the very fact of one having been projected, and partly organized, and the enterprise killed by local jealousies, will be a scandal and an injury to the Dominion. Our stay-at-home people, or those whose business is confined to this country, have no idea how the development of Canadian trade is hampered by downright ignorance of this country in both Great Britain and Europe. We share this continent with the most self-assertive people on this earth—small blame to them. Our goods, our capacities are thrown into the shade by the domineering and aggressive policy of our big neighbor, who never loses a chance to belittle our resources, and enterprises, and financial condition. A traveller just returned from Europe expresses his amazement at the ignorance still prevailing across the Atlantic about Canada, even in the large cities and towns of England. A Dominion Exhibition would do immense service in placing this country on a proper footing in Europe by making the people acquainted with our products, our resources, our territorial extent, and our financial affairs. If Toronto is bent on damaging the Montreal Exhibition project, it can do so, but it will never secure it by un-

reasonable and unjustifiable jealousy. The scheme originated here; this city is the most natural, as it is the most convenient, site for a national Exhibition. Montreal is the commercial metropolis of Canada, it is the largest, wealthiest, most attractive, most interesting historically of our cities. If a Dominion Exhibition ever is held, it will be in this city, and Toronto will find most profit and satisfaction in giving the enterprise magnanimous and patriotic support.

Toronto Water Works.

JUST when the citizens of Toronto were hoping to have insurance rates reduced, owing to the provision of better fire protection appliances, an accident occurred which puts the city in great peril from an inadequate water supply. Had the underwriters given way to the pressure brought to bear upon them to reduce rates, they would have been compelled to restore them to the high level they were fixed at after the Osgoodby & Simpson fires last winter.

Were the history of the water works at Toronto to be written, it would form one of the most serious indictments ever drawn against the management of such enterprises by a body selected by popular election. When they were first taken over by the city from private owners, some 25 or 30 years ago, the control was given to three commissioners. One candidate, who was urged to go to the polls by a very large number of leading citizens, was a distinguished engineer of wealth and great business ability. He was defeated, the person preferred to him being a journeyman painter.

From that day there has been a succession of disasters, directly traceable to this folly, and the spirit which led a mere secret society candidate to be preferred to a scientific expert with large experience in constructing extensive public works. A few years later the most eminent hydraulic engineer in Europe, who had been engaged by every European government, was visiting Toronto, who, after inspecting the water works engines, offered, without any fee, to furnish a plan for their improvement, which he guaranteed would save \$10,000 a year. This munificent offer was rejected by the then Mayor and Water Works Committee, who declined even to meet the President of the British Association, and President of the English Engineering Society, on the ground that they "knew as much about water works