



The Main Building and the other buildings intended for the exhibition of manufactured goods, although good enough twenty-two years ago, are to-day entirely behind the age, and are neither large enough nor modern enough to satisfy the demands and needs of our fast expanding industries. While the agricultural half of the Exhibition has gone ahead, the manufactures and arts hall has been compelled to stand still. It has outgrown its environment, and to expect it to thrive and progress in its present inadequate and unsuitable quarters is not unlike trying to compel a full-grown man to try and walk in the shoes that he wore when he was a boy.

This has been seen by the management for several years past, who (and we think wisely) resolved that as soon as the new and up-to-date live stock buildings were all completed, they would turn their attention to the erection of commodious and modern buildings for the proper housing and exhibition of our arts and manufactures.

In the meantime the second contract of ten years between the City of Toronto and the Exhibition Association had expired, and under the new arrangement for the third term of ten years, the Association handed over the entire of its assets to the city and the latter assumed all of the Association's liabilities. Under the new arrangement the city agreed to keep all the buildings in repair and build such other new buildings as might be necessary for the carrying on of the Exhibition. It will thus be seen that although the Exhibition Association can recommend new buildings and improvements, they have no power to put these plans into execution unless the citizens of Toronto through their Council approve of the things recommended and furnish the money for them.

This is the state of affairs that confronts the citizens of Toronto to-day in connection with the Industrial Exhibition.

It must either go ahead or fall back, and in our opinion it can only advance by having the manufacturing and arts part of it brought up into line by the erection of commodious and up-to-date buildings.

While much criticism has been indulged in regarding the grand stand performances and side shows, this is a matter about which there will always exist a considerable difference of opinion, but even were all of the things true that the opponents of such attraction allege, they would only represent the fly in the ointment, and could not seriously affect the usefulness of the fair to any perceptible extent.

It is an undoubted fact, however, that the Toronto Exhibition has come to be regarded by the people of Ontario, especially the agricultural population, as the best place at which to spend their annual outing. The hard part of the year's work over, they want a holiday, and they prefer to take it where they can be amused as well as instructed, hence their love for Canada's great fair which affords them a world of amusement as well as what is best in pumpkins, mangel wurtzels and live stock.

So far as the actual citizens of Toronto are concerned, we venture to assert that seventy-five per cent. of them judge the Exhibition entirely by the grand stand performances and side shows. As a proof of this we may cite the fact that on the last Friday afternoon of the Exhibition there is held in front of the grand stand a review of all the prize winners in both

cattle and horses. This grand parade is in our opinion one of the sights of the fair, and cannot be excelled for numbers and quality anywhere on the continent, not even barring the great world's fairs. The citizens of Toronto show their appreciation of this great review with an array of practically empty benches, certainly not more than a thousand people being present to witness it. On the other hand, at the evening performances, the grand stand is crowded night after night, and not only is every seat occupied, but thousands are content to pay for standing room in the paddock in order to witness it. In the face of this fact further comment is unnecessary.

So far as the Main Building was concerned this year, it was in the opinion of the majority of those who took the trouble to inspect it, better than it has been for many years. The decorations were most artistic, and a lavish use of white, red and blue bunting and national flags and shields made it look patriotic enough for even this most patriotic of all years. The exhibits were of a very high standard of excellence, and as far as space would allow, fairly representative of the several lines of Canadian manufactures which they displayed.

In the matter of Canadian jewelry and silverware, while the former was represented by some very choice and well-selected specimens of the jewelers' art, the latter was conspicuous by its absence; indeed, the only exhibit of silverware in the building was that of a Birmingham, England, firm who showed a large square glass case full of very artistic and taking novelties in this line, the majority of which were sold to merchants to be delivered after the Exhibition closed.

AMBROSE KENT & SON CO., LTD.

In jewelry the principal exhibit was undoubtedly that of the Ambrose Kent & Son Co., Limited, who showed a very fine assortment of artistic diamond and other jewelry of their own manufacture for which they were deservedly awarded a silver medal. A pair of solitaire earrings made up with large steel blue Jagersfontein diamonds of rare color and brilliancy and valued at \$2,000, attracted a great deal of attention, especially from the ladies, who were profuse and outspoken in their admiration. The display of diamond jewelry also embraced brooches, hair ornaments and rings of the newest designs and all of first-class quality and finish. In the rings were to be found many new and fetching effects secured by combinations of diamonds, opals, olivines, sapphires, rubies, emeralds and pearls, many of which were certainly new and all of them noteworthy in design and coloring. In silver, and silver gilt and enamelled jewelry, this firm showed a very large and varied assortment, consisting of pins, buckles, hair ornaments, etc., all of which were artistically executed, and attracted a great deal of attention from visitors. In addition to the above, they also showed samples of rings, chains, spoons and souvenir jewelry in various stages of manufacture, which was not only interesting, but instructive. A considerable portion of their space, which, we forgot to say, occupied the place of honor in the very centre of the building, was used to display the firm's exhibit of regalia and society emblems and jewels, of which they are large manufacturers. In this department they were also deservedly awarded recognition in the shape of a bronze medal. Taking their exhibit altogether it was one of the best of its kind ever shown in Canada, and the