

The Annual Report.

The President then read the following Report of the Board of Directors for the year 1879, which was adopted :—

GENTLEMEN :

In presenting their First Annual Report, your Directors are glad to be able to congratulate the Association on the success which has attended the first Exhibition held under its auspices, and the fact that its permanent establishment is now fully assured.

The number of visitors attending the Exhibition—which was held from the 1st to the 19th September—was larger than had ever attended any exhibition previously held in the Dominion, whilst the number of exhibitors was fully equal to our most sanguine expectations. The causes which contributed most largely to this gratifying result were, we think, the extension of the time usually occupied by similar exhibitions, from one to three weeks ; the superior accommodation afforded by the grounds and buildings of the Association—the like of which are not to be found anywhere else in the Dominion ; the special advantages which the City of Toronto offers for an exhibition of this character ; the extreme thoughtfulness and liberality which characterized the arrangements for exhibitors and the public in almost every department ; the very liberal prize list offered ; the adoption of a liberal excursion scheme by the railway companies whose lines centre in the city ; and the confidence which agriculturalists, manufacturers and the public generally have in the Association.

The Association was fortunate in having the presence, at the opening of the Exhibition, and on several subsequent occasions, of His Excellency the Governor-General, and Her Royal Highness the Princess Louise, and there is no doubt that a knowledge of the fact that the Exhibition was to be under the immediate patronage of their Excellencies was an incentive to many, even from very long distances, to visit it. The exhibitors also experienced much pleasure from being afforded an opportunity to explain to their Excellencies the nature and quality of the various goods, etc., manufactured by them.