

OUR HALIFAX LETTER.

August, a usually quiet month, has ended well, and great activity now characterizes all branches of trade in this city. The business situation throughout the Province is exceedingly good, which is somewhat of a surprise, considering all the untoward elements encountered during the last twelve months. Last spring the outlook was more or less ominous. Speculation had been rife, large amounts had been lost through the slump in stocks, and it was feared that general business would be seriously affected. The failure of the apple crop of 1902 had a depressing effect, and since then unseasonable weather gave rise to fears, and proved for a time a disturbing element. Fortunately the business community is in a much better position than many expected. Both the wholesale and retail branches of the various trades are enjoying a fair degree of prosperity, and the present outlook is brighter than it has been for some time.

A study of the results of the "speculative debauch" shows them to have been less disastrous than anticipated. The greater part of the losses appears to have fallen upon people outside of business circles. Some savings have gone, and a number of persons are carrying debts which they contracted to provide the money with which to speculate, but they have met other current obligations about as well as before. Merchants have not impaired their capital to a serious extent, nor are they suffering largely from difficulty in making collections. No doubt the effects would have been felt more severely but for the fact that the general progress of the country has supplied a larger buying capacity from the people who have not lost.

In certain sections of the Province there are still conditions that no one wishes to see. In the Annapolis valley there is said to be a disposition on the part of the banks to be very conservative in the matter of accommodation, owing to the unsatisfactory financial conditions induced by the apple crop experience of last year. This year's good crop and high prices, however, will enable our orchardists to get fairly upon their feet again. In Sydney business conditions are not so good as might be wished. But there is more stability since the boom has subsided and the weaklings are weeded out. Taking the situation all through, business in this Province is in good shape, and there is little excuse at the present time for pessimism.

Travellers for local houses are now all in the city assisting headquarters' staffs in looking after the wants of merchants in attendance at the Provincial Exhibition. The Nova Scotia branch of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association has gone to a good deal of trouble in accommodating such of its members as may be attending the fair. A convenient booth or office has been constructed in the main exhibition building, where letter writing can be done and business transacted. The membership of the Nova Scotia branch has grown considerably, and, judging from the applications for berths, a large number will take advantage of the Pacific coast excursion later in the month.

The first shipment of apples from this port went forward by the steamer *Evangeline*, which sailed for London on Saturday. A London firm, which gave a well-known buyer an order to secure 10,000 barrels of Gravensteins, Blenheim's, Ribstons and Kings, has since cabled to send the three latter varieties only. The price offered at the orchards for these selected varieties was \$2, and some have been secured at this figure, though many orchardists are refusing to sell unless the Gravensteins are taken also.

A branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia has been established at Strathcona, N.W.T. A regular branch has been established at St. Andrew's, N.B. This was formerly conducted as a sub-branch of St. Stephen's.

The People's Bank of Halifax has lost a valued member of its agency staff in the death of its Bathurst manager, R. H. MacDonald, which occurred recently in a hospital at Montreal. He was a Prince Edward Islander, the son of Senator MacDonald. His place has been taken by Mr. E. P. MacKay. H. W. Pearman, second teller at Halifax, succeeds Mr. MacKay as manager at Port Hawkesbury.

Halifax, 7th September, 1903.

THE DOMINION EXHIBITION.

IN THE MANUFACTURERS' BUILDING.

Having seen this handsome structure early and late—when it was nearly empty of people, and when it was nearly filled with them, we cannot too much praise the foresight of the authorities in making its dimensions and arrangements what they are. Light, space, roomy passage-ways—all are in abundance. And one effect of furnishing exhibitors with ample space for their displays has already been to make those displays more than ever striking. The array of textiles near the western end made by various woollen manufacturers, worthy as it is in the intrinsic excellence of fabrics in texture and color, is still more attractive because the goods can be so well seen.

Remarkable is the variety of objects connected with the making of paints, varnishes, and stains exhibited near the centre of the building by the Canada Paint Company. Resins, gums, ochres, colored earths and their bottled products on one side; Elephant brand paints, floor paints, graphite paints for bridge and other railway work on another; cold-water kalsomine—ought it not to be calcimine, from the Latin word *calc*, (chalk)—and scores of painted sample shingles on a third, with a smiling fairy godfather giving away thousands of Mr. Munro's toy fans. This exhibit, which is under the charge of Mr. W. H. Evans, is always crowded.

A temple with white pillars and crimson and gold roof, festooned with hops and ornamented with gilt beavers, contains hundreds of bottles, great and small, of the product of the well-known Dominion Brewery Company. Oaken barrels and kegs of graduated sizes, with gilt hoops, surmount each other, reaching nearly to the roof. And everywhere confronts the spectator, "Jubilee Ale"—"Davies' Export Ale"—"Special Pale Ale"—"White Label Ale"—"Dominion Bottled Porter," with medals and prize certificates galore. Mr. Ross may well be proud of this handsome exhibit.

The Christie, Brown Co. biscuit exhibit is sure to attract attention year by year, because of the remarkable number and variety of sorts shown. This year, the handsome exhibit appears to very good advantage, for it can be better seen than at some former exhibitions. John Taylor & Co.'s plain and fancy soaps, and John Taylor & Co.'s perfumes, both "Made in Canada," appear in neat pavilions near the north door. The London brewers have creditable and uncommon displays.

The Gurney Foundry Company, Limited, Toronto, have, as usual, a fine miscellaneous exhibit of stoves, furnaces, and the like. The Metal Shingle and Siding Co., of Preston, Ont., who make metal coverings and ornaments for ceilings and walls of houses, etc., have an exhibit which is worthy of a second look. It is worthy of note that the "Spanish tiles," which make such a pleasing feature to the eye on the roof of the Manufacturers' Building, were made by this company. The Cowan Co., Limited, Toronto, is another of those who are making a special feature at the Fair of the motto, "Made in Canada." Their cocoas and chocolates are a credit to their name. The Brown Bros., Toronto, show a varied assortment of ledgers and office books, pocket books, ladies' leather bags, and so forth, of their own excellent production.

Many of the booths are arranged with special view to the effectiveness of night display, having abundance of electric lamps. The United Electric Co., of King Street West, is furnishing a portion of the lighting for the Exhibition.

A neat method of showing the effect of tastefully painted exteriors of dwellings is that adopted by A. Ramsay & Son, Montreal. Half a dozen miniature wooden houses, each three or four feet long, are painted in grays or olives, their casings of maroon or brown, their roofs of green or copper color. The moral evidently is: Use Ramsay's Mixed Paints.

The Milner-Petrolia Wagon Co., of Petrolia, Ont., exhibit a fine lot of wagons of all kinds for farmers' use. They put in a highly improved modern plant only last December.