

On former occasions, Canada had been represented at the International Exhibition in Europe by her Government, which selected and purchased the exhibits sent; and this is the system generally adopted by the other colonies of the Empire. The Exhibition of 1878 was the first in which the Dominion has exhibited beyond the Atlantic, and there is no doubt that by appealing to the enterprise and patriotism of her producers and manufacturers, Canada has taken rank as a nation along with those European ones, whose individuals represented their respective countries.

While the exhibitors at Paris labored under these disadvantages as compared with the Centennial, the Canadian Commission for the Paris Exhibition was also less fortunate than their predecessors at Philadelphia. For the Centennial, Advisory Boards, presided over by a Provincial Minister of the Crown, were formed in every Province of the Dominion, and were composed of "official and unofficial gentlemen of great zeal, experience and local and technical knowledge, in all parts of the country, and connected with all departments of industry." These numbered in Ontario, 41; Quebec, 44; Nova Scotia, 22; New Brunswick, 24; Prince Edward Island, 10; Manitoba, 6; British Columbia, 7,—over 150 gentlemen in all, whose services were enlisted in aid of that Commission. Moreover, the proximity of Philadelphia and the liberality of the railways in taking exhibition goods at half rates secured the minimum of cost, delay and handling, while it gave to the Centennial Commission the invaluable aid of many Canadian exhibitors.

TROPHY.

At the end of August, 1877, a despatch was received, enclosing a letter from the Prince of Wales, in which he says: "The space allotted to Great Britain adjoins a vestibule and tower which had been reserved for international trophies, of which only a small share would have been granted to Great Britain. The French, upon my personal application, have given the exclusive permission to me to use it for a series of trophies representing the produce and manufacture of the various Colonial Governments. It forms the main entrance to the foreign Machinery Gallery, and is 115 x 142 feet and 100 feet high. I have placed the various trophies from the Colonies in close proximity to India, wishing that the Colonial Governments should have this prominent position in addition to the space in the main building. The Dominion Government was invited to inform His Royal Highness whether they saw their way to the erection of a suitable Grand Trophy in the centre of the hall. The French, he adds, have only granted this tower, which is a most important position abutting on the Seine and the principal entrance to the Exhibition, on condition that the manner in which I propose to deal with it is submitted for their final approval."

Here was a tender of which any nation in the world might have been proud. This tower had been intended as the place where all the foreign nations were to have been brought to the front, and now its central space was offered exclusively to the Dominion of Canada.

The offer was promptly accepted and the design for the trophy commenced under the direction of Mr. T. S. Scott, the Chief Architect of the Department of Public Works. Our allotment of space in the section having been considered insufficient, utilitarian considerations governed, to a great extent, the design, and the trophy was planned to secure the maximum exhibiting space to a height at which objects could be seen and examined. For this purpose the base was in the form of a cross, and the first balcony corbelled out to obtain increased space without increasing the foundation area beyond prescribed limits. The available height assigned was 100 feet, and this gave space for two higher balconies, which were reached by a spiral stairway in the centre and proved as useful as they were ornamental.

The trophy design was forwarded in October for approval to the Royal Commission, by whom it was at once accepted and transmitted to the French, who immediately expressed their grateful acceptance and admiration of the same. It was evidently a pleasant surprise to both English and French that Canada