

Report of the Progress of the Work of the Canadian Section of the World's Fair.

A bulletin written by Prof. Wm. Saunders has been issued by the Dominion Government, which gives a report of all work done connected with the Canadian department of the World's Fair up to November, when Prof. Saunders' ill health forced him to send in his resignation. This gentleman has met with great success in his work, and has secured a generous allowance of space, which is situated in very advantageous positions. Altogether the space allotted to Canada amounts to 106,000 square feet, besides sufficient accommodation for about 700 head of live stock, with the written promise of the chief of this department that if more space is needed for the Canadian exhibit it would be granted.

At the suggestion of Sir Henry Wood, the request was made, and granted by the Exposition authorities, that wherever practical the space allotted to Canada should be next to that of Great Britain.

The Dominion Government invited all the provinces to co-operate with the executive commissioner to exhibit as full and complete a display as possible. The conditions of the invitation provided that the Dominion Government should pay for the transportation of exhibits going and returning. The provision was made that the cost of placing the exhibits in position, and the expenses of caretakers to look after the goods during the time of the Exposition, and the bringing of exhibits together for economical shipment in car lots, should be defrayed by the Provincial Government. In the case of live stock the Dominion Government will pay for all food, and if it is found necessary to quarantine any of the animals on their return, this expense will also be borne by the federal authorities, the provinces agreeing to defray the cost of selecting, and the expense of providing attendants to go with the stock and to take charge of it while at the exhibition.

All risk of wear and tear, damage from exposure or accidents, must be borne by the individual owners.

The provinces and territories have agreed to prepare exhibits, to be shown in provincial groups, of their minerals, timber, fruit, vegetables and honey, and to co-operate with the Dominion in preparing an educational exhibit, and a display of agricultural produce and of live stock.

In manufactures the space allotted to Canada is 21,600 square feet, and adjoins that of the Mother Country. Applications have been made for a large amount of space from all leading manufacturers.

In the liberal arts the space allowed will be 6,000 square feet, which will be chiefly occupied by the educational exhibits of the provinces and territories. The display which is designed to illustrate the educational system of Ontario, under the charge of Dr. S. P. May, of Toronto, is already well advanced. In this department the space granted has been insufficient. A much larger area than that which has been granted could have been filled, had it been possible to obtain it.

AGRICULTURE.

Here Canada has been awarded two blocks of space, a total of 7,700 square feet; this also adjoins that of Great Britain. There will be a large display of the agricultural products raised in the different provinces, both from the Dominion Experimental Farms and selections from other sources. Collections of stuffed birds and animals will be placed here, as will be found the mammoth cheese, which was crowded out of the dairy building.

The Dominion Millers' Association is preparing to show all the leading brands of Canadian flours.

AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENTS.

Here Canada has been assigned 7,880 square feet, of which a large amount has been already applied for, so there is likely to be an excellent display.

DAIRY.

In this department 3,000 feet of space was applied for, but, on account of the smallness of the dairy building, it was found necessary to restrict the Canadian exhibit to 576 feet. About 1,000 choice cheeses have already been obtained. Preparations are being made for a good display of butter of fine quality from the important dairy sections.

FORESTRY.

The forestry building has been so constructed as to require for its support a series of groups of columns, each of which is to be composed of three trees with the bark intact. Canada has been invited to supply a number of these groups with her representative trees. Inside the building 4,000 feet has been assigned to Canada for further display of her trees, timber and wood productions.

HORTICULTURE.

In this department the provinces have entered heartily into the work. 8,000 square feet have been assigned for the display of fruits and vegetables. In Ontario the work is under the charge of Mr. A. H. Pettit, President of the Fruit Growers' Association. Since the fruit crop in the Western States has been poor, a larger space has been offered to Canada, and efforts are being made to fill it creditably.

FISHERIES.

Here a space of 5,000 feet has been assigned to Canada. An excellent exhibit is in course of preparation. In the exhibits of minerals, machinery, transportation, electricity and fine arts, all the available space will be well filled with a creditable exhibit. In the transportation department it has been arranged that a representative train of Canadian cars will be shown alongside of a train of English cars, also in contrast to them will be shown a dog train and Red River cart.

DEPARTMENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Here, besides examples of the handiwork of Indians from all parts of Canada, there will be families of the different tribes, with their equipments, representing their wild condition; also young Indians from the Industrial schools, who will work at their several occupations. This exhibit is designed to show the effect of the liberal and paternal policy pursued by the Canadian Government.

LIVE STOCK.

Preparations have been made for an extensive display of horses, cattle, sheep, swine and poultry. Expert judges were chosen by the Ontario Commissioner, N. Awrey, Esq., who has visited all the important exhibitions and selected the best specimens to be found in the different classes. Similar work has been done in Quebec, and it is expected that a display will be made by Manitoba and Prince Edward Island. This will certainly be the largest exhibit which Canada has ever made, and will surely call attention to the advantages which the Canadian climate affords to the breeding of high class animals.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Experimenting with New Fruits.

BY A. M. SMITH, ST. CATHARINES.

From the title of my subject you might think I am going to give my own experience in growing new fruits, but such is not my intention. Experimenting with new fruits and its cost to the country is more properly the subject which I wish to present to your consideration, and in doing so I may make some statements which you may think extravagant, to say the least, but I want you to carefully examine the facts and see if they will not bear out my assertions. Last winter, while I was attending a meeting of the Michigan Horticultural Society, it was stated by one of their prominent members, I think their president, T. P. Lyons, who is also a director of one of their fruit experimental stations, "that there was annually enough money spent in the purchase of worthless fruits to maintain the poor of the State." I have been thinking upon this subject and making a little estimate of the amount spent in Canada, and I have come to the conclusion that the money spent here in worthless fruits and fruits not adapted to the climate and wants of the country, and in their cultivation, would far exceed that sum; and I will venture the assertion, that within the last twenty-five years there has been more money thus wasted than would pay our national debt (which you all know is not a very small one). I know it is far easier to make an assertion than to prove it, and that what might be accepted as proof by those familiar with the subject might not be understood by those who were not. I think all who have had experience in growing fruit, and in marketing it, will fully understand the difference between the value of the tree that produces \$10 worth of fruit and one that produces 50 cents worth, or less, annually, particularly if the latter costs five times as much when planted, and has, perhaps, had twice the time and money expended upon its cultivation, and I doubt not your experience in finding this out has cost some of you more than your share of the national debt. But there are others, perhaps, who are not familiar with this business, who would be hard to convince that there was such a loss. But, suppose we take an ordinary farmer's orchard, like the majority of those in our neighborhood, and on an average what proportion of good paying varieties will you find that will yield a good, fair crop of a quality that will bring a first-class price in the market? Take the country through and you will not find over 25 per cent. I have packed apples in nearly all of the best apple sections of the country, and I did not find that on an average, and what are the rest? They are apples ranging from fair to worthless. Let us see what this means. Take 100 apple trees, which should, at a low estimate, average two barrels to the tree for twenty years, worth \$1.00 per barrel, and because three-fourths of them are not adapted to the country, or the market, they only average one barrel. You have a yearly loss of \$100 to each 100 trees, or \$2,000 in twenty years. How much would that amount to on the total orchards of Ontario? This is not all; the same holds good on all other varieties of fruit—pears, plums, peaches, cherries, grapes, and small fruits. Half of the money expended on them has been a total loss, except to the nurserymen, and perhaps the experience bought may be of some use to some, though, I am sorry to say, one-half of our farmers do not seem to profit by it, for the next agent that comes along with the picture of something new and wonderful, and declares it will bear from July to January in any soil or climate from Manitoba to Mexico, will get their order. This loss is not confined to farmers and fruit growers alone. Our mechanics and townspeople are annually spending thousands of dollars for trees and plants to stock their gardens, more than one-half of which is worthless, or not adapted to the climate. Now, the question is, How has this state of things come about? Who is to blame for it, and what is the remedy? In the early history of our country there was some excuse for this. People were anxious to grow fruit, and had no means of knowing whether a variety was good and would succeed here or not, till they tried it, and later on agents from the other side swarmed the country, recommending this and that variety; many, with the hope of getting something good, planted a little of everything, which accounts for

the large collection of varieties in some of our old orchards. But as years rolled round, and there began to be a demand for shipping fruits, planters began to understand what varieties were profitable. They commenced to order those varieties largely, and planted new orchards, and here came in the iniquity of tree agents, and, I am sorry to say, some of the nurserymen. There was not enough of this kind of trees to supply the demand, and there was inserted in their blank orders, which they always carry to be filled out, this clause (which is generally observed by the buyer), "If you have not got the varieties called for, you may substitute others, which you think equally desirable." The consequence was, that many a man who gave his order for Baldwins, Greenings, Northern Spies, or other choice varieties he wanted, found out when they came to bear that he had Talman Sweet, Colvert, or some variety he did not want, but something the nurseryman wanted to get rid of, or the tree agent could buy cheaper, and which they thought would be "equally desirable" for them to get the money for. I could point to hundreds of such cases, but many of you know them to your sorrow. Besides this, there is a laudable desire on the part of planters to get something new; something there is more money in than the old, and they are on the alert for new things, some of them anxious to get the start of their neighbors. Nurserymen, knowing this, are continually introducing new things, and by getting high recommendations from one another, a kind of "scratch my back and I'll scratch yours," they succeed in selling them readily, often at ten times the price of varieties 100 per cent. better. It is true, an occasional new sort may be of value in some sections, but not one in one hundred proves to be superior to the old established varieties. I could mention dozens of sorts that thousands of dollars have been paid for through the country, and thousands more spent in their cultivation, which never pay for the time spent in planting, much less in nursing and cultivating. Prof. Lyon, of the Michigan Fruit Experimental Station, stated in his report last winter, that not more than one in one hundred of the new sorts and novelties succeeded, or even equalled the old standard varieties, though some of them might appear valuable for a year or so. His advice to fruit growers was, for general planting, let novelties alone. Yet, glib-tongued agents will often induce men to invest largely in new, untried fruits. I know of one in my section who persuaded a farmer to plant several acres of a new grape, called the Early Dawn, for which he obtained an enormous price, representing that they were so early he would have the market all to himself before his neighbor's grapes were ripe, and thus secure a fortune; but when they came to bear, the fact "dawned" upon him that he had been swindled. They were not earlier than some of the old sorts, and far below them in size, quality, and productiveness. Similar instances might be multiplied, but it is not necessary. We know that these are facts, and can understand how they have come about, and I think you see we are, in a great measure, to blame for it ourselves. As long as we continue to invest our money in these new things, simply upon the recommendation of the tree agent, or a few men interested in their sale, we shall be doomed to loss and disappointment. I do not wish to insinuate that nurserymen and tree agents are all rogues—far from it; I believe nurserymen are as honorable men as a class as those engaged in any calling, and some tree agents are also, but there are those who, like the manufacturers and dealers in whiskey, are not in it for the good they can do to the country, but for the money they can get out of it. Now, about the remedy for this state of affairs. We do not want to discourage experimenting with new fruits, or the introducing of them if they are worthy; on the contrary, we want to encourage this work, but we do want to devise some means of having such tested by competent parties not interested in their sale, so that we may know whether they are worth planting or not, before we pay out our hard earned dollars for them. This is a matter which affects the whole country at large, not only fruit growers, but consumers. We are all interested in getting the very best fruits our country will produce, and at the best possible rates; and anything that hinders their production diminishes the supply and adds to their cost. I know of no better or fairer way to remedy the evil than by asking our government to assist us in this matter by establishing experimental stations in fruit growing districts, where fruits can be tested by disinterested parties, under its supervision, as is done in nearly all the neighboring States, and by enacting laws regulating the sale of trees and plants, making it a criminal offence to wilfully substitute an inferior fruit for one ordered, or in perpetrating frauds of a similar nature. We have advocated this before in our society, and the matter has been brought before our Ministry of Agriculture, who, I think, sees the necessity of it, and is willing to do what he can to assist us; yet no definite action has been taken further than the appointing of a committee to consult as to the best means of carrying out the work, but who have as yet accomplished but little; still, I hope some more definite action will be taken during the coming winter, and the matter brought before our Legislature, who, I trust, will see the need of this work, and grant us what we ask, and we want every fruit grower and lover of fruit interested in this work to agitate this subject. Talk it to your neighbors, bring the matter before your member of Parliament, and if he has not sense enough to see the necessity of it, ask him to step down and out and put someone in his place who has.