

CANADIAN MANUFACTURES AT THE GREAT EXHIBITION.

The following is from the continued report in the *Canadian Gazette* (London, England, Sept. 2nd), of the Great Exhibition :
MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

The musical exhibits which occupy a large space in the central gallery, give to the Canadian Section a distinct feature among other sections of the Exhibition. Indeed, it may almost be said that the only exhibit of musical instruments in the whole Exhibition is made by Canada, for the others may be counted on one hand. South Australia, for instance, has three small exhibits of musical compositions; Malta sends a collection of violins, guitars, and instruments of that class; New Zealand contributes a pianette and set of highland bagpipes; while Cyprus and British India show us what native musical instruments are like. It is not, of course, to be supposed that the piano and organ are unknown in the Antipodes, at the Cape, and in other British colonies, though it may safely be inferred that in no other part of the Empire, excluding Great Britain, has this branch of manufactures reached so high a stage of development as in Canada. Of pianos the Canadian Section contains specimens shown by six leading manufacturers, all of them from Ontario. The cabinet work in most of these is unsurpassed, and much credit is due both on account of the tastefulness of design and finished workmanship. As to tone, touch, and general interior workmanship, there are pianos in the Canadian Section that will rank with any that are manufactured. Of organs some very fine specimens are shown—remarkable alike for their purity of tone and general excellence.

The first exhibits, commencing at the eastern transept, are the organs of Messrs. W. Bell & Co., of Guelph, Ontario, housed in a handsome stand. As many as sixteen instruments are shown. Four of them are double manual organs, and two of them have pedals, while the golden pipe-tops give them a highly finished appearance. Another excellent organ has nine sets of reed with two sets of pedals, and is supplied with the well-known Scribner patent qualifying tubes, which gives to the tone a most pleasing pipe-like quality. Several of the organs have received high praise from London musical critics. The President of the London Organ School declared their pedal touches to be little less than perfect, while the general quality of tone must, he said, be considered most satisfactory. Dr. Turpin, of the College of Organists, after a personal inspection, sent several professors to see the organs, and these expressed themselves much pleased with the instruments. The enterprise of Messrs. Bell has already made their productions known in Great Britain and Europe, while a visit to the stand at the times of the daily recitals will show how much they are in favor with the general public at the Exhibition. The woods of the organs are Canadian, and in many instances of a choice character. Another important collection of organs is shown by Messrs. W. Doherty & Co., of Clinton, Ontario. The exhibit comprises eight cabinet organs, including the "cathedral," "chapel," and "boudoir" organ, each of good design and having fourteen stops. Cheaper styles of organs are also shown, including a student's pedal organ, upon which considerable praise has been bestowed by competent critics. Messrs. D. W. Karn & Co., of Woodstock, Ontario, show ten different styles of cabinet organs, most of which are handsomely encased. As yet the organs of this firm are little known in England. Thanks, however, to the present Exhibition, a permanent agency has been formed here, and considerable sales are already reported. Another organ exhibit is made by Mr. W. Gates, of Halifax, Nova Scotia. One of these classes of organs is well suited to popular demand, and is generally used in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, while others secured a high place at the Philadelphia Exhibition. The Huntington Organ Company, of Huntingdon, Quebec, show a cabinet and other organs varying in size and finish, while the Uxbridge Cabinet Organ Company show parlor organs of different designs.

In pianos some most important exhibits are made. That of Messrs. Mason & Risch, of Toronto, comprises nine pianofortes, each after a different style. One of the most elegant is perhaps the upright grand piano, known as "The Princess Model." The case is in solid Canadian cherry-wood, worked into a design of the Queen Anne style, and treated in olive-green tints and gold finish. The whole of the exhibits of the firm have, however, received well-merited commendation in the course of the Exhibition. Dr. W. C. Selee, organist in ordinary to Her Majesty at Hampton Court Palace, declares them to be fine in quality of tone, most excellent in touch, and the damping power perfect—a feature which, he adds, he has met with only in these pianos. Another authority, Mr. C. S. Jekyll, organist of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal, has been several times to the Exhibition and inspected the various pianos. He testifies to their "superiority," and adds: "For beauty of tone, and the excellence of mechanism and workmanship, I consider these instruments of high-class production." And he even goes so far as to class Messrs. Mason & Risch among the first manufacturers of the world. But above these gentlemen stands the late Dr. Franz Liszt, whose commendation was of the highest character, though it can hardly be said to be exaggerated in any material sense. It should perhaps be added that no little taste is shown in some of the cases of the instruments in this stand. The employment of color is somewhat of an innovation though the effect is, it must be confessed, entirely pleasing. Another leading exhibit is that made by Messrs. Heintzman & Co., also of Toronto, in whose stand are arranged five upright and two grand pianos. A distinct feature of these instruments is the important improvements they contain. The action, it will be noted, is in many instances far more simple and less liable to get out of order than is often the case with pianos of these classes. The touch of most of the instruments is also described by authorities as light and elastic. All the instruments have a full iron frame, and, indeed, the cases generally are worthy of notice as being of a substantial while elegant character. It appears that these pianos have been very highly spoken of here, and it may fairly be said that they seem fully to merit these good opinions. Messrs. Heintzman have also reason to congratulate themselves upon the practical outcome of their display. The Exhibition has proved a desired means of introduction to the English market, and a good business with Great Britain and Europe is now anticipated. Messrs. R. S. Williams & Son, of Toronto, exhibit seven pianos, square, grand and upright. One instrument was designed specially for the Exhibition, and is a most creditable production, both as regards its artistically designed case and the fullness of its tone. The pianos of this firm are widely known in Canada, especially among the French Canadians. Many inquiries have been made in the course of the present Exhibition, and a satisfactory market is anticipated here. Messrs. Newcombe & Co., of Toronto, have six pianos—four uprights and two grands. A feature of these instruments is the duplicate veneer arrangement, one layer being in straight and the other in diagonal lines. By this means any injurious results from the extreme climatic conditions met with in the Dominion are counteracted, while the effect of changes of climate upon the instrument is greatly lessened. To both the grand and semi-grand classes of instruments shown by this firm considerable merit of tone and appearance attaches. The Lansdowne Piano Manufacturing Company of Toronto exhibit six upright pianos after different styles. At local exhibitions this make of piano has taken a leading place, while more practical testimony to their general excellence is the ready sale they have in the Dominion and the United States. By the Dominion Organ and Piano Company, an interesting exhibit is made of seven instruments. At the Philadelphia Exhibition the jury declared the instruments shown by this Company to possess "a pure and satisfactory tone, simple and efficient stop-action, an elastic touch and good general workmanship." There can be little question that a like good opinion would result from a similar official inspection of the present display. Mention must also be made in this class