

standing their indebtedness, they offered prizes to the amount of £775, and extended the time the Exhibition was to last to four days. In a pecuniary point of view this Exhibition was successful, and the number of persons who visited the grounds was about 6,000.

Great improvement began to be visible at the fourth Exhibition, which was held at Kingston in September, 1849. Evidence of improvement in home manufactures began to be apparent. Agricultural implements were no longer only represented by fancy specimens from Rochester and elsewhere across the boundary line. Although our neighbours held their own, and indeed surpassed Canadian manufacturers, yet still there was great improvement visible, and it was evident to all that the annual Exhibitions were taking hold on the people and producing good results. The tree had only begun to blossom, but the show of fruit was good and promised well.

Mr. Sheriff Ruttan, who is one of the oldest born of this country, and who has seen it rise from a wilderness wherein people starved if the wolves killed too many deer, to a wealthy Province, exporting its sixteen million bushels of wheat, and numbering over a million and a quarter industrious inhabitants, said in his address, which he delivered in 1849, "We must henceforth encourage all sorts of manufactories throughout the country, and until we can be thence supplied, set a-going within our own dwellings the old-fashioned spinning wheel and loom. We must, male and female, wear our own manufactures."

The year 1850 ought to have been expressly distinguished by progress—it was the year before the great International Exhibition at London. The Provincial Exhibition was held at Niagara. The prizes offered amounted in value to £1,276, and the results were particularly satisfactory. This year will be celebrated in the agricultural annals of the country by the establishment of the Board of Agriculture, which became a corporate body by act of Parliament on the 10th August, 1850. In 1851 the Board was organized, and the names of the elected members published in the *Canada Gazette*. They were E. W. Thomson, Esq., Hon. Adam Fergusson, Henry Ruttan, Esq., R. L. Denison, Esq., David Christie, Esq., J. B. Marks, Esq., John Harland, Esq., the Hon. Inspector General, and the Professor of Agriculture in the University of Toronto.

Brockville was the next place where it had been decided to hold the Exhibition for the year 1851. T. B. Marks, Esq., the President, saw what many began to see dimly, others more clearly, but did not deem it wise to express their views openly, that "the powerful influence of manufactures in

increasing the population and wealth of a country is too certain and obvious to admit of doubt. They not only afford direct subsistence, and the means of attaining to affluence, to an immense number of individuals, but they act powerfully and beneficially on the agricultural and other classes,—supplying them with an infinite variety of useful and necessary accommodations at a low price. A flourishing agriculture greatly depends, in fact, upon flourishing manufacture." The foregoing sentence told much in few words. What would be the use of the most successful agriculture if there was no market for surplus produce? and if foreign markets failed, as they frequently do, what would the farmer do with his grain and stock if all had to sell and there was nobody to buy? The results of this Exhibition were not very favorable. Brockville is not situated in a good farming county of great extent. The entries, as well as the amount of the prizes awarded, were less than those of the preceding year; but the finances, chiefly in consequence of the Government grant, which in 1852 was increased from £500 to £1,000, were prosperous.

The seventh Exhibition was held at Toronto, on the site of the present magnificent building—the Toronto University. Here is another instance of the changes, rapid and most unexpected, which constantly occur in Canada. Where the products of the farm and the manufactures of Canada were exhibited in an open field, ten years ago, is erected the most splendid building in British America and one of the finest on this continent. The writer of this notice had an opportunity of describing the Exhibition at Toronto, in 1852, in the pages of the *Canadian Journal*.* It will not be out of place here to introduce a few brief extracts, to show how the progress of Canada then was considered something extraordinary and marvellous. We may compare it with our impressions of to-day, written at London, nine years since the Exhibition to which the quotations refer:—

"But few, perhaps, among the thirty thousand visitors to the Exhibition ground on Thursday, September 23rd, permitted their thoughts to wander back to the time when the spot, so densely occupied by the 'pale faces,' and crowded with their works of patient industry and skilful art, was a wild and marshy forest, tenanted only by a few wandering Messassaugas; or, at a later date, and in memory of numbers then present, the forest suburbs of a village, which numbered but a few hundred enterprising settlers.

"Sixty years ago, an Indian wigwam stood alone on the spot now occupied by a city containing thirty-two thousand inhabitants, and furnished with nearly all the requirements of modern civilization, and much of the energy and skill which characterizes the age.

* The *Canadian Journal*, first series, October, 1862.