

THE B. C. SHOW.

To-day, Tuesday, the summer fair under the auspices of the British Columbia Agricultural Society was formally opened by the Premier of the Province, and although at this writing it is difficult to say what measure of success will crown the efforts of the President and managers, there is reason to hope and expect that they will not be disappointed. It is true that the show is held earlier than usual, and that in consequence specimens of some of the products which reach perfection at a somewhat later period will necessarily be absent, there have been others which have not previously been done justice to, for the reason that their time was over. There is in nature a law of compensation which, let us hope, will work satisfactorily in the present case, and that what is wanting will be made up for by what will be shown to be equally attractive and important.

SIR CHARLES TUPPER.

Public men of all parties must be heartily sick of the rumors that are continually being put in circulation that Sir Charles Tupper is coming back to Canada to take the lead in public affairs. To those who do not understand our concerns, or have at the most a passing acquaintance with them, it would appear as if the High Commissioner in London were the all and in all of Canadian—can we call it statesmanship?—that he is possessed of all the political wisdom and tact that ever existed in the Dominion, and that when he dies all that was ever known of public matters will perish with him.

Possibly Sir Charles himself thought that with the death of Sir John Macdonald he was the only one left who could assume the management of affairs, or he would have signified in some unmistakable manner his disinclination to have his name persistently thrust before the public. But other people have risen who have been fully equal to the situation, and it would be just as well to be borne in mind that, the late member for Cumberland not having been required at what some regard as a crucial period in Canadian history, it is time to regard him as a back number, for whom, if his official duties in London are not sufficient, some British constituency might, perhaps, open its doors, if he be regarded on the other side as of the same weight and magnitude as that at which certain people seem to estimate him.

AFFAIRS IN AUSTRALIA.

It is satisfactory to be assured, on the authority of the agent general in London, for New South Wales, that prospects are good and that confidence is returning, while, as a pledge of the colonial solvency, he has deposited with London bankers sufficient funds to meet all payments due on the public debt during the present year. It is officially stated—though this is a statement that must be open to question in view of what the experience has been—that the people belonging to the country are not in pecuniary difficulties, but that the adventurers and the speculators are the sufferers. The

announcement made in the papers of the different colonies and the news that has been received from private sources cannot be all lies, for there must have been a vast amount of actual distress and suffering among the working and middle classes which it will take some time to remove.

Still, while not forgetting that the strikes which prevailed did a tremendous amount of injury to business and cast a destructive boomerang among the operative classes, it may well be imagined from experiences with which many of us are acquainted that much of the misfortune was brought about through over-speculation in city and suburban lands. Prices of properties were rushed up to bursting point, money being borrowed on estates right up to the hilt and beyond it. Undue inflation was thus given to values by speculators, so that when the panic first became felt the speculators accelerated the disaster and made things look really worse than ever before. The people, it is said, are placing their money in the savings banks, but we cannot think that, after their experiences many of them can have much of that commodity left.

The condition of affairs at the Antipodes is of much more interest to us than it was a year ago, with the improved means of communication that there now are. The opinion of the official agents in London of the Government of New South Wales is that, though railways and other public works have been built too quickly, the money has not been wasted, and there is something to show for it—the country has gone ahead, the opening up of a new continent is finished and before long Australia will be as flourishing as ever. Let us all hope so.

CROP PROSPECTS.

Some of the Manitoba papers very properly deprecate the practice of booming crop prospects, about which "more restatic nonsense and enthusiastic nonsense is written and spoken than is done in any other country in the world"—and that to the injury of the province. A good deal of this booming, it is said, has come from eastern government and other officials, who have made a brief trip to the West. Some of the most unreliable reports have indeed, emanated in this way from Ottawa shortly after the return of an official person. Reports sent direct from Manitoba are usually more reliable, although there has also been a tendency to overdo the prospects, even with the more conservative.

To come down to the plain and unvarnished facts the Winnipeg *Commercial* says that the prospect, while good, is not "phenomenal." While the average condition is good—even very good—it might be better. Some districts have had too much rain, and crops on low lands have suffered. Other sections have not had sufficient moisture, and the straw is light and the yield likely to be rather under than over a fair average. The general outlook, however, as we have stated, is promising, and if the crop maintains its present condition to the finish, there will be every reason to rejoice, and not much room for complaint.

CANADA AND HER NEIGHBORS.

Recently, a committee of nine farmers belonging to the county of Leeds, Ontario, visited the counties of Jefferson and St. Lawrence, New York State, which are almost immediately opposite to Leeds on the south of the river which forms the boundary dividing the two countries. The object was to find out whether or not American farmers, living under almost the same natural conditions as themselves, were any better off under the American than the Canadian system. From what we can gather the committee was a representative one and one worthy of the confidence reposed in it. These gentlemen spent three days in their investigation—a period which seems to us to have been too short for the purpose; nevertheless they made a report in effect that the American farmers similarly interested pay as much or more for what they have to buy, and get no more for what they have to sell than do the farmers whose interests the committee represented. Moreover, while lands could be purchased more cheaply to the South than to the North of the St. Lawrence, they were more heavily mortgaged, they had undergone a greater depreciation in value, during the last ten years, and altogether the American farmers were worse off than those of Canada, despite the special benefits conferred by the McKinley tariff.

EDITORIAL COMMENT.

THE Hudson Bay Company recently took out a suit against Judges Chauveau and Joannette, of Quebec, for \$18,000, the value of the furs seized by the latter on the ground of their having been obtained out of season.

In a recent issue we spoke of the extensive coal miners' strike in Great Britain, which has thrown something like a half million people out of work, and there appears to be no prospect of a settlement. Is it to be supposed that what has happened here, in the United States and in the Mother Country is but the beginning of further troubles and disasters?

How SEVERE has been the strain put upon the banks in the U. S. may be judged by the following statement of affairs of twenty-nine National Banks in New York City on June 25, 1892, and July 12, 1893:

	1892.	1893.
Loans.....	\$234,396,600	\$211,832,600
Deposits.....	311,375,900	179,157,100
Surplus.....	49,091,700	27,344,100

PREMIER SIR JOHN THOMPSON is expected soon to return to his country from Paris, having finished what he had to do in connection with the sealing arbitration, the decision in which will, it is expected, be shortly announced. There have been predictions made as to what the outcome is likely to be, but one of them has been *pro British* and the other *pro American*, the former speculation having apparently the most groundwork on which to base it. Still we do not propose to anticipate and shall reserve comment until the official declaration is made.