

In the 42 years that have since elapsed the Exhibition Association has scored a long series of phenomenal successes, and in the ages old history of Fairs there is perhaps no more interesting chapter than that dealing with the rise and progress of the Canadian National. It has met with many obstructive elements, but has been pursued to complete fruition with excellence of judgment, fertility of resource, and energy of patriotic determination. It is the culmination in a long series of steps in competitive exhibitions, and is conceded by experts in such matters to be the most ideally balanced institution of its kind the world over.

In the early days it encountered organized opposition even from the governments of the time, large grants being made to other fairs from year to year which were running in opposition to Toronto, while the local institution was compelled to struggle along unassisted except by its own loyal, public-spirited citizens. A threat was even made by a member of the Arts Society of legislation to compel Toronto to discontinue its Fair, but fortunately the matter never went that far.

But if the Association has had to meet opposition, so has it received loyal support from the people of Canada, from the people of the Old Land, even from the Throne itself. The late King Edward was one of the staunchest friends the Exhibition ever had, and many times he showed his deep interest in its welfare, personally helping it with exhibits from his Army, from his Navy, and from his household collections.

During its career, the Exhibition has entertained some of the most distinguished political and industrial leaders from all parts of the world, and its importance as an Imperial asset has more than once been referred to by men high in the Councils of the Empire. Its influence on Canadian affairs is perhaps not generally realized, though many important national undertakings have had

their inception or received their inspiration within the grounds.

Sir Charles Tupper once said that the Toronto Exhibition had had an important influence in binding Canada

after Confederation. At the Directors' Luncheon twenty-three years ago he said:

"Indicative of what your efforts have accomplished is the change that has taken place in the views of the people from my own Province, Nova Scotia, where one school of men had been trained to consider you as Canadians, and themselves as Nova Scotians; you as men desperately situated, in 1867 having to grasp out for these other Provinces in order to support and maintain you, and enable you to exist as a self governing country. These men have learned a signal lesson from this great Canadian Fair. I have had it from the lips of my opponents, who were frank enough to confess what they learned from a visit to Toronto, that one visit to this Fair, after seeing Buffalo and the Fairs of the adjoining States, had convinced them that much of their creed in regard to the value of a Canadian Confederation had been entirely mythical, and absurd, and that here chiefly in their travels through Canada, they had begun to learn what a great people you—and they are includ-

