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FOR UPPER CANADA.

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OUR ANNUAL PROVINCIAL EXHIBITIONS.

In taking a retrospect of the late Exhibition of the Agricultural Association for Upper Canada, held in London a few weeks since, we notice much in connection therewith to encourage and gratify, and much also of room for improvement in the future. Our remarks must here be understood to apply almost if not wholly to the Arts and Manufactures department, with which alone we are conversant. We are not now going to refer to the number and character of the articles exhibited, as that was done in our last issue, and may be further gathered from the list of prizes in this issue, but to matters more especially of arrangement.

The first great difficulty the managers have to contend with, is the delay on the part of exhibitors to deliver their goods in proper time. The Exhibition is supposed to be ready for the judges to commence their duties at 11 a.m. on the morning of Tuesday in the Exhibition week; and yet a very large number of articles are usually delivered subsequent to that hour. Here we may remark that a greater difficulty arises in the Fine Arts class than in any other; it being absolutely necessary to success to have all specimens in and properly classified in sections and subjects, before commencing to hang them in their places—the latter being a work requiring great judgment, care and labour, so as to give the proper effect, and also to facilitate the labour of the judges.

The Exhibition proper is supposed to commence on the Tuesday morning, and close on the Friday afternoon—in all something less than four days; but the judges commence their duties on the Tuesday, and complete them as early as possible on the Wednesday, thus leaving less than three days for the inspection of the public.

What we would suggest for the future is, that all specimens in the Fine and Decorative Arts should be sent in, or delivered at the Exhibition grounds, positively not later than the evening of Wednesday of the week preceding the Show; that all other articles be delivered and placed by Saturday evening of the same week; and that the judges should commence and complete their duties on the Monday, and have the prize tickets placed at once, so

that the public should have the four full days above indicated for inspection of this department: or, we would even commence and complete all arrangements one day earlier than we have just suggested, and have the judges perform their duties on the Saturday preceding the Exhibition, so as to allow five full days for the inspection of visitors.

That some arrangement of this kind is necessary, every one must concede, in view of the fearful *jam* of visitors that occurs in the main building during the short time it remains open; and especially at the Exhibition just closed, where for two days it was fearful to contemplate the crowding and crushing of the masses of people in this department.

In respect of numbers, the late Exhibition was a perfect success, so far as its effects upon the finances are considered, but in other respects a failure. In the galleries, and in other portions of the building, nothing could be seen so as to be examined and appreciated; it was simply a crowding *into* the building, and for from one to two hours being carried slowly and painfully along with the masses, until with the *outgoing* stream the open grounds were again reached. In this respect we hold that these Exhibitions are not now answering the end and purpose for which they have been organised; and until the time for inspection is extended, they never will do so.

We are aware that it would be of no use to continue the Arts and Manufactures department a day longer than the Agricultural, but it may with advantage be commenced two or three days, or even a week if need be, earlier than the other departments; so that citizens of the towns where the Exhibitions may be held, and all others who desire a quiet and careful examination of the various objects, may have the opportunity of doing so, before the crowds attending on the Agricultural and Horticultural departments arrive; thus securing also the double advantage of leaving more room for the latter during their week of attendance.

In advocating this change, we are surely not seeking our own advantage or comfort, as the ten days we usually have to attend is time quite long enough for us to be absent from our home; but if these annual interesting gatherings are to be continued, and visited as it appears by ever increasing numbers of the people, let the arrangements be such as to afford the greatest possible advantage.

We may here remark that the facilities afforded by the Railway and Steamboat authorities for reduced fares to the Exhibition, do not come into operation at a sufficiently early date to allow of those who would be disposed to deliver their goods early, to take advantage of the arrangement. This