

Toronto's great fair is in full blast, and although at the first the weather was unfavorable, she will doubtless have the usual good luck of fine weather. The Industrial Association Co. have spared no pains in giving permanence to this fair, which is now looked upon as Ontario's best and largest fall attraction. Hundreds of thousands of people flock yearly to Toronto during exhibition period from all quarters to see the sights and learn of the progress in every trade and industry.

Toronto's fair is largely made up of the three features, viz., interest, instruction, and amusement, so that all classes of people may be amply satisfied in one or all departments.

The directorate of this Institution is made up of some of Toronto's most pushing men, with Manager Hill among them, and President Withrow at the helm.

We will have an opportunity in our next issue to say more, practically, of the exhibits, and for the present hope that this year's fair will prove to be at least as successful and even more so than any of its predecessors.

TORONTO'S NEW PUMPING ENGINE.

The new pumping engines, over which so much talk and feeling existed, are at last finished, and have been in operation at intervals.

It will be remembered that we took great exception at the time to the proposed design, chiefly on the point of economy, because the supplying of an important city with water, at the lowest possible cost, is one of the essential requirements.

The city newspapers, especially, the *Telegram*, which was the original champion of the design, made mention lately of the great success of the test of these engines, but it goes without contradiction that they had not the slightest grounds for making such a statement.

We know positively well that the pumping engines can never be, in the very nature of things, a success; and it is terribly humiliating to think that a progressive city like Toronto has been so shamefully bulldozed and hoodwinked.

Very few figures and facts have yet been made public, but those that have been clearly demonstrate that the duty will be considerably below what was even guaranteed by the contract.

It is very doubtful if a correct test can ever show a duty of 60 million foot pounds for every 100 lbs. of coal consumed, whereas the guaranteed duty is only 70 million; a duty which, under the circumstances, in these days is shamefully small.

The whole contract will stand as a humiliating and expensive monument of Toronto's foolishness, and a lasting disgrace to those who, in seeking to direct the city's interest, presumed too far.

There must be something terribly wrong in Toronto, when her engineering official advisers deliberately hoist such an engine on to the Water Works Department, because the most elementary knowledge of steam engineering and the principles of mechanism would suffice to prove by simple practice, theory and calculation, that the design adopted would result in failure, and could only give a little better duty than the present notoriously bad Worthington steam machinery in use.

The citizens of Toronto will doubtless look to the recently appointed Water Works' manager, who is care-

fully supervising the official test in the city's interests, for an honest verdict.

Some idea of the probable great yearly loss to the city by the usage of bad and uneconomical steam pumping machinery, may be gleaned from the fact that the cost of coal required alone may be about \$40,000, whereas with effective machinery this item alone could be reduced to about \$20,000; then other savings incidental on this would in all likelihood reduce the total expenditure at the pumping station to more than \$30,000.

For the present we leave this matter where it stands, and hope against hope for the city's test.

ENGLAND'S COLONIAL TRADE.

It is a fact requiring little demonstration that one of the chief factors of England's present industrial stagnation, is that those foreign countries which used to be her best customers, have not only learned to supply themselves, but in some instances have become rivals in many departments of trade.

Although England's Colonies are beginning to do much for themselves, they still import largely from the parent Country. England may congratulate herself that she enjoys the bulk of this trade of Colonial importation, but that she will always retain it becomes a question of the greatest moment.

The United States, although not now a colony, contribute more to the support of British manufacturers, and that the consumption there of even \$3.00 per head, represents a considerable sum, but the United States are getting on a par with Britain, and in some cases ahead, while for resources and internal trade, she has no equal.

The ties of blood or more close political relationship appear to be stronger incentives to purchase in the parent market,

In Canada the consumption of British manufactured goods is about \$15.00 per head, while in Australian colonies, it is about double. India and other dependencies must also contribute largely to the English export trade.

In Canada here, we feel that the Mother Country should do something in return for the industries of her children who show so much loyalty and good feeling towards her. England, in return, thinks this could only be accomplished by giving Canada and other colonies a preference tariff over other markets of supply, which would be nothing short of protection, and the first abandonment of England's mighty free-trade principles—rendered all the more impossible when the nature of the commodities affected by such a policy is considered.

Now, although England's commercial flag is "free-trade" and markets free to all, these theories do not represent facts actually and absolutely as they are,—for example, the excise duties are still deemed necessary for the national revenue, and surely it is not unreasonable to expect for the Colonies more favorable terms than foreign neighbours, when it is known that distance and other disadvantages militate against them.

The Colonies, England must admit, have claims upon her that no foreign country can pretend to, and what is really wanted is some practical recognition.