

NEXT year's Building Trades' Exhibition at Montreal will be held during Easter week, April 20, 1908, and will continue for six days instead of four, as was the case last August. The management, through Mr. J. H. Lauer, secretary of the Montreal Builders' Exchange, have already issued a prospectus calling attention to the earlier date and also to a change in location from Victoria Rink to the Coliseum, on Dorchester street. The last "show" which was

NEXT CANADIAN BUILDERS' SHOW. The first exclusively devoted to building materials ever held in the Dominion, was such a success as to demand a repetition on a much larger scale. The new quarters will provide fully twice

the floor area. The value of such an exhibition, not merely to the general public but to the exhibitors more particularly, has already been demonstrated in the successful issue of the first exhibition. If kept up from year to year there is a strong possibility of this exhibition becoming a great national affair. If perfect organization is maintained and the object as outlined in the original prospectus aggressively striven for the scope of the Canadian Builders' Show will expand sufficiently to embrace all the latest up-to-date ideas in labor-saving devices, home-building economies and even household comforts from the various standpoints of heating, ventilation, plumbing and interior decoration.

The change of date from August to April is well advised, coming as it does at the close of the winter when builders and manufacturers have laid their plans for the rush of the coming season. The exhibition cannot fail to attract thousands of the best class of purchasing visitors.

The exhibit will be entirely under the direction of the Montreal Builders' Exchange, and an advisory Board of Management will be selected from leading business men in the Building and Supply Trades, so that intelligent and expert arrangements should be assured.

THERE is not the shadow of a doubt as to the prompt return of the country's business interests to a normal condition. Actually there is no real reason for even a fractional part of the unsettled state of affairs and distrust that has existed. Statistics from all parts of the continent give assurance that the crops have been good and the prices fair. This is the fundamental basis of a country's prosperity. But since a temporary halt in the commercial march seems inevitable, it were well to remember that the pendulum swings

BUILDING OUTLOOK BRIGHTER. ahead as far as it swings back. Such a satisfactory yield as the crop statistics show, combined with the efforts being put forth by the governments of Canada and the United States to straighten out the kinks, must bring about the desired results. That building activities should be experiencing a reverse is not unnatural, though uncalled for. It would appear that the present is a most opportune time for people, who have been contemplating it, to build. The money stringency has developed some peculiar effects upon the building situation. Just prior to the so-called panic, the prices of not only material, but labor, were at the top notch. Wages were at the highest point ever reached and the amount of work done in a day was the lowest ever conceded. Labor was exceedingly independent, and the result was that buildings cost anywhere from 20 per cent. to 60 per cent. more than they did a very few years ago. Tightening of money has scared people generally; manufacturers are anxious to get rid of their stock in order to start money flowing in, and are making low prices on materials. And while wages have not been reduced to any great extent, men are desirous of "holding their jobs" and are rendering immeasurably better service. It is only a question of a little time when conditions will have eased up and labor and materials will be at the same old high-priced standard.

Unmistakably the people have had a stiff enough dose of stock depreciation and have seen the folly of trying to make big returns by stock gambling. More and more will it be brought home to them that real estate and building constitute infinitely safer investments and it will not be long before we will have boom-times again in building. The men who are far-sighted enough will close up contracts, and "cinch" their building operations and get started at once. The people who "must be shown," who want to wait and see, and postpone building contemplated structures for a year or so will pay the penalty in a greatly increased, enforced expenditure.

THE statement made by Samuel Gompers, president of the A. F. of L., at Norfolk, Virginia, that "in the transaction of our affairs we have regarded Canadian workmen as being part and parcel of the American labor movement, as much as our movement is part and parcel of theirs," and that "geographical lines have in no way interfered with the fullest development of fraternal relations," has brought forth a storm of criticism in Canada. Mr. Gompers is a powerful man in labor circles and such a statement should give employers of organized labor in Canada grave concern.

SAMUEL GOMPERS ON CANADIAN LABOR.

Is it not sufficient that the Canadian employer should have to deal with the unions in Canada, to which their laborers belong, without having to cope with conditions they are in no way responsible for? It is a truly unfortunate condition of affairs when strikes may be called on Canadian employers by American labor officials, as a result of conditions we in Canada have no control over.

An instance of the unfairness arising out of this connection existing between Canadian and American labor unions was the coal strike in the Northwest last winter, when the Canadian Government was subjected to the indignity of sending the Deputy Minister of Labor to confer with President Mitchell, of the A. F. of M., at Indianapolis, Ind., to avert a coal famine in Canada.

Many cases of the interference of American labor officials in industrial controversies in Canada might be cited. If we must have labor unions in Canada let them be controlled by Canadians, from Canadian headquarters, instead of foreign officials located in a foreign country.

Criticism of Mr. Gompers' position on this question not only comes from Canadian employers, but prominent leaders in the labor movement in Canada have some very significant comments to make, among whom might be mentioned Mr. P. J. Loughrin, of Toronto, at one time general labor organizer for the Dominion, who goes so far as to state that President Gompers is actually insincere in his unwarranted stand.

Mr. Loughrin gets after Mr. Gompers with a "big stick," and he recalls, to corroborate his criticism, the story of his own fight for the preservation of Canadian rights in the matter of saw log export. Mr. Loughrin was the first to look over the possibilities at the Soo with Mr. Clergue, and he was afterwards identified with the efforts made to force Americans to locate their lumber mills in Canada or do without Canadian logs. He recalls the fact that he was dismissed by Mr. Gompers because he stated in a Toronto paper that such a course was advisable, and he says that Mr. Gompers' hostility was due solely to American jealousy of a course of action which was bound to benefit Canada.

Mr. Loughrin is a practical lumberman, and he grew sick of seeing Canadian pulpwood being towed off to mills on the other side of the border. He tells graphically of how he helped to change this state of affairs, and what happened as a result.

"I got my appointment from Gompers," he says, "after having helped organize labor at the Soo. We got 1,762