

## ONTARIO'S EXHIBIT AT CINCINNATI.

JULY 4 TO NOVEMBER 6, 1888.

TO THE HON. CHARLES DRURY, M.P.P.,  
Minister of Agriculture :

SIR,—When in June, 1888, I was appointed commissioner to take charge of the exhibition of minerals, which the Government of Ontario proposed to make at the Centennial Exposition of the Ohio Valley, to be held at Cincinnati, I found that much progress in the work of preparation had been made under the guidance and direction of Mr. Blue, Deputy Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Blue was in correspondence with a large number of the owners of mines in various parts of the Province, and with others especially interested in the development of its mineral resources. Mr. David Boyle, an able mineralogist, was employed to obtain the co-operation of the owners of mines and others in the eastern part of the Province, and to suggest to them the best means of making the exhibition of their minerals attractive and advantageous. Mr. Blue had also engaged Mr. Peter McKellar and Mr. Burke to render similar services in the Lake Superior region. The reports from these gentlemen and the letters received daily from all parts of the Province proved that although at first several owners of mines and of mineral lands were strangely apathetic, nearly all had become alive to the great importance of making the mineral wealth and resources of Ontario better known to the enterprising people of the United States, and laudably desirous of doing their share of that work. Mr. Blue had also been in communication with the President and Commissioners of the great Exposition, had visited Cincinnati, secured a space for the Ontario exhibit in a favorable position on the ground floor, and made arrangements for having it fitted up.

It was obviously desirable under these circumstances, that Mr. Blue should supervise and direct the work of preparation to the close. Indeed, if any one else had assumed control during the few days that remained for this work, much confusion would have been inevitable. Mr. Blue having consented to complete what he had so well begun, I conferred with him daily, rendering what assistance was in my power and endeavoring at the same time to acquire such information as would render my services at the Exposition more valuable.

The delays in forwarding the expected specimens from different parts of the Province caused no little trouble, and although the first shipment to Cincinnati was deferred as long as possible, all had not arrived when that was made. There was, however, nearly enough to load a car, and to ensure its being forwarded without unnecessary delay Mr. Boyle went with it. A few days after, Mr. Blue went to Cincinnati to superintend the work of preparation there. I remained in Toronto for some days to look after the many packages yet to arrive. On June 30th, I shipped about twelve thousand pounds of minerals and several other packages were afterwards forwarded by express.

I left Toronto on July 2nd and arrived in Cincinnati on the 3rd. I found the work of preparation almost complete. The space allotted to Ontario was divided into two sections of 30x12 feet each. These were separated by a public passage about six feet in width and were so situated with respect to one another, that a person standing in either, could not keep all of the two sections in view at once. This was a serious disadvantage, as it was necessary that two persons should be in attendance on the visitors during nearly all the long hours from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and it must be difficult for either to do much else. The advantages of the position, however, much more than compensated for this disadvantage. It was next to the great exhibits of the United States, and all who visited those must pass close to the Ontario exhibit. Between it and the great central fountain, which, cooling the sultry air by day and splendidly illuminated by night, always attracted multitudes, was an open space. The post office was near and a band stand, the music from which, although it made the work of answering questions and giving explanations much more fatiguing, brought many to that part of the building.