

1879, and also a comparative statement showing the number and strength of the societies in each year, from 1864 to 1880 inclusive. These tables show a progressive increase for the last 16 years in the number of the societies, the membership, and the annual subscriptions. While in 1864 there were only 37 societies, in 1880 there were 83. The number of members in 1864 was only 1744; in 1880 it was 4697. The amount of subscriptions in 1864 was \$1859.00; in 1880 it advanced to \$5551.75. The governmental grants in aid were in 1864, \$3010.00; in 1880 they were \$6548.00. These figures show clearly the increased interest now taken in the great subject of agriculture, as compared with that existing 16 years ago.

Finally, Nova Scotia is a country whose climate, soil, and rich general resources warrant the expectation of a prosperous future. There is no lack of physical or intellectual capacity on the part of the people. Let them be true to themselves and their country, and, under the blessing of the Almighty, they shall attain to no mean status among the States and Provinces of the American Continent.

DOMINION EXHIBITION, HALIFAX, SEPTEMBER, 1881.

OPENING ADDRESS BY HIS WORSHIP MAYOR TOBIN, CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE.

A first duty which devolves upon the Committee conducting this Exhibition is to record its sense of the distinction the City of Halifax to-day enjoys in being the scene of a gathering designed to illustrate the wealth and industry, not only of the Province of which it forms a part, but of the Provinces of Canada generally. It was natural to assume that an event thus invested with a national interest, would awaken a spirit of patriotic enterprise amongst us as a people, and meet with a full measure of support and encouragement, and it is gratifying to feel that, in the results already achieved, we may fairly claim that our anticipations in this regard have been largely realised. The evidence is before us, in the extensive and varied contributions, which have come from five Provinces of the Dominion, to furnish and adorn this building and the buildings and grounds adjoining, and which speak in unmistakable terms for the natural resources of the land and of the skill and energy of those who inhabit it. It is further impressed upon us by the presence of this brilliant assemblage, and of the thousands of visitors who have already flocked to this hall, many of whom have now, for a first time, set foot upon our Nova Scotian soil. In these circumstances we have a key to the popularity which attaches to industrial and agricultural shows throughout all Canada, and which seems to have made them a necessary part of our social organization. They appear to be universally acknowledged as one of the principal means whereby our mechanical, agricultural and manufacturing

arts are improved and promoted, and by which our progressive development in material civilization is made known to ourselves and to the world. The great and obvious advantages derived from Provincial shows naturally created a desire for competition on a larger scale, whereby the producers of the several Provinces might unite in friendly rivalry. With the view of practically encouraging this object the Dominion Legislature has, in each of the past three years, voted \$5000 to aid in giving a Dominion character to some one of our Provincial Exhibitions. In 1879 the City of Ottawa, and in 1880 the City of Montreal respectively were the favoured recipients of this grant, while to-day it falls to the Nova Scotian Exhibition. The prize list we have offered is more liberal than on any occasion in the history of our local or Provincial shows; it has been thrown open to and freely circulated throughout the whole Dominion, and was framed with an honest desire to attract from every section of it. His Excellency the Governor General has been pleased to sanction it by his patronage and expressed his regret that his North-West tour, not yet completed, would prevent him from attending in person. Their Excellencies General Sir Patrick MacDougall and Vice-Admiral Sir Leopold McClintock, with their Honors the Lieutenant-Governors of the several Provinces, and the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture, act as Vice-Patrons, the latter manifesting a direct personal, as well as an official interest, by offering a handsome prize for the best horse on the grounds. Following from these various causes, we have what will probably be admitted from all sides as a very creditable display of this Dominion, which is advancing, in commercial prosperity and intellectual progress, at a yearly accelerating rate. Nor is it a consideration to be overlooked, that we have here, mingling together and witnessing this display, the workers and thinkers not of one, but probably of every portion of the Dominion,—a social phenomenon which constitutes not the least interesting feature in connection with the occasion. Although the City of Halifax appears on the map as not far from one extremity of the Dominion, its position with regard to lines of travel and accessibility, both by land and water, point to it as a convenient centre for a large portion of the Dominion. To the natural advantages thus enjoyed, by reason of situation, has been added the substantial assistance rendered by the Governments of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, who, in a liberal and enlightened spirit, and with a full appreciation of the difficulties with which a Dominion Exhibition has to contend, in order to realise a *bona fide* Dominion character, have paid the freight on exhibits from their respective Provinces, so that those whose handiwork we have now the privilege of seeing may carry home the prizes they have so deservedly won without deduction or expense; and, inasmuch as the value of our display has been thus considerably enhanced, we deem it our duty to make special mention of our indebtedness to the Governments of those Provinces, and we are glad to count amongst our distinguished visitors here to-day His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor of one of them, and members of the cabinets of both.

When this building was erected in 1879, the idea prevailed that it would afford ample room for all requirements that could be expected to arise for years to come in connec-

tion with fairs, Provincial, local or otherwise; but to-day, in less than two years after its inauguration, we find ourselves face to face with an occasion which has rendered it necessary to provide very largely increased accommodation, and those who attended the gatherings of '79 and '80 will recognise this fact in the presence of the large structure provided for the reception of machinery in motion, farming implements and other exhibits requiring more space than could be allotted to them in the main building. It will also be noticed that permanent and commodious shedding for live stock has taken the place of the temporary erections which constituted the stabling and cattle shelter in the past two years. In addition to this it has been found necessary to avail of the large building in the Public Gardens known as the "Rink," which has been converted into a "Horticultural Hall," and has been fitted up for the fruit and flower show, as also for that of roots and vegetables,—the whole floor-space thus obtained being 70,000 feet, exclusive of shedding, as against 30,000 square feet available last year. The Horticultural Hall is some little distance from the building in which we are now assembled, but, as its approach is through the Public Gardens, which are at once the pride and the delight of our citizens, and cannot fail to attract and please every stranger who passes through them, the objection which might otherwise obtain loses much of its force, and may probably be regarded by many as an advantage.

Amongst the benefits accruing from occasions like the present is the favorable opportunity they present of noting the progress made in the respective Provinces forming the Confederation to which we belong. In the agricultural department the contributions of the neighbouring Maritime Provinces demand special remark. The Prince Edward Island Government has steadily for many years encouraged the improvement of horse-flesh, and we see here to-day in the magnificent animals exhibited from that Province striking evidence of the success which has attended them in that direction. Those who are considered authorities in matters commercial in the Island state that the rearing and export of horses has become a great and profitable industry, paying even better than either oats or potatoes. The cattle and sheep will also be scrutinised by our farmers with much interest, and probably not without profit. It is unnecessary to dwell upon their merits, nor would it be just to anticipate the work of the judges, further than to say that we have, this year, a much keener competition in high-class cattle than has ever been witnessed before in the Maritime Provinces. New Brunswick, a Province of great agricultural resources, has not been behind-hand in the march of progress; as with our own Province, its Government has of late years done much for the improvement of live stock. During the present summer they have made a very large importation of cattle from England, and, within the past few weeks, have purchased a fine property for the purposes of a stock farm. This will be a centre of improvement from which great results may be expected, and its presence enables us to say that the Maritime Provinces have now even and all within themselves the means by which they may compete successfully with the best stock of Ontario and Quebec. It would have been a source of great satisfaction to the Committee, and doubtless to all the visitors