

well afford to do—princely buildings in Edinburgh, where all their scientific, literary, and official work is carried on, and holding their Exhibitions there, where they would be larger and more varied, and bring an immensely greater concourse of visitors than in the country towns, they yet continue to perambulate the country, holding an Exhibition this year at Glasgow or Ayr, next at Aberdeen, next in succession perhaps at Perth, or Dundee, or Stirling. They do not gauge the value of their work by the number of exhibits, or the number of shillings taken at the gate. They know that the holding of one of their Exhibitions in a place arouses the whole district around into agricultural enthusiasm, and that the effect produced is permanent and progressive. In the present state of our Province it may be difficult, we confess, for many to accept the Scottish theory in its entirety, but every succeeding year, and every new experience, will lead more and more to the belief that it is the true one. Feeling this, we think it would be a fatal mistake to centre our Exhibitions in Halifax, or Truro, or Kentville, or anywhere. Let us maintain the perambulating system, so that our Provincial Exhibitions shall be for the whole Province, open to every county in turn to come in when ready to share the local or special, as well as the general benefits.

As an evident desire has been expressed to have the Exhibition of 1878 in the City of Halifax, it may be useful to explain the peculiar position of Halifax in relation to the new system. In 1868 and in 1874 the Exhibitions were actually carried out by the Board of Agriculture in conjunction with an Exhibition Committee as co-labourers. But by the Act of 1875, the Board has merely the power "To draw from the Provincial Treasury every year, and to pay to any Agricultural Society or other responsible body, four thousand dollars, as a prize fund for an Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, to be held in any county selected by such Central Board. Such Exhibition shall be carried out, and all the expenses thereof borne, by such Society or other body, under such rules as the Board may from time to time prescribe; and the prize list for every such Exhibition shall be made up under the direction and subject to the approval of the Board and of the Governor in Council."

It will be seen that the Society or other body undertaking the Exhibition has the whole financial responsibility,—the Board merely prescribing the regulations and sanctioning the Prize List.

The difficulty that meets us, in looking to Halifax for the next Exhibition, is the want of accommodation. The Governor's Field and the Drill Shed, obtained on former occasions, involved great

expense in temporary erections and furnishings, that had to be at once removed; and, especially in view of the much more extensive accommodation now required for cattle, it is not desirable to attempt a Provincial Exhibition on these premises. Moreover, one great object of offering the prize fund to counties is to induce the erection of permanent Exhibition buildings. Colchester County obtained land and erected suitable buildings at Truro in 1876; King's County has done the same this year at Kentville. We should like to see Halifax follow in 1878.

An Act was passed 12th April, 1877, to enable Counties or Districts to borrow money for the purchase of land and erection of Exhibition Buildings.

By this Act (40 Vic., Cap. 19), the Court of Sessions for each County or District of the Province is empowered upon the recommendation of the Grand Jury, to add to the yearly assessments for County purposes a sum not exceeding \$4000 for the purchase of grounds and the erection of Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition Buildings. Such Court of Sessions are empowered to borrow money for such purposes upon the credit of the Counties or Districts in which they have jurisdiction, and the amounts required to meet debentures or interest is to be added to the amount ordered by the Sessions to be assessed. The Courts of Sessions are likewise empowered to sell public lands to make a fund for Exhibition purposes.

It is not to be expected that the Court of Sessions will tax the County of Halifax for Exhibition Buildings unless the City is prepared to provide a fair share of the money. In order to see the City we presume an Act will have to be passed at the instance of His Worship the Mayor and Aldermen, and, as this cannot be done till the Legislature meets, it may be that it is too late now to make the necessary arrangements for securing the Exhibition of 1878 for the City of Halifax. If this be so, it should be kept in mind that it is not too early to begin to clear the way for the Exhibition of 1879. There is no better time than now, when public attention is directed to the subject. Let the Justices of the County, the Mayor and Aldermen of the City, the Agricultural Societies of Halifax and Upper and Lower Musquodoboit, the manufacturers of Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford, and the public spirited citizens upon whom the lion's share of labour in all such schemes is sure to fall—let all think seriously over the matter with a view to devising some general scheme, so that steps may be taken to secure any needed legislation. It will be perceived clearly that it is not the Government nor the Board of Agriculture who are to be looked to for official action in

this matter, but the Justices of the County the City Council of Halifax, and the Town Council of Dartmouth.

But it is not imperative to wait for legislation and taxation. The necessary money for buildings may be raised by a general public subscription, or a joint stock company may undertake their erection as a commercial speculation, in connection with a skating rink and other public accommodations. All that is wanted to enable the city to carry out the Exhibition successfully in 1878 is suitable buildings. The Legislative grant of \$4000 for a prize fund is waiting to be claimed by the county that is prepared to give the best assurances of success. It is the simple duty of the Central Board to hold an even balance that every county may have its claims fairly weighed.

We have received, through the kindness of the Author, a printed table of the Meteorological Observations made by Frederick Allison, Esq., for the year 1876, at Halifax, Nova Scotia, lat. 44° 39' 20" N, long. 63° 36' 40" W., height above sea-level 122.5 feet. The exact point where the observations were made is not indicated, but we believe it is near the corner of Sackville and Park Streets, and thus favourably situated for receiving in Winter time the full sweep of the north wind on its way from the ice-coated Bedford Basin, via the Three Mile House and Willow Park and over the North Common. The mean temperature of 1876 was 42.06° Fah., the difference from the normal being -0.56. The highest occurred in August=90.2; the lowest in February -16.9. The highest daily mean was in August=75.13, and the lowest daily mean in February -6.78. The mean pressure corrected of the year, was 29.900, the maximum in February 30.992, and the minimum in the same month 28.774. The mean relative humidity for the year was 82.79, highest in November 87.5, lowest in August 78.7. Mean amount of cloud 6.09, highest in November 7.84, lowest in August 3.66. Prevalent direction of wind W.; in June, S. S. W.; in May, July, August and September W. S. W.; in March and April W.; in October and November W. N. W.; and in January, February and December N. W. Rain 44.335 inches during the year, —greatest in November, 7.397, least in December, 0.618. Number of days rain 143, greatest in June 21, least in December 5. Amount of snow 96 37; number of days snow 58, highest number in February 16. June, July, August, September and November, five months, were without snow. Total precipitation 54.114 (made up we presume by adding dissolved snow to the rain). With 4½ feet of water falling annually on the surface of the Province we should not be stinted in water supply, nor have our boilers and