

THE JOURNAL
OF THE
Board of Arts and Manufactures,
FOR UPPER CANADA.

MARCH, 1861.

CANADA AT THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION
OF 1862.

The necessary preliminary arrangements for the INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION of 1862 have been completed. The Exhibition is to be held in London, and already upwards of one million eight hundred thousand dollars are guaranteed. Active measures are being taken in more than one British colony to secure an advantageous representation of their products and to create a favourable impression. No better means of advertising the natural resources of a country exist, than by offering specimens and illustrations to the gaze and criticism of the millions who will visit the International Exhibition of 1862. It is an opportunity for Canada of priceless value, placed as she now is, by the completion of her system of railways, in a very different position to what she held in 1851 and 1855. The Exhibitions of 1851 and 1855 opened the eyes of Europeans to the natural resources of this country. An event has lately happened—the visit of the heir of the throne of England—which for the time fixed the attention of the civilized world on Canada, and led men to discuss its position, its relations, and its future. The Canadian system of railways, the offspring of British capital and enterprise, has already made this part of North America a subject of special interest, secure for many years to come; and while every discovery and development which tends to improve the condition of the country, increase its industry, and establish it as a great highway of commerce, is hailed with delight by those who are personally interested in its welfare, so also would an honourable and striking position as a competitor among the nations of the earth establish a reputation scarcely yet won, however much it may be deserved.

The Exhibitions of London and Paris have been productive of immense benefit in many different ways. Manufacturers of all countries know their standing and to a certain extent their future, far better than they did before those splendid illustrations of the industry and skill of man opened their eyes either to their short comings or superiority, their advantages and disadvantages of position, resources, government, capital, and individual enterprise. From the unbiassed opinion of the most competent judges at the Exhibition of 1851, we learn one secret of the success of Canada in that magni-

ficent arena of peaceful strife and rivalry, in one department of our staple productions. SELECTION and ARRANGEMENT in exhibiting the mineral resources of Canada won for us the proud distinction of being "SUPERIOR SO FAR AS THE MINERAL KINGDOM IS CONCERNED TO ALL COUNTRIES WHICH FORWARDED THEIR PRODUCTS TO THE EXHIBITION." Why should not the same coveted honour be conferred upon our next display of the resources of Canada, as far as they go, in agriculture and the products of our forests. No doubt the material is available if sought for; and when selection and arrangement confer such marked advantages, it is not too much to expect that those artifices may be most advantageously employed in placing all our staple products in the rank they would undoubtedly acquire if justice be done to them by the Exhibitors. A whole year is available for the enterprise and energy of those who intend to enter the lists, and the action of the government in this important matter will probably soon be known.

It was a common subject of complaint at the period, that sufficient time was not given to exhibitors to prepare articles for the Paris Exhibition of 1855. In October, 1854, the then Provincial Secretary first communicated the documents received from the Board of Trade of London, relative to the Exhibition of Paris, to be held early in the following year. A Provincial Committee, composed of about 200 persons, met on the 30th October; they appointed a sub-committee, who, after due deliberation, arrived at the following conclusions:

"That it is absolutely necessary, in order to secure the end desired, that authority should be given to the Provincial Committee to purchase such articles as they deem essential to that object. They are of opinion that any attempt to induce voluntary effort by means of local fairs would be fruitless. The experience of all who were actively engaged in promoting the Canadian Exhibition at the World's Fair in London in 1851, is, that the success of the present effort must depend entirely upon the energy and judgment to be displayed by an efficient executive to be appointed by the Commissioners."

On the 4th November, the Executive Committee published a brief report, in which they called especial attention to the three classes of the great staple products of Canada, namely, minerals, agricultural productions, and timber. The following extracts from the reports of the Jurors of the Exhibition of 1851 will convey the opinions entertained by those most competent to judge how essential it is to have a full and complete representation of these departments of Canadian industry and resources in the Exhibition of 1862.

In the report of the Jurors of Class 1, on mineral products, by Mr. Dufresnoy, Member of the Institute of France, Inspector General of Mines, &c., it is said: