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### EXHIBITIONS AND THEIR REQUIREMENTS.

THE business of operating exhibitions and fairs was, until quite recently, in a chaotic and unsatisfactory condition. Like in all other important enterprises, wisdom is to be gained but by sad and expensive experience, and those managements who have paid the closest attention to the development of the business, are the ones who are meeting with the largest success in their enterprises. The most conservative, and at the same time the most enterprising manufacturers, merchants, and business men in the country, now fully appreciate the value of these institutions, and are prompt to give of both their time and money towards perpetuating them and guaranteeing their success, and this both through a desire to benefit the community at large, and to advance their own personal interests. Ever on the alert to participate in the advantages which prosperity promises, they recognise the fact that no better opportunity can be presented to reach the public in a direct and practical manner than through the medium of such organizations.

The recognition of this situation is not confined to those who live in the immediate vicinity where fairs and exhibitions are held, as is evidenced every year at the Toronto Exhibition, where exhibitors are found coming from every province in the Dominion, from Nova Scotia to British Columbia, and from every important town and city from Halifax to Vancouver: large and influential deputations also coming from the British Islands and the American Republic. This favorable condition of things will always exist where the management is of the right character. Of course every promise made by the management of an exhibition to induce exhibitors to make displays, should be redeemed to the fullest extent, and no shadow of falsification should ever be discovered. It goes without the telling that no exhibition can be successful under any circumstances, without the cordial and hearty support of the press; and managers display wisdom when they make special efforts

to conduce to the comfort and convenience of representatives of the press, as is the case here in Toronto.

It requires wisdom and discrimination in arranging for the various departments of exhibitions. Too frequently the mechanical department receives indifferent attention, for exhibits of live machinery in practical operation are always attractive as well as instructive. Such machinery should include representative exhibits of wood and iron working machinery, agricultural machinery, electric appliances, and all the newer and most approved tools and implements with which the public should become familiar.

Great attention should be given to the classification of exhibits; and it should be understood that every object, method, or process susceptible of being displayed at an exhibition, and possessing the merit of excellence, is an acceptable contribution, and special efforts should be made to induce the exhibition of such. General machinery and machine tools should embrace hydraulic and pumping machinery; mill machinery and fixtures; engines and other motors; steam generators; fire extinguishing apparatus; wood and iron and other metal-working machinery and tools; mining machinery, etc. Other departments should embrace dairy machinery and appliances, for both domestic and factory use; agricultural and farm machinery; stable fixtures; veterinary instruments; vehicles of all descriptions; metallic ores and the crude metals produced from them; products of the furnace and the foundry; hardware of all descriptions; house furnishing goods; textile fabrics and materials, including cloths and clothing, footwear, hats, etc.; saddlery and harness, and such raw materials as are used in the manufacture of them; furniture, and all articles for decorating and ornamenting houses and the person; displays of food and food products, drinks, etc.; and the liberal arts should be represented by displays of books, bookbinding work, musical and scientific instruments and apparatus for instruction and investigation, and instruments and appliances used in telegraphy, etc.; also collections and specimens illustrating different departments of natural science and education; examples of work of pupils in public and private schools, and in art schools where special study is made of fine arts and industrial and decorative design. There should be special effort made to induce extensive displays of the products of the nursery, greenhouse and aquaria.

Whenever any machinery is in motion it should be carefully guarded by railing to prevent accidents, and there should be some well devised system whereby power may be supplied to such exhibitors of machinery as may require it. The most careful and thorough arrangements should exist to guard against fire, and to suppress it should such occur; and there should always be an ample police force on hand; a full corps of watchmen, and a complete and always ready fire department.

Visitors should be made to feel that everything possible was done tending to their comfort and convenience, specially so of women and children. Ample restaurant accommodations should exist, and care should be taken to prevent inferior food being sold or extortionate charges made. All such accommodations should be under the immediate supervision of proper officers, or executive committees. There should be baggage rooms, where satchels and wraps could be deposited and checks given, the charge for which should be nominal.