

and fro, handling at the Exhibition building, and risk of damage from unavoidable exposure to the crush of many thousand spectators, who have to see all they can during two days.

There is another objection felt by many who are otherwise much interested in our annual displays, and who would do all in their power to assist by contributing articles for exhibition. It is the sheer impossibility of having justice meted out to all, by those who are employed as judges. There can be no doubt that the gentlemen who have officiated from time to time, have uniformly acted according to the best of their ability, based upon the opportunities which have been given them for forming a correct judgment of the merits of each competitor. But how is it possible that in the space of a few hours any men, however intelligent and conversant with their subject, can deal with many hundred articles submitted to their inspection. Very frequently they require information which cannot be immediately procured, and yet they are required to make their awards as if they knew all the circumstances of the case. In a Canadian Exhibition, if two articles are offered for competition possessing apparently equal merits, the decision of the judges would rest upon other considerations than those which meet the eye—if one article were wholly Canadian in its construction down to the nails or hinges, but the other embraced some parts which bore the stamp of foreign manufacture, it is clear that that which was a home production in all its parts, has a claim beyond the other taking advantage of foreign aid.

In order that prizes may be adjudged to those most deserving, and in strict accordance with the objects of the Provincial Exhibition, more time must be placed at the disposal of the judges. Again, very many articles are entered for competition which, although not obtaining a prize, are certainly deserving of public notice, but there is not time enough to draw up such a report as would embrace the merits of nine-tenths of the articles shown; and, as already stated, the necessary information is often sought for in vain during the day appointed for the awards to be made, and when obtained it is frequently too late, and the competitor retires in disgust.

Another objection to the present arrangement of our Annual Exhibitions, as far as the Arts and Manufacturing department is concerned, is the short period of time allowed for inspection, and the exceedingly unfavourable circumstances under which an inspection has to be made. Many hundreds go to visit our Annual Exhibitions for the express purpose of examining the Arts and Manufactures department, and they would willingly devote several hours to a quiet study of what ought to be a representation of the industry of the country. Exhibitors generally present their contributions to be seen by the public,

their object is to make themselves known by their works, with a view to ultimate pecuniary benefit. They look upon the Exhibition as an advertisement on a large scale, and one which affords them an opportunity for displaying in public what they are prepared to execute in private. The end they have in view cannot be answered by three days of partial exhibition, brief notices in the public press, and frequently no notice at all from those who are appointed to decide upon their merits.

The remedy is simple enough. The Exhibition of Arts and Manufactures should extend over a longer time, and be open at least one week before the Agricultural Department begins. Ample time should be allowed for careful arrangement of the articles contributed, and at least three instead of one day given to the judges to report on the articles exhibited, not those only which are considered worthy of prizes, but those which are deserving of being brought before the public. Every effort should be made to serve the object the exhibitors have in view, and a few lines, embracing a single paragraph, will often prevent dissatisfaction at supposed neglect, and be a just tribute to energy and skill, with which the public ought to be familiar.

There are now four permanent Exhibition Buildings in Upper Canada; at Toronto, Hamilton, London, and Kingston. At each of these buildings there is, or at small expense might be, room for the display of many specimens of industry and art, which we cannot expect contributors to send far at considerable risk, to be exhibited for two or three days to many thousand persons at once, who necessarily hurry through the building in hot haste, to catch a glimpse of as much as they can in the short time allowed them. Let the Arts and Manufactures department be opened for actual inspection for one week before the articles belonging to the Agricultural department arrive, and there will be no lack of contributions or interest in the display. Next year the Exhibition is to be held at Toronto, and the opportunities for trying the experiment are the best that could be offered in Upper Canada. The building is large and commodious, and situated in the centre of our manufacturing industry. The trial is worth making, and we trust those suggestions will receive attention from these who are influential in arranging the details of the next Provincial Exhibition.

ON THE MEDICINAL PROPERTIES AND USES OF OUR NATIVE MEDICINAL PLANTS.

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To treat separately of the properties of each of the remedies in the above list would occupy a space by far too great, and exceed the object of the present paper, which is merely to introduce the subject