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The Coming Provincial Exhibition.

ACCOMMODATION FOR FARMERS.

We expect the coming Provincial Exhibition will eclipse any previous Exhibition that has ever been held in this Dominion, both in the attractions displayed and in the number of visitors.

No city in Canada can boast of so many really fine and well-kept farmers' hotels as London can. In speaking of farmers' hotels we mean respectable houses kept up and maintained for and by the farmers. Still, the accommodation that can be had at these hotels will not be one quarter sufficient for the demands that will be made on them. Farmers that come from distant parts of the country will find great difficulty in procuring shelter when night overtakes them. Money often cannot procure a comfortable lodging. We know one wealthy gentleman who resides in Montreal that attended one Exhibition in this city; he wandered about in quest of lodging at all the principal hotels in the city, and would willingly have given \$5 for a bed, but the only accommodation he could get was a seat in a chair, which cost 50 cts. Some paid 50 cts. for worse.

We have attended these Provincial agricultural gatherings for many years, and profess to know a little of their ways; we know there is a very great lack of accommodation for men during the Exhibition time, and far worse for women. The Board of Agriculture is aware of this fact, members of Parliament are also well aware of it, and the Mayor and corporation of each city know it, but who has tried to remedy it? The farmer has no choice but to stay away or run the risk of a lodging on a bare plank, without any covering, or hurry away with but a few hours' observation.

Many desire to attend these large gatherings; they are beneficial. Can no better means be devised to accommodate man? Let us hope that the members of the Board of Agriculture and others may take some steps to prevent the evil complained of. An extra railway train might be run to St. Mary's and Stratford, morning and evening; another to Ingersoll and Woodstock; another to St. Thomas and Port Stanley, to leave London at 6 or 7 p. m., and return to London at 8 or 9 a. m., during the four busy days of the Exhibition.

Another most beneficial plan would be to enact a law that every saloon keeper should be compelled to keep ten extra beds expressly for travellers or visitors. We do not mean for constant inhabitants of the house or boarders, but for travellers. These saloons are a great source of profit to the cities' grocers, lawyers, constables,

police magistrate and collector of licenses, and increase the receipts of the city treasury to a great extent. Should such a law be enforced, the number of saloons might be reduced and accommodation might be obtained at reasonable rates when required.

Hotels also should be compelled to keep from ten to fifty beds for travellers, beds that are not occupied by weekly boarders. Perhaps the greatest profit is derived from the sale of liquors, and those that traffic in it should be compelled to find sleeping and other necessary accommodation for man. The immense number of saloons and drinking stands, if compelled to make preparations for the accommodation of travellers and visitors, might become blessings to the public. If any little gathering is held in any of our cities or towns at the present time, proper sleeping accommodation cannot be had.

If all these saloon keepers were compelled to find accommodation for man and beast, the farmers' interests would be better served. If a farmer from a long distance drives into a town or city to any of these gatherings, it is often only under infringement of the law that he can put horses and vehicles in a secure place. No tavern can be found to accommodate him; all the space is occupied by regular customers.

Another accommodation is required. The few farmers wives and families that attend the Provincial gathering often suffer for the lack of water to drink or a seat to rest on. A few thousand feet of plank for seats, placed in various parts of the grounds, would be found to increase the pleasures and profits of the Association, and one or two good stands where water could be readily obtained would also be advantageous. The cost would be but trifling.

The public have a right to expect some accommodation; many we know attend the Exhibition once, but the fatigue and lack of necessary accommodation to be procured prevent them from making a second visit, and if a visit at all, a very short one. Thousands would be wishing to expend more time, say some days, if accommodation could be had. Some may think forty people in a room, lying on straw stretched on the floor, and a light horse rug, is good enough accommodation for 25 cts. at Exhibition time.

We hope the Board may make such arrangements with the railroads as to induce them to run extra trains morning and evening of each day. The St. Thomas Railway might, perhaps, with advantage, carry passengers at the excursion rate of 30 cts. to Port Stanley or St. Thomas during the Fair week.

County Council of Middlesex of 1873.

This Council at its last session carried off the palm of victory as the most niggardly, penurious, narrow-gauged lot that ever sat in this county, or, perhaps, in any other county.

They have wasted the people's money day after day, endeavoring to cut down the salary of the County Clerk from \$700 to \$500 per annum. Different persons have been elected and decline to serve. A deputation waited on them to ask a trifle to enhance the Provincial Exhibition when it should be held in this county the coming autumn. Not one red cent would they give.

Do you not think that any county should aid the Provincial Exhibition, or show their willingness when the farmers of the county have such an exhibition within a day's drive of them? But they allow the poor farmers in distant counties who have no such opportunity of partaking of the pleasures and profits of the exhibition, to pay quite as much as they do.

There are many noble and public spirited men in the Council, but political feelings on one side and close parsimony on the other have earned them a name that does no honor to the county.

They might be judged by the very room they occupy—a small room with a ceiling you can almost touch. They cannot sit without crowding as at a small boarding-house dining table. Twenty visitors can not find room in it. No prisoner in the cells or idiot in the Asylum breathes such impure air as they are compelled to breathe when in session; a reporter can find no accommodation there.

The County Council may have just grounds for not aiding the city to bear its part of the expenses, but they might have shown a willingness by granting something toward it in a direct manner, should it be in no better way than to beautify the grounds, erect seats or sink an additional pump for drinking water, if they could not aid the seed, stock or implement departments.

It is so easy for a public body to speak against expenditures for one reason or another, and object to one plan or another; but for the County Council of Middlesex or any other county where large expenditures have been or are about to be made in their locality, they should be compelled to pay something towards such expense when they are such gainers by it. If these Exhibitions do good to farmers, surely the greater amount of good would be to those who have an opportunity of attending them. There are times when public bodies are required to act with a public, liberal and honest spirit.