

MANUFACTURING REVIEW.

FEBRUARY.

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BOARD OF ARTS AND MANUFACTURES FOR LOWER CANADA.

Board Rooms, Mechanics' Hall.

Montreal, 7th January, 1863.

Your sub-committee have the honor to report:

That on assuming office for the year just closed, they had hoped to avoid the evil under which their predecessors laboured, and by which their efforts to realize the objects for which this Board was constituted, were rendered futile,—the want of the necessary funds to carry out the important trusts with which they were charged. This hope, however, they were unable to realize, for the renewal of the small pittance meted out to their predecessors in office, amounting to the sum of two thousand dollars, was all that was allotted to this Board for the year just terminated.

Previous to the establishment of the Boards of Arts and Manufactures in this Province, grants were annually made by parliament to all Mechanics' Institutes, and so called associations, and moneys were thus obtained for purposes far different from those intended, until the attention of the government was called to this abuse; and upon enquiry the facts elicited established the correctness of the allegations. By this means the appropriation of moneys to illegitimate purposes was prevented, and a large saving was thereby secured to the Province.

The originators of these Boards sought unsuccessfully, however, to obtain for them a position as regards Mechanics' Institutes and kindred associations, equivalent to that occupied by the Board of Agriculture in relation to the county Agricultural Societies, but they secured however the formation of these Boards whose duties are;

First. To take measures to collect and establish museums of minerals and other material substances and chemical compositions susceptible of being used in Mechanical Arts and Manufactures, with model rooms appropriately stocked and supplied with models of works of art, and of implements and machines other than implements of husbandry and machines adapted to facilitate agricultural operations, and free libraries of reference, containing books, plans and drawings, selected with a view to the imparting of useful information in connection with Mechanical Arts, and Manufactures;

Second. To take measures to obtain from other countries new or improved implements and machines (not being implements of husbandry or machines specially adapted to facilitate agricultural operations,) and to test the quality, value and usefulness of such implements and machines:

Third. And generally to adopt every means in their power to promote improvement in the Mechanical Arts and in Manufactures in this Province.

Your sub-committee's predecessors in office established a free library of reference, containing all the English and American specifications

and drawings, reports and other works of a suitable description, which your sub-committee have kept regularly open, and to which some additions have been made during their term of office. The whole number of volumes now in their possession amounting to one thousand and thirty six.

Shortly after the formation of this Board, intelligence, of the proposed visit to Canada of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales was received, and this was considered by the predecessors of your sub-committee, a fitting occasion for this Board to put forth its best efforts to secure an exhibition of the raw and industrial products of this country. Their views were promptly seconded by government who appropriated for this purpose the sum of \$20,000. The want of a suitable building for exhibition purposes had long been felt; and this Board, with an energy and alacrity unparalleled in this Province, procured a site and erected a building for that and future exhibitions. The efforts of the Board were successful as to the exhibition, which was one alike creditable to its originators and managers (your sub-committee's predecessors in office,) and to the country.

The building was not erected without involving the Board in liabilities it never would have assumed, but for the informal pledges made to it by members of the government, of an increased annual grant, and from the non-fulfilment of which have arisen its present inability to carry out the objects for which it was constituted. It was the intention of your sub-committee's predecessors to have removed their offices and library to the exhibition building, and to have taken measures to establish in connection with the library a museum for minerals, models, machines, and manufactures; but want of means to prepare the building for that purpose, prevented them from carrying out this intention.

The receipts of the Board for the exhibition building and the government grant having fallen short of the expectations of your sub-committee's predecessors in office, they were under the necessity of mortgaging the building to the contractor Mr. Mc Nevin for the sum of \$11,000 for two years, from the 25th January 1861, with interest at seven per cent. per annum, payable semi-annually, the first payment of the interest to be made on the 25th June, 1861; and in case the Board should make default in the payment of the said interest to accrue and become due on the said principal sum of \$11,000 for the space of thirty days after the said interest payments should become due and payable: then the whole of the debt, with all interest then due, should immediately be and become due and exigible.

Owing to the non-payment of this interest previous to the 25th day of July, 1861, a suit was instituted against this Board for the recovery of the principal, although tenders had been made of the amount of interest previous to the institution of the suit. At the