

AN ECHO OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION'S SOJOURN IN TORONTO.

A GREAT LONDON "DAILY" TELLS OF A VISIT TO CANADA'S LEADING MANUFACTORY.

AN OLD WORLD TRIBUTE TO CANADIAN ENTERPRISE.

WE took occasion in a recent issue to refer to the publicity that would be accorded Canada in the Old Country, and the benefits, direct and indirect, that would accrue therefrom, as a result of the annual meeting of the British Association being held in Toronto. Our observation has been verified in a manner that we certainly did not expect, but which is eminently satisfactory. Among the places of interest visited by the members of the British Association was the Massey-Harris Works. The visitors included a member of the staff of one of the few really great journals of the world, the London *Daily News*. The conservative character of English journals and the value of space in the big London "dailies" are proverbial; condensation to the narrowest limit is practised, even in regard to events of a very topical character. In view of this we consider the attention devoted to the *Daily News* to its representative's visit to the Massey-Harris establishment as strong evidence of the keen interest that is being taken in the Old Country in the detail of the industrial and commercial life of Canada.

The London *Daily News* says:

"Many of the members of Section G. have paid a visit to the works of the Massey-Harris Company to see for themselves the equipments by which are produced the agricultural implements which are exported to all quarters of the world. It is certainly a remarkable establishment, and one was curious to see the place from which certain implements are sent even to Great Britain. The *Majestic* on her last voyage, for example, took over twelve railway car loads of harvesters and binders for Scotland. I saw goods ready for Australia, France, and Germany. The works cover about ten acres of ground, on the Ontario shore, and with sidings in direct communication with the Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways. About 1,200 hands are employed, and there are 800 more in branch establishments. The specialties are harvesters, binders and mowers, and the season for them, so far as the works are concerned, is past. Now comes

the fall trade with drills, cultivators, ensilage cutters, straw cutters and root pulpers. Ensilage is an article of firm faith with the Canadian farmers, and they declare it better than anything else as winter feed for milking stock. The native woods are invaluable for this branch of manufacture; the white ash and hickory are unequalled, and rock elm is also a fine wood. The works are a marvellous study in labour-saving machinery; it really looks as if it was the machines that were human, and the men that were machines. The steam-driven tools, pick up bars and rods of iron, bend them, and shape them as if they were bits of tin. They cannot here, however, do without our good Sheffield steel for their tools, though much metal comes from Nova Scotia and Pittsburg. An enormous amount of grinding is done to produce the teeth and knives by which the wheat at this moment is being reaped in bountiful harvest from the grain-growing parts of Canada.

"I was shown a number of giant grindstones, each 6 ft. in diameter, and a foot thick, and this trifle of two tons is whisked into its place by a specially-devised crane. A man in full work wears out one of these stones in three days; 600 were so worn out last year in the works. The 'lumber' room was fragrant with the smell of clean wood in the turner's hand; spokes and rims are rattled off by the tens of thousands. The hickory for spokes is split and never sawn; in this way perfectly grained wood is insured. The paint shop again was a curious illustration of the new methods; the honest old paint brush is not wanted here; a wheel bar or pole is simply put into a tank of paint, red, blue or yellow, as the case may be, and the brush is only used for the ornamental striping. The firm once published the "Massey Magazine"; now to the agricultural machinery has been added the Massey-Harris wheel, a bicycle pattern of which 6,000 were made last year. The warehouse floor was heaped with a consignment for Sydney by the next ship.

"Daniel Massey, the founder of the firm, was a comparatively poor man when he set up his little weather-bound shanty in 1847 in the Ontario town of Newcastle. The Company now turns over four million dollars per annum, but it is scarcely necessary to add that the shares are kept snugly in the hands of the Massey and Harris families."