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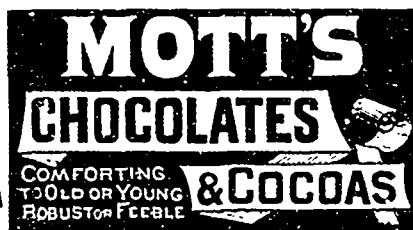
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Exhibition Notes.

BY PROF. LAWSON.

The city of Halifax holds its proud place as the metropolis Nova Scotia by virtue of its being the seat of our Legislature, the central fountain of law and justice. But it has other claims. And it strengthens these claims, from time to time, in various ways. Upon occasion, the city holds high court, when the owners and cultivators of the soil of the whole province, the manufacturers and miners, and the various communities inhabiting the towns and villages and the farms of our country, are all invited to come to the city to witness some grand event which the citizens feel they better enjoy if their extra-mural fellow countrymen will come and share the enjoyment with them. Such an occasion is the Provincial Exhibition. A period of ten years has elapsed since the corporation and citizens of Halifax had the honor of gathering in the country friends to a similar convocation, and they will surely greet them now a right hearty welcome.

The Provincial Exhibitions, and especially those held in the metropolis of the province, serve an important purpose in the history of our country. They call upon us to survey our industry and to take stock of our progress, to set up, as it were, mile stones for the historian. As the Hon Joseph Howe remarked when speaking of the exhibition of 1868, "what Nova Scotia is like this year is made patent to the eyes of a cloud of living witnesses, many of them young enough to transmit to a new generation some knowledge of what they saw, while the catalogues and prize lists the commissioners will always be open to those who in after time may desire to look back upon the past."

So each recurring Exhibition presents to the people of the province a tableau, as it were, of the actual existing state of the industries, a picture of the stage of progress at which we have arrived. What will be the picture for this year, 1891? The entries of the exhibits in the Secretary's book give an answer, but it is a partial and uncertain one. What our Exhibition is to be like, near at hand as it is, remains still to be seen. But what has been in the past will be in the future, with modifications, and it may not be unprofitable to ask ourselves what we should look for.

Our last Halifax Exhibition was a Dominion one, and we do not to look now for a repetition of the large additions, especially in the way of live stock, that came on that occasion from New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island; but the show of provincial horses ought certainly to far surpass that of ten years ago. Not only that exhibition very poor in thoroughbred or stud book horses, the Percheron and Clydesdale classes were blanks so far as Nova Scotia was concerned. We have now both Percherons and Clydesdales, as well as standard-bred horses, and they may be expected to show up well. If they do not, let it still be remembered that every animal shown in these lines is an advance on the competition of 1881.

In the cattle classes there will also be innovations. On one occasion the judges expressed their approbation of the Short Horns, especially the young stock, but recommended that more attention be paid to "handling quality." It remains to be seen what the admonition has effected. Although there has not, during the last decade, been any great inducement to fresh importations or an increase of this kind of stock, yet the natural increase upon the herds then existing must have been considerable, and we may confidently expect a full and fair show of Short Horns. Ayrshires are even more prolific, and our Ayrshire breeders will be at fault if they do not present a good front on this occasion. It is to be borne in mind, however, that some of the prize-takers on the occasion have since dropped out of the line of Ayrshire breeders.