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The Industrial Fair.

THOUGH the Industrial Fair of 1901 was opened most auspiciously on Aug. 27th, by Sir Wilfrid Laurier, before the largest crowd that ever attended the opening ceremonies, the total attendance at this year's exhibition was considerably behind that of last year. There are several reasons for this. The weather of the first week was very bad, causing the receipts on Friday and Saturday to be almost nil. Then the close proximity of the Pan-American had an injurious effect upon the attendance especially from western Ontario. There were not a few who decided to pass by Toronto this year and visit the Pan-American. Another event that possibly detracted somewhat from the attendance was the coming visit of the Duke of York. There are no doubt many people in the country who desire to see His Royal Highness and prefer to defer their visit to the Queen city till his arrival. They can see the Industrial any year but the Duke only once.

These events, no doubt, detracted in a greater or less degree from the attendance this year. But there may have been other reasons. There can be little doubt but that the holding of the fair year after year in the same old buildings which are over-crowded to accommodate the exhibits has had something to do with the decreasing attendance of recent years. The city of Toronto must get a move on, and that right quickly if it desires to preserve the prestige and attracting powers of its great Industrial Exposition. People are getting tired of hearing new buildings talked of year after year and coming to the Fair to find the same old timers doing duty in the same old way. The defeat of the by-law last spring was in more ways than one, a serious blow to the fair. Not alone because it prevented new buildings from being erected, but that it gave the impression in the country that Toronto and its citizens took little interest in the show and why then should outsiders make any extra effort to support it. A few new buildings, such as the dairy, main and art buildings, are an absolute necessity in order to keep the fair up to the average of recent years. While if it is to expand and grow into a great Dominion Exposition, as many seem desirous that it should become, a

great many new features in the way of equipment are necessary.

As far as exhibits go this year's fair was generally speaking up to the average of recent years and in several respects far ahead. The show of live stock, especially cattle, was the greatest ever seen in Canada, which means the greatest on this continent. On the whole the manufacturers made a better display than usual, and all departments of the Fair were well filled, showing that exhibitors have not lost faith in the exhibition or its management. In fact the inconvenience which exhibitors were put to in some of the buildings this year because of leaky roofs, shows that they are made of sterling stuff and are determined to stand by the exposition through rain or shine. And this is one of the strongest arguments in favor of new buildings and new equipment. These exhibitors may not wish to go through the same experience next year, and unless something better in the way of accommodation is provided who would blame them for staying at home. New buildings must come in some way or other or well wishers of the Industrial will see it gradually recede from the proud position it now occupies, that of the greatest all round agricultural show on this continent.

While new buildings are being discussed it might be worth while to consider improved methods in other lines. There are not a few departments of the fair that have got into ruts and are running along in the same groove year after year, due perhaps to their being managed in the same way by the same directors almost since the beginning of the Exposition. A little shuffling around among these would do good and a little new blood introduced would improve matters very much. In one or two departments this year, that have been placed in charge of new men marked improvement has been effected in the arrangement and attractiveness of the exhibits. But we may have more to say on this line later on.

A little friction arose this year between the management and members of the agricultural press in regard to reporting the live stock that cannot very well be passed by unnoticed. Up to last year representatives of the press were allowed in the ring when the live stock were being judged, but this year a new order of things prevail-

ed and the officials in charge of the ring were instructed not to allow such representatives in the ring while the judging was going on.

Now, everyone familiar with reporting live stock knows that an accurate and critical report cannot be prepared unless the reporter has the same opportunity for examining the animals, that the judges have. The reason given for this curtailing of former privileges is that several exhibitors have complained that the representatives of the agricultural press influenced the judges in making the awards. But if the judges are honest in the discharge of their duties there need be no difficulty on this score. Furthermore, the agricultural press of this country is too self-respecting and on too high a plane to countenance any tampering with the awarding of prizes, and we very much doubt if there is any foundation whatever, for the charge made. This section of the Canadian press caters to the most important individual in the country, the farmer and breeder, and if it is to be denied the privilege of preparing an intelligent report of the live stock department for its readers it should be able to get along without making any report at all as well as the Exhibition and its exhibitors can.

Fruit Inspection.

Hon. Sydney Fisher has made a number of appointments in connection with the act for the inspection of, packing and marking fruit. Mr. Alex. McNeill of Walkerville, and Mr. Lick of Oshawa will be chief inspectors for Ontario. Mr. McNeill is well known in connection with Farmers' Institute work, and Mr. Lick is a graduate of the Ontario Agricultural College. Mr. P. J. Carey of Cobourg, Mr. D. H. Wharton of Kingston, and Mr. Scriver, son of Julius Scriver, M. P., will be employed on inspection work in Montreal. There will also be a French-Canadian inspector, but he has not yet been chosen. The Minister of Agriculture is not desirous of putting into force any vexatious restrictions, or to do anything to hamper or check the fruit trade. He hopes to receive the hearty co-operation of fruit growers, and believes they will work harmoniously with the department to improve and build up the great industry whose success means so much for Canada.