

# The Farming World

For Farmers and Stockmen

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## A Dominion Exhibition for Next Year

**T**HE Industrial Fair of 1902 is now an event of the past. That it was a great success everybody is agreed. The aggregate attendance was larger than ever before, while the total receipts were the largest on record. This could not but prove satisfactory to every well wisher of Canada's great Industrial Fair. Another year, when the new main building is completed and the grounds arranged after a more up-to-date and convenient plan, as we trust they will be, even greater things may be looked for.

The dominant note in the speeches of the leading Canadians at the Directors' luncheons was that an effort should be made to hold a Dominion Exhibition at Toronto next year. We quite coincide with this view and believe the time has come when Canada should make her great wealth and her diversified products known to the world by means of an all-round Dominion Exhibition. All are agreed that Toronto is the place to hold such an exhibition and next year, when the new manufacturers' building is completed, it could have no more auspicious opening than to be filled with goods from all parts of Canada. With a small expenditure the grounds could be re-arranged and the old buildings put in good repair for the enlarged exhibits that would doubtless be on hand. But the project needs more than the grounds and buildings in which to make displays. A liberal grant should be forthcoming from the Government at Ottawa to aid in financing the project and in bringing exhibits from the outlying provinces. From the utterances of the Minister of Public Works, and one or two prominent politicians, it should not be a hard matter to secure such a grant. The opposition from other centres, when the proposition was made a few years ago, has all disappeared, and the way seems clear for the Industrial Fair Association to go ahead and set the machinery in motion for a Dominion Exhibition in 1903. The various provinces should lend their aid by erecting suitable buildings for their exhibits.

In preparing for a Dominion Exhibition something should be done toward re-arranging the grounds. The present arrangement is not the best that could be devised for convenience and beauty. The main entrance is located at one corner, and the first thing that strikes the visitor is a group of small, unsightly buildings that create a

wrong impression at the beginning that may be hard to eradicate, even when he comes in touch with the beauty and grandeur farther on. The entrance is hard to find from the inside and should be moved farther down towards the lake where a better impression of the grounds could be had. Whether the present street car terminus arrangements can be improved upon or not we cannot say. It would certainly add to the comfort and safety of passengers if they could be landed from cars to the south of the railway tracks. There was a little too much fast driving this year on the grounds for safety and comfort to the fellow on foot. And it is a wonder that more were not hurt by the carelessness of some drivers, both of horses and of automobiles. No doubt, these desire some place in which to show off the speed of their machines, both living and otherwise, but it should be where the lives of the visitors are not in danger. A boulevard drive along the lake shore and encircling the grounds, if need be, would meet the desire of all those who wish to speed their horses and automobiles. Such a drive would prove an attraction to horsemen generally, and would keep the centre of the grounds free for people who enjoy no other mode of locomotion than "shanks ponies."

Nothing further need be added here on these points. These few comments show in some general way how the exhibition in our opinion may be improved upon. What we have said has not been given in a spirit of mere fault-finding, as we fully appreciate the great disadvantages under which the Board of Management has labored during recent years because of the lack of sufficient buildings, etc., to carry on the Fair as it should be carried on. But now that better things are coming their way, we believe they will see the wisdom of some of the changes we have pointed out. A full report of the Fair will be found elsewhere in this issue.

## A Farmers' Organization

That this is an age of organization was pretty clearly demonstrated during fair week in Toronto. In addition to a new good roads association, a new organization was formed to be known as the Farmers' Association of Canada, the object, though not made very clear at the outset, being no doubt to unite for self interest and for mutual benefit. The course of this new organization will likely be watched with interest by those

who followed the fluctuations of the old Patrons' organization. The new association is to be non-political in character and may have a longer lease of life; but it has at the back of it so much of the old Patron element that it is a question whether it will work out differently from the old organization upon the essentials of which the new movement is largely based.

There can be no objection to farmers organizing for their mutual benefit and interest. In doing so, however, they should not place themselves in antagonistic relations to other interests in the country. As surely as they do so failure will result. A chief cause of the failure of the Patron movement, in our opinion, was the intensely antagonistic spirit shown by its leaders toward other classes in the community. And the opening ceremonies in connection with this new movement were not without a touch of this old spirit. There should be more co-operation between the farmers as a class and the other sections of the community. We have among our Canadian farmers many capable men who are able to hold their own in any assembly, and by co-operation and mingling with other classes these can wield an influence that cannot but redound to the great benefit of the agricultural classes. More will, we think, be gained by working along this line than by any organization conceived in an antagonistic spirit to other classes. Then it is a question, if with our Farmers' Institutes, Live Stock, Dairy, Fruit, Poultry, Good Roads Associations, etc., we have not enough farmers' organizations and as many as the farmer has time and money to spend upon.

However, we wish the new organization success. With one plank in its platform, and it was about the only one definitely laid down at the inaugural meeting, we entirely agree that of being non-political. With the somewhat antagonistic spirit shown in some of the speeches we do not agree. We quite sympathize with any movement toward securing reduced freight rates and better transportation facilities, though we believe that more can be done by co-operation with Boards of Trade, etc., that are working for the same end. However, in so far as the new organization is working for better transportation, cheaper freight rates, better methods in agriculture and better returns for the farmers' outlay in time and money it will have our support. Otherwise we do not think it will work to the advantage of any, but a few of its promoters who by this means will gain some notoriety and favor.