

Secured Highest Award

Canada's Success in the Forestry Exhibit at the Paris Exposition.

British Columbia by Far the Largest Contributor—Prospects of European Trade.

Angus K. Stuart, the British Columbia representative at the Paris Exposition, writes as follows:

It may, perhaps, to the average inhabitant of British Columbia, or other parts of Canada, be considered a matter of secondary importance (merely a two-line "item" in the "latest dispatches"), that Canada, in direct and open competition with all other countries, has carried off the highest award given for February exhibits at the Paris exposition, but to any one, who, not only has seen the various international exhibits, but who also looks into the question seriously, the real significance of this fact will offer a very wide field for thought and study. Almost all other countries exhibiting in this class were awarded—or rather will be awarded—gold medals, and various awards to private exhibitors will be made public later on, but Canada has secured the one and only grand prize—the highest possible award.

The average Canadian, no matter where he hails from, no matter what part of Canada he lives in, is intensely patriotic. He delights to believe in Canada and to think that Canada is, at least in natural resources, the greatest country on earth. There are times, however, when one's faith wavers and when spite of natural patriotic feeling doubt creeps in and one is tempted into the belief that his ideas are Utopian. It is the more gratifying therefore to be convinced by facts that in one particular, at any rate, such is not the case. Canada has had many gratifying surprises within the past six or seven years, and the exceptional "growth" in the Dominion of all industries, principally owing to the discovery of extraordinary mineral wealth in the extreme western portion of the country, has perhaps led Canadians generally to discount the fact that in one of our very oldest ones we still have the nucleus of trade which by careful development of the natural resources from which it springs may of itself alone make us one of the great commercial communities of the world. I allude, of course, to our lumber and kindred industries.

A visit to the forestry building of the international exhibition here is a trip which I take the liberty of advising every Canadian at Paris to make. Going in he may feel small—the building is very large—coming out he will feel too big for the building. After having flapped my wings and crowded, it may be well to explain how and why Canada has so come to the front here. The facts, for cold-blooded facts they are, may be of use and interest. I sincerely hope that they will be and I will endeavor to make them plain.

The Canadian exhibit of forestry products is not in the main Canadian building near the Trocadero, but on the other side of the Seine in a special building devoted to international exhibits of the products of lumber and fishing industries of the world. It is one of the largest and most attractive buildings in this empire exhibition, and before going any further I may say that if Canada had spent as much on its exhibit as other competing countries it would not only have taken the first prize but placed every other country completely in the shade.

The Canadian exhibit itself is a collective one, made by the Dominion government, that is, by the Canadian commission to the World's Fair, under the chairmanship of Hon. Sidney Fisher, Minister of Agriculture. When the commission was appointed the various provinces and the principal manufacturers of lumber and wood products throughout the Dominion were asked to contribute. Practically speaking, the only provinces which co-operated officially in a hearty and practical way were British Columbia, Manitoba and Quebec. As regards the manufacturers, though few contributed directly, their excuse would not doubt be that they were running their manufacturing at full capacity and did not realize the importance of making special exhibits. Therefore, with few exceptions, all exhibits not officially sent from British Columbia, Manitoba and the province of Quebec were collected by the Dominion government. The province of Ontario, on the other hand, is almost the only one from which private exhibits originate.

British Columbia is by far the largest contributor to the Canadian exhibit, and without in any way wishing to discriminate, I can safely say that but for the particularly business-like and hearty manner in which the matter was taken up by Mr. Fred. Hume, it is practically certain that Canada would not have been able to cut the figure it has done here. Other and older provinces might perhaps take a note of this. The practical hard work of making this collection fell to Mr. C. J. Skinner, chief inspector for British Columbia, and the cost of this exhibit was defrayed by the British Columbia government as far as Ottawa.

Manitoba in comparison with other provinces, is not generally considered to be a timber country, and no doubt the view is correct, but surprising though it may seem, Manitoba has contributed largely to the success of Canada at Paris. The principal credit of this is due to W. E. Scott, of the Canadian commission, who organized the collection, and to H. McKellar, of the department of agriculture of Manitoba, who carried out all the requests sent from Ottawa.

The Crown lands department of Quebec has contributed a small but very interesting collection of the various species of wood, natural to the province. In addition to this the department of agriculture sent an exceptionally well selected exhibit of woods and pulpwood. The

practical value of the exhibit of pulpwood cannot be overestimated.

Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are not represented officially, but indirectly. Ontario is well represented in manufactured articles, and Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island are represented indirectly by natural products similar to their own.

Doubtless one of the principal reasons why the exhibit is unique in its excellence, notwithstanding that exceptional difficulty had to be encountered in collecting and transporting it, is the fact that the forestry section was to all practical purposes left to one man to arrange and manage. The actual work of collecting was done between August, 1899, and February of this year, and the entire exhibit was in place on May 7th, practically at the opening of the exhibition. The expert to whom this work was entrusted, J. M. Macoun, assistant naturalist of the department of geological survey, son of Professor Macoun, of Ottawa, who should be well known on the British Columbia coast, he having been Canadian commissioner on the Behring sea arbitration in 1895, 1896 and 1897. Descriptive of the exhibit a very useful pamphlet entitled "The Forest Wealth of Canada" is being circulated here, both in French and English. To those wishing to make a study of the exhibit this work is invaluable. It is to be hoped that it will be circulated extensively in Canada as well as in Europe.

The principal reason why the Canadian forestry exhibit obtained the highest award is that it exceeded all others in the variety of wood exhibited, superior in industrial purposes. I am credibly informed that at present Canada is only known in Europe as an exporter of spruce, pulp, Douglas fir and white pine, and that if it were known that coniferous woods generally and oak, maple, beech, birch, elm and ash could also be exported in deals and as lumber, the result would be a most extraordinary market for these products.

As regards this possible extension of trade I am informed that at present two principal obstacles stand in its way. The first is the lack of direct steamship communication between Canada and southern Europe. From what I can gather a direct service to Mediterranean ports would be of equal, if not greater, value than a line of steamers running to Bordeaux, as going more direct to where the market really lies. The second obstacle is the apparent inability of Canadian firms to supply large export orders for any kind of material at any time when required. We appear to need firms willing to discount the future for the purpose of competing against a strong but weakening rivalry from the Baltic countries—firms which will thoroughly study European conditions in order to take in the near future their proper share of European trade.

There are several ideas and lessons which suggest themselves to any one comparing the various forestry exhibits here. Firstly, one cannot help arriving at the conclusion that our timber resources (as proved by statistics published by the various governments exhibiting) are of greater value than ever before, for while rival countries have in the past indulged in excessive production, Canada has scarcely begun to draw on its natural reserves.

Secondly, no other country affords so good a field as Canada for profitable investment of capital in the manufacture of wood products, and a much more extensive trade with Europe, and especially southern Europe, could be developed by a study of the conditions prevailing.

Thirdly, special efforts should be made in the future throughout Canada to lessen the destruction of this great national asset by fire, and the forestry of denuded districts should be undertaken in a practical way by the various provincial governments, and by the Dominion government in the territory under its control. This work could well be carried on under a system similar to that of the forestry departments organized in nearly every country in Europe and in British India.

Fourthly, that the demand for wood pulp will be the basis of a very solid industry all over Canada; an international market being absolutely assured. From studying the information to be gathered here, it appears that every province in Canada is capable of taking part in this industry of the future.

With the exception of Russia, the Baltic countries (the principal rival for future European trade) have poor exhibits, hardly what any one would have expected to see. On the other hand Russia has a magnificent one covering at least eight times as much space as that of Canada. It is very attractively arranged and no doubt might be considered the finest by the general public. It is only as before stated the actual commercial excellence and the extreme variety displayed in the Canadian section which have entitled the latter to the highest award in the opinion of the international jury.

A glance through the forestry building will show to what extent re-forestry is practiced by continental nations. Almost every country, except Canada, exhibits models illustrating the methods employed, and innumerable statistics in printed formulae are to be obtained explanatory of this science. Germany and Australia, especially, have abundant information to offer on the subject.

Notes on the Canadian Exhibit.

The Canadian exhibit contains among other special attractions a collection of eighty-six photographs of different varieties of Canadian trees. Each of these is framed in its own wood and is accompanied by a small polished specimen of wood of the same variety. This collection is the result of many years' work on the part of Dr. Dawson, director of the geological survey of Canada, and Professor Macoun, chief naturalist. It is very tastefully arranged and accompanied by over one hundred photographs descriptive of the lumber industry in all its stages in every province of the Dominion.

Another prominent exhibit is a collection of forty-eight six-foot deals of the principal Canadian wood. One-third of each deal is polished, one-third waxed and one-third simply planed.

Other exhibits which specially attract the passing throng are: A section of Douglas fir from British Columbia, 25 feet in circumference, cut from a tree

calculated to be five hundred and sixty years old; a section of elm from Ontario five feet in diameter, and a section of British Columbia cedar six feet in diameter.

Not the least attractive unit in the collection is a fine exhibit of walnut sent by Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere from his experimental plantation near Quebec. This consists of two pieces of wood cut from trees fifteen and eighteen years old and is intended to illustrate the rapid growth but not least in the way of noticeable exhibits is a deal of Douglas fir 25 feet long and 4 feet in width. I am informed that this is, by experts, considered the best specimen of timber in the entire forestry exhibition.

The Canadian Office and School Furniture Company, of Preston, Ontario, deserves special mention for their office exhibit of Canadian oak.

The following is a list of the principal woods shown in the Canadian section: Basswood, broad leaf maple, sugar maple, red maple, black cherry, white ash, black ash, white elm, red elm, rock elm, sycamore, buttonwood, hickory, red birch, white birch, white oak, western white oak, red oak, chestnut, beech, aspen, balsam, poplar, black walnut, butternut, white cedar, red cedar, yellow cypress, white pine, western white pine, red pine, jack pine, black pine, black spruce, englmann spruce, Sitka spruce, hemlock, western hemlock, Douglas fir, balsam, western white fir and tamarac.

The following is a list of the exhibits to be seen in the Canadian section:

Province of British Columbia—Sections of trees growing in Eastern Canada, blocks and squares as exported, hardwood specialties, indurated fibre ware, clothes pins, eighty-seven photographs illustrating operations.

Province of Manitoba—Sixteen sections of trees, 10 pieces of pulp wood, six rail ties and 12 pieces of lumber.

Province of Quebec—Five sections of trees, 30 polished panels.

The Northwest Territories—Six pieces of lumber.

Geological Survey—Eighty photographs of trees framed in their own woods, and 55 specimens of tree sections with polished faces.

Arm Beck, stained elm veneers, stained elm cigar boxes, maple flooring; The British Canadian Timber & Manufacturing Co., birch deals; Canadian Office & School Furniture Co., 9 polished panels and exhibit of office furniture; The Columbia Handle & Lumber Co., London, Ont., hardwood specialties, kitchen wood, broom handles, ladder rungs, etc.; Dobell, Beckett & Co., Quebec, thirteen pieces of square timber; The W. C. Edwards Co., Ltd., Ottawa, pine and hard wood deals, parquetry flooring, dimension lumber, sash and door stock; John H. Grout & Co., Grimsby, Ont., baskets, boxes and packages for fruit and six pieces of walnut veneer; Gilmore & Co., Canoe Lake, Ont., white pine deals; John Heard & Co., St. Thomas, Ont., hubs, axles and spokes for wagons and carriages; John Harrison & Co., two sections of trees, birch and maple squares, butchers' skewers; The Hawkesbury Lumber Co., red pine deals and square timber; Ke & Harcourt, spoons, bobbins and turned wooden boxes; Henri Menard, eight sections of trees and six deals from Anticosti; The North American Beet Chair Co., chair and table stock; The Patent Cloth Board Co., six bundles of cloth boards, elm and basswood veneers and stripes; Jean Roux, nine sets of elm hubs; J. H. Still, oak and hickory handles, turned wood boxes; The Sutherland Lumber Co., five sections of trees, elm and ash barrel staves, hoops and heading; Carl Zeidler, polished woods suitable for manufacture of pianos and fine furniture; The Wm. Cane & Sons Manufacturing Co., wooden ware, pails, tubs, etc.; Victor Lecland, rustic desk, rustic table, rustic chair, rustic rocking chair, rustic turning chair; The Star Manufacturing Co., exhibit of ice skates comprising self-fastening patterns.

In conclusion I have no hesitation in stating that the forestry exhibit sent to Paris will be of great practical value to Canada, if advantage is taken of the general impression it has created and if those financially interested in the lumber business and the manufacturing of wood products in general will seize the opportunity now presented to lay the foundation stones of an export trade which might easily, if properly organized, and probably will eventually, revolutionize to a large extent the lumber trade of Europe.

TELEGRAPH TICKS.

At the Sons of England Grand Lodge at Windsor, Fred. Cook, of Ottawa, was elected president without opposition; John Aldridge, Toronto, vice-president, and J. W. Carter, Toronto, grand secretary.

The Grand Trunk railway has received a cable from Paris announcing that pictures of the Grand Trunk railway system on exhibition at the exposition had been awarded a gold medal by the international jury.

Viscount Wolseley, field marshal and commander-in-chief of the British army, delivered, according to the Daily Mail, the most scathing condemnation ever heard at Aldershot after witnessing on Wednesday manoeuvres. He declared that the 30,000 men who participated were utterly unfit to send abroad, badly led and badly taught.

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Life in a "Model"

Interesting Letter Received by Mrs. Davis From Her Son in Glasgow.

Description of Interior of Lodging Quarters in a Great City.

The following is a very interesting excerpt of a letter received by Mrs. A. Davis, of 63 Mears street, from her son, now residing in Glasgow, Scotland:

"I have been working in two of Glasgow's 'models' or 'Doss houses,' as they are called, for about six weeks, fitting up patent sanitary arrangements for the good of the 'Dossier,' although I don't think anything is good for a 'Dossier' but strong spirits. At least that is their own opinion, and certainly they should know. There are three 'Doss' houses on Watson street, where I reside, the one next door being for women. The one I work in is the largest. It has six or seven hundred beds and I tell you on a Saturday or a Monday it is one of the hottest spots on earth; for on these days the 'dossier' dons his war paint and you see him in all his glory offering up blasphemy, and at times using liberally the whiskey for which he would sell his soul. 'I thought I knew something of slum life, but this place has been an eye-opener. In the Doss houses they pay from 3½ to 6d. for a bed, and they have to do all their washing and cooking. Plenty of water is provided, as well as cooking utensils; and last, but not least, a 'hot plate' where all the cooking is done. The 'hot plate' is something like a counter in a grocer's shop, only the sides are brick and the top is covered with iron plates. There is a furnace at each end (it is about thirty feet long, four by seven broad) for heating the plates. When thirty or forty lodgers are concocting various savory messes the smell is overbearing. I worked a week above the hot plate, repairing pipes, and may the saints forbid that I shall ever encounter another experience like it. They were cooking before I was there in the morning; they cooked all day long and were busier when I was leaving at night, and ye gods! what feeds they cooked. Over there you saw a man with five big tattered-looking herring in a pan. He had two chunks of a loaf like a bit of deck plant which he was toasting. When the herring were done to his mind, he filled the pan with onions, while he toasted till the blue reek fairly made my eyes water, and placing the whole delectable feed on a plate he went away to enjoy himself.

"Another had one pound of as good ham as you would wish for, and six eggs which he demolished with the greatest relish. I've seen a 'dossier' with three large pans full of ham, eggs and onions prepared for one feed. I used to think as I stood on the scaffold above them and watched the cooking that the immense feeds were for two or three instead of one. Round the 'plate,' however, you see every type of a man—boys no more than twelve, and old men tottering about on crutches on the verge of the grave. At one corner of the hot plate stood a travelling man. He was boiling a big pot and beside him were paper windmills, flags and parasols. He was making taffy, and I watched the operation. When he had it boiled to his satisfaction he poured it out on a dirty board and hopped lively around it to keep it from running away while it cooled. When it cooled down he gathered it up in a lump—a black, treakly looking mess it was—and proceeded to draw it in long strings, with his hands, drawing on it and slapping it together until he had it nearly white. I felt the lower buttons of my waistcoat aching as I remembered how I used to enjoy a lump of just such candy.

"Onions, onions everywhere. The smell of onions pervaded the atmosphere. The attic is most pronounced. No matter what a 'dossier' has to eat he must have onions. He fries and bastes them till the blue reek rises like a cloud from an Egyptian altar. When he is down on his luck a pan of onions, a hunk of bread and a dram of tea make a good repeat. 'Monday is a great day in the model.' You can get almost anything to buy on that day. Most of the shop-lifting, burglarizing and pocket-picking is done on Saturday and goods are sold 'on behalf of whom it may concern,' as the auctioneers say. At greatly reduced prices on the Monday mornings I have been offered a suit of clothes for 1s. 6d., trousers 6d., silk handkerchief for 1d., and tobacco at 3d. per yard, with a watch for a penny, etc., etc., by the aforementioned thieves. They have stood beside arguing about their exploits, and making up their robberies in a business-like manner. It is all the same to them in or out of prison. Then, again, they prey on each other.

It is a crime in a 'model' to have a decent coat or a cent left after you pay for your bed. Every day there is from four to a dozen men left without sufficient clothes to wear in the morning. Some have no boots, and some no coat nor waistcoat, and I have seen four on one morning in possession only of a shirt.

The letter mentions further details regarding life in these lodging quarters in a great city, of which comparatively little is known by inhabitants of the Great West.

Two thousand vest makers are on strike in Manhattan. Their demands are for the payment of the same scale of wages which was in force last year, and for a 10-hour day and weekly payments. All of those who have struck are employed in the sweat shops; the factories have not thus far been affected by the strike in the least.

Of 750 operatives at the Montmorency cotton mills, 250 struck on Thursday. The management thought this a good time to close down to make some repairs, and the mills accordingly closed down. The management has refused to recognize the union.

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