

# The Child Welfare Exhibition

## INTRODUCTION

Surely it is our hope that this CANADA of ours shall lead the world, that this land of promise shall become the land of fulfilment, that this youngest of nations, unfettered by the bonds of evil tradition which bind the old peoples, and profiting from their experience, shall choose out what is best, and press forward towards a greatness which other and older communities cannot hope to attain.

But it is the man that makes the nation.

It is the child that makes the man.

If, therefore, we are to become a great nation the well-being of our children must be our first care : we must rear them so that healthy and sound in body and in mind they develop into strong and capable men and women. This is a matter that cannot be left to nature and to chance. Already with the rapid growth of our cities - Montreal is adding yearly forty thousand to its population—the child is exposed to influences every whit as harmful as those affecting the old world. Overcrowding and slumdom, lack of sunshine and fresh air, poor food, undue excitement, undue exposure to communicable diseases: these and many other bad influences tell upon the city child to its detriment.

The object of the Child Welfare Exhibition is to demonstrate these dangers, and how they are to be guarded against ; what agencies exist in our midst for the protection and betterment of child life ; what is lacking, and what has to be provided in the immediate future. The dangers are not insurmountable ; they must be surmounted. Our object is to train public opinion, so that all, from the lowest to the highest, may cooperate in making Montreal and all other Canadian cities, the homes of a sound and progressive people within the opportunities which Canada affords. To this end we rejoice in having received the hearty support of all the numerous city associations, of all sects and peoples which have to do with the well-being of the child. Nor is this everything. Recognizing the importance of the work for the city, for the province and for the nation, our Mayor and aldermen, our provincial government and the federal authorities have each and all contributed liberally to the cost of this, this first Child Welfare Exhibition brought together in Canada, while in addition private citizens of Montreal have liberally aided our cause.

For all this help so generously given and for all the personal service and self sacrifice of the many loyal co-workers to whose efforts this Exhibition so eloquently testifies, we here record our grateful recognition.

On behalf of the Executive Committee.

J. G. ADAMI, } Presidents  
T. GAUTHIER, }

October 1st, 1912.