

NIAGARA ON EXHIBITION.

Impressed and pleased to a certainty were the two hundred or more guests of the Boards of Trade of the twin power cities of Niagara Falls in New York and Ontario with their reception on Saturday last, and with the wonders and delights exposed to them during what may be termed a fifteen-hour day-and-night jaunt. Steam and electricity seemed to be the watch-word of the time. Driven in electric trams to an electrically cooked breakfast at the Natural Food Factory on the United States side, we were zig-zagged about from one side of the great cataract to another. The Niagara Power Company, after showing us the wonders of their plant above and below ground, placed a steam locomotive and train at our disposal, to exhibit the great development which has ensued upon the completion of their power delivery. Factory after factory, from the aluminum plant to the carbide factory, the various lime works, and other establishments were overseen, and the industrial village which has been created close to the Falls as well as the great expanse—1,100 acres having been purchased by this company, not half of which is yet covered by industrial establishments—along the margin of the river which, if the motive force had been coal instead of electric power derived from the Falls, must have been as black and grimy as Sheffield itself. Lunch at the Ramapo Iron Works gave pause to our waiting appetites.

A striking thing it was to see the power houses of this great concern, the Niagara Falls Power Co., which has been supplying electric power to Buffalo for some eight years. It is generally supposed the first of the group of power companies which cluster about both sides of the Falls. But this belief is incorrect. The first was the Hydraulic Power & Manufacturing Co., which used power in the early seventies. It is said to command 30,000 horse-power. To be taken 160 feet below the surface to see at that depth the huge whirling spindles on which revolved the generators, capable of producing 105,000 horse-power was for us a stirring experience indeed. The larger proportion of this power is supplied to the industries on the eastern bank of the river, but a great proportion of it goes to the lighting of Buffalo and to the supplying motive force for various purposes in that city.

From great distances came the guests of this occasion. Boston, Worcester, Marlboro', Newark, New York, Albany, Cleveland, Montreal, Ottawa, Toronto, Brantford, Hamilton, Rochester, as well as Buffalo, and the twin cities gave their quota. And most effective were the officers of the day, marshalled by that marvel of energy, E. H. Taylor, of the Niagara Falls, N. Y., Board of Trade, chairman of the joint committee. Care had been taken to secure, among other requisites of a day's enjoyment, proper weather, and so there was no need to complain of "the uncertain glories of an April day." The skies were blue and clear, ozone plentiful, the physical and the moral atmosphere bracing, the great cataract was at every man's eye and ear. It was every body's chance; and if any one did not enjoy the day the fault was in himself or in his star.

Down the United States side we went, by the Gorge Route; across the most northerly bridge to feast our eyes and imaginations on the tossing rapids or the circling maelstrom; back by the Canadian Electric Railway. Too short was the time to absorb all the wonders of the cluster of stations of three electric companies, namely, the Ontario Power Co., the Canadian Niagara Power Co., and the Electrical Development Company of Ontario, built and building on the Ontario shore, intended to harness "Nee-a-gahra, Father of Waters," for the purposes of man. The array of stone and concrete walls above the waters and below, the power-houses and transforming stations, graceful as massive, the back-ground of green bank, with slopes and terraces, the expanse of foaming water beyond—such a sight as compels the man of fancy and the men of fact to pay tribute to the daring skill of the engineers and the enterprise of the men of capital who are, so to speak, "behind the gun."

The wondering and excited party scattered themselves over the various works, the fore-bay and gathering dam of the Ontario Power Company, the rampart-like retaining walls,

the masses of new-laid concrete some day soon to be hidden forever from sight by rushing water; the huge steel conveyors, the great spaces of unwatered rock in the Electrical Development Company's property, sunnied for centuries, the cavern-like wheel-pits that looked like canal locks 100 feet deep, the cranes, dredges, engines, cars, and the pigmy-like workmen so insignificant among the larger and inanimate objects around them—all this scene of activity and promise filled the eye and filled the mind with wonder what all this industrial landscape would look like when the plans of all three companies should be completed, and the ideal of the Canadian Park Commissioners be realized. The first-named of these companies has a power house (220,000 horse) under the cliff, below the Horse Shoe Fall, and a transformer station at top of cliff overlooking the landscape. The great walls, low arches, and curving white masonry of the gathering dams, the stateliness of the large buildings, the green terraces and sloping banks against which they were relieved, gave assurance that, as speed, one of the American visitors expressed it, Johnny Canuck will have a pleasing effect of art and nature to offer in contrast to the ragged and ugly defacements which Uncle Sam has permitted to exist these many years on the east bank below the cataract.

Very agreeable people were these visitors from the East, and one could learn a lot from them. On one occasion I sat beside a New Yorker of rapid utterance, whose language was as full of slang as Billy Baxter's Letters, decorated occasionally with phrases that suggested Chinamie Fadden's scarcely veiled profanity. On another my neighbor was a Massachusetts man, slow and precise of speech, so slow and oratorical, indeed, whether talking business or telling a story, that he recalled the down-east Alfred Jingle who, not having coin enough to pay for his lodging and drinks overnight, made the tavern-keeper a speech of thanks in which he regretted his empty pocket, but promised that "When the Aurora of Morn shall again gild the eastern horizon, I will, with a suitable remuneration, reward your munificent hospitality." They were interesting people, however; one of them, a New Jersey man, most attractive in manner and a perfect mine of anecdote and quotation, besides being extremely well-informed in the field of industry and commerce.

It was a pretty notion to have the banquet held in that striking and unexpected building, formerly, "The Hospice" of the Carmelite Brethren, situate two miles up the river on the Canadian shore. This is to-day a well-appointed modern hotel, where more than two hundred of us sat down, under the effective chairmanship of W. German, M.P., for Welland County. We listened to addresses of an instructive kind: one upon "Technical Education" by Mr. Harold W. Buck, electrical director of the Niagara Falls Power Company; on "The Uses of Electricity in a Modern Plant," by Calvin W. Rice of the General Electric Company, and Paul M. Lincoln of the Westinghouse Company; and a "Review of the Growth of Manufacturing Interests in Canada," by Mr. Edward Gurney, of Toronto. The day's entertainment had been arranged by the Boards of Trade of the twin power cities to show the manufacturers all the advantages of Niagara Falls as a location for every kind of manufactory. And it must be said that this object was attained. This "Manufacturers' Day," as it was termed upon the menu, April 28th, will live long in the memories of those who were privileged to be of the party.

—It is pleasing to hear that a grant is to be given by the Dominion Government to an exhibition in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, during the coming autumn. The amount of the grant, we are told, is ten thousand dollars. In aid of the same project a sum of four thousand dollars will be given by the Government of Prince Edward Island. During the four months or more that will elapse before that event takes place, we hope that many Ontario and Quebec people will make arrangements to visit that beautiful Province. They may take their automobiles as well as their fishing rods and bathing suits.