

# SCIENTIFIC CANADIAN

## MECHANICS' MAGAZINE

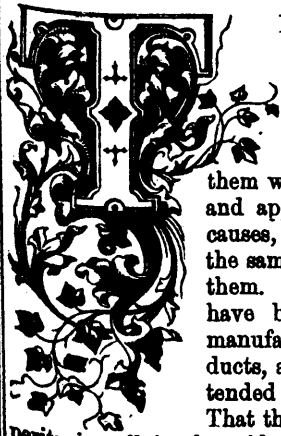
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### NOTE AND COMMENT.



HIS has been a month of exhibitions, one following closely on the heels of another. The material prosperity of the country has been emphasized by two facts in relation to them widely differing in themselves, and apparently pointing to different causes, but, in reality, both requiring the same inference to be drawn from them. The exhibitions, as a rule, have been poorly filled as regards manufactures and other home products, and they have been largely attended by spectators of all classes. That the latter is an evidence of prosper-

ity is sufficiently evident. A large attendance on the exhibition grounds means a certain amount of money in the hands of the farmers and others, and a willingness to spend it, born of the prosperous times. But curiously enough the generable prosperity is answerable no less for the general poverty of the exhibits. The fact of the matter is that manufacturers throughout the country are booking orders more rapidly than they can fill them, and many have found an absolute impossibility at once to keep pace with their custom and spend time in preparing an exhibit. We have heard even of several cases in which would-be exhibitors were compelled by rush of business to deliver to customers the goods prepared for exhibition. This was particularly the case in Halifax, where in consequence the Machinery Hall was almost empty, and the whole show suffered from the over goodness of the times.

Much the same story is told in Montreal and Toronto, although not visible perhaps to the same extent. The agricultural side was probably the best here, and did real credit to the exhibitors. But the industrial exhibits were not on the whole up to what we had a right to expect, and the mechanical department was really nowhere. Of machinery, the only objects worthy of special notice were the silk weaving machine, of Mr. Corriveau, and the exhibit of the Electric Light Company, both of which attracted, and worthily, a great deal of attention from the public. On the whole, however, the Montreal Ex-

hibition of 1881, was a decided advance upon that of last year, as it was undoubtedly far better attended. Much good may and ought to come out of these exhibitions if only they are approached in the right spirit on both sides. They ought to be a useful school for the mechanics of the country, and it is to this use of them that we invite the Committees of future industrial fairs to turn their attention. There are many ways in which such an exhibit as ought to occupy the machinery hall might be utilized even during the brief space of an exhibition, and the mechanic who goes even to an indifferent exhibition with his eyes open may carry away much that will help him in his work. All that is required is a little systematization, perhaps a descriptive catalogue, certainly an endeavor to get together an exhibit that shall be at once a credit to the exhibitors and a real benefit to the visitors and this has hardly been done as yet.

M. NAUDIN, the well-known author of so many beautiful works on hybrid plants, urges the culture of fruit trees in pots either as a pleasure or a source of profit. Plants fed by the delicate extremities of their roots called spongiols or hairs; now the more of these root hairs a plant possesses the more energetic will be its growth. When being transplanted into the pot, the main roots ought to be shortened; this will induce fasciules to be formed and stop the development of the pivot-root. Pot culture hastens the fructification of young trees and augments their fertility, more it enables new varieties to be produced by crossings as isolation is more favored. The hint is one which will be of great value to arboriculture generally, and which professional fruit growers in particular should not fail to profit by.

THE official announcement has been made of the appointment of a Royal Commission in England "to inquire into the instruction of the industrial classes of certain foreign countries in technical and other subjects, for the purpose of comparison with that of the corresponding classes in this country, and into the influence of such instruction on manufacturing and other industries at home and abroad." The Commissioners appointed are— Mr. R. Samuelson, M.P., Professor Roscoe, Mr. P. Magnus, Mr. J. Slagg, M.P., Mr. T. Smith, and Mr. W. Woodhall, M.P., all excellent gentlemen in their way, but scarcely