



The Old Exhibition Grounds.

For some time the disposal of the old exhibition site has been a source of trouble to aldermanic minds. Various schemes have been put forward; some people have even offered to buy it; still the city clings tenaciously to it as if it were a treasure we were loath to part with. Someone made the suggestion a few years ago (and we believe it was seriously entertained) that a wide avenue should be opened through the middle thereof, and the land on both sides divided into building lots for houses of a particularly fine character, the erection of such houses to be subject to municipal approval. We hardly see the force of running an avenue through the middle of the plot. It would mean that the houses on one side would turn their backs on Morris Street, which might easily be made into a very nice thoroughfare. It would be a shortsighted policy, to our way of thinking, that would spoil one good street to open up another. The hospital enclosure is now filled with handsome trees, for which reason, if the exhibition plot were to be divided into building lots, some of the houses to be built thereon should face Morris Street. If the City Council wish to make a residential portion there, it would be much more logical to widen Morris Street a little at that point, and open a new street parallel to it, running from Tower Road to connect with College Street, and be in the nature of an extension of the latter. As building lots running between the street so opened and Morris would be very deep, there would be room for building nice residences on this street also.

But we do not think this the wisest purpose to which the land could be devoted. There being time now to consider to what purpose it could be used in order to beautify the city—and that is something we ought to keep ever in mind—we think our city fathers should

consider whether it might not be well to set it aside for, say, educational purposes. Suppose a number of institutions were planted there, with ample grounds and noble trees lifting their lofty forms to cast a grateful shade in summer; would not that be better than a collection of houses? There would be economy in the idea. Educational institutions should be brought close together, just as banks, insurance offices, publishing houses, etc., have a tendency to gather together in communities of their own. Dalhousie College, the Halifax Medical College, the Convent of the Sacred Heart, and the School for the Blind are already in close neighborhood one to the other in that part of the city. If all the land between Dalhousie and the School for the Blind were filled with educational institutions of various kinds, all more or less closely affiliated, what an admirable centre it would be, from which culture might emanate to the whole province. It would thus become the centre of our provincial intellectual life. There are such centres in other Canadian provinces. Why should we not build up one in Halifax? There is a good opportunity to begin right away.

To illustrate how this might be done. At present the County Academy is wretchedly overcrowded, and not half well enough equipped. Moreover, it is miserably situated. The time is at hand when a new building is needed. What site could be more appropriate? The Halifax Medical College is an institution of which the city has a right to be proud. Doing such excellent work as it does, and representing the personal sacrifice of many of our city physicians, it should be encouraged. Why would not the city mark off a lot of land there for this institution to build upon when the governors find themselves in a position to put up a much-needed new building? The Victoria School of Art and Design must put up a building some day. Could there be a better location than in the neighborhood of other educational institutions? Then we must have a technical school soon, and there would be great economy in placing it with the rest on the old exhibition grounds. And a provincial museum some day might also be erected there. And there are others perhaps that we might think of. Is not the idea a good one?

For Educational Development.

If our readers wish to have an idea of what we would be laying the foundations of in devoting the old exhibition plot to such purposes, let them look at page eleven of the December number of the Ladies' Home Journal. We need something along the same lines as the two university settlements depicted there. Of course ours would have to be more humble. But we should emulate them to the very utmost. Indeed, it is almost discouraging to think of \$25,000,000 being devoted to higher educational purposes in California, while in Nova Scotia it is hard to get twenty-five thousand. But it won't do to get discouraged. We have not many wealthy people to depend upon, but that's where the city and the provincial governments should come in and provide endowments. The city could easily afford to set aside the plot of land we speak of as its contribution. It would be a paying investment, for it is a source of wealth to some of our citizens to bring students here to prose-

cute their studies. And we think the city ought to do it to encourage educational enterprise, for education is the mainspring of national development. Education means intelligence, intelligence means progress. The most certain guarantee of the future prosperity of the United States is the large intellectual life that is being fostered there by newly-endowed universities, libraries and kindred institutions. As long as we fail to devote the greatest amount of money and energy that we possibly can to educational purposes we are sure to lag behind in the race for any kind of supremacy. There is a great deal in this assertion, and the sooner we realize it thoroughly the better. The United States is bound to outbid us in every particular unless we stir ourselves a bit in this respect. That may be established as an axiom. It is a proposition that is self-evident. That is why we take the liberty of making the suggestion above discussed. We hope that it will meet with genuine approval, for we are in earnest regarding the development of the province. If we were not anxious to see it progress we would not take the trouble either to conceive or express the above ideas.



To Encourage Tourist Traffic.

We have had a few seasons of comparatively successful tourist travel to this province, and it can now be said that this business opens up a profitable field for enterprise. We should take advantage of it. While all efforts to develop manufactures and other industries are commendable, there is no progressive step that would be so easy to take as this. The natural beauty of our scenery and the superb summer climate are so delightful to visiting Americans that the only way by which we may keep them out after a while will be to refuse them decent accommodation. It is a business that will grow largely of itself, yet it is not wise to leave things to their own course. We should supplement the natural attractions by suitable advertising and the development of our facilities for catering to tourists' wants. In this way we may attract more visitors hither, we may attract a better class than have been coming, and thereby reap a harvest of golden dollars every summer.

The Government of Nova Scotia should feel itself responsible to the people for the development of the tourist traffic. For a government's functions should not merely be the supervision of revenues and expenditures. There are sins of omission that are scarcely secondary to sins of commission. In a matter like this, in which the whole people are interested (and in every matter in which the people have an interest), it is the duty of the Government to keep its eyes open and organize efforts for the advancement of the general good. This is so whether the people ask it or not. It is a good government that is constantly on the watch to improve conditions in order to bring about increased prosperity. We think that the tourist business is something that could properly come under the care of our own Provincial Government, and that appropriations should be made for its encouragement. It is worth while spending a few thousand dollars every year to bring along millions. Hence The Bluenose's anxiety to see the proposition carefully considered by the Premier and his Cabinet.