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GOVERNMENT LITERATURE.

During the Centennial Exhibition just brought to a close, it was very gratifying to notice the favorable consideration which the representation of the Dominion received on all hands. To multitudes the country had been naught but a miserable forsaken-like wilderness, somewhere in a mysterious part of the frigid zone, only capable of occupying the position of a respectable nonentity amongst other colonies and nations. But the practical proofs of the country's capabilities were beyond cavil, their modesty bearing the convincing stamp of genuineness and honesty. Not only was surprise occasioned on discovering ours to be a flourishing agricultural people, but that the manufacturing interests also are of no mean order. But while these things could be said of the exhibits made, and while these same exhibits produced impressions so favorable as to actually benefit Canadian trade prospects in more than one direction, yet there was one particular in which we were sadly lacking, and in marked contrast to several other countries represented, viz., the possession of a suitable class of Government literature for distribution in ways

to prove of subsequent advantage. It has been remarked to us that information respecting the Dominion in the hands of our representatives was merely such as could be produced in the form of stray pamphlets, local reports, or year-books which were little else than almanacs referring to diverse matters, none of them carrying official recognition, or, if so, being barely deserving of notice unless from specialists in the subjects separately and discursively treated. These facts lead one to remark upon an apparent lack of appreciation and enterprise in official quarters, at times and in circumstances when the furtherance of the best interests of the country might be expected. In the ordinary management of a commercial concern, small hopes of success may be entertained in the absence of zealous forethought. Just so in a young colony, whose main hopes lie in the future; the present requires to be paved in view of what is to come—or rather, of what it is desirable should appear as the ultimate reward for present service. Here then our desires and needs are towards population,—people of means both pecuniary, physical, and intellectual. The capabilities of the country are undoubted; the field unbounded. But in order to satisfy these requirements, there should be no shortsightedness; special inducements must be originated and made known, in order that immigration may be encouraged. There are many ways in which these may be afforded, and approval should not be denied those whose efforts have been wisely devised and exerted. But among the agencies in vogue, probably none may exercise greater influence than good and suitable information, prepared in a form at once readable and respectable. The class of emigration documents heretofore issued in the interests of this country, have usually, it is regrettable to say, been of a meagre and unsatisfactory character—rather what might be more forcibly than elegantly termed cheap and nasty. Hence there is undoubted room for improvement. These thoughts have been stimulated very largely, as the result of examining certain publications which were in circulation at Philadelphia, and in the hands of the Commissioners of the countries to which they appertained. The first we refer to is a work upon South Australia, its history, resources and productions; it is a volume of over 400 pages, printed in the best style of a prominent publishing house in England; and has been prepared at the request and by the authority of the Government of that colony. It is liberally illustrated with maps, and beautiful photographs of leading

cities, and their most prominent buildings; also views of important mining localities, while illustrations of the various departments of land and stock-farming are also given. This book was prepared as a Handbook to accompany the Commissioners of that colony, and was compiled by the best talent that could be procured, special branches being treated by those best informed upon them. The matter is in a very readable style, the chapters all being short and concise, and throw light upon the following, amongst other, subjects: the extent of the country; history of its pioneers; its physical features; centres of population; government and laws; the judicature; land and land laws; railways; mines and mining; internal trade; industries; immigration; religion; education;—followed by appendices on Flora and Fauna, mines and minerals, meteorology, and varied and thorough statistics upon many important questions. The other book we allude to is published by the Government of Brazil, giving about 500 pages of interesting and readable information, upon every conceivable subject in connection with the natural and physical, political, religious, social, and commercial features of that remarkable Empire. This work was published in two or three languages, French and English being particularly chosen. Did space permit, it would be profitable and interesting to give many extracts from these valuable works; but the mere reference must suffice. The point to be made, however, is in respect to the praiseworthy spirit of industry and enterprise manifested by the publication of such works. The expense has doubtless been very considerable; but those Governments have shown a true appreciation of the requirements of people who would be inclined to consider a transfer of residence to their soil. The contrast between these and the information sent forth from this country is very marked; and it is to be hoped that the example shown on this and other points by countries equally anxious with us to compete for a foreign population, will not be without producing a salutary effect upon us. We do not mean to say that publications so elaborate are a necessity; but certainly there can be no difference of opinion as to the importance of the Dominion having its position and advantages set forth, perhaps in less bulky form, but with equal variety, clearness and respectability. The Handbook is really needful,—not an almanac bearing the name of a handbook,—but an accurate and sensible production of which the country would have no reason to feel ashamed.