

the Hon. Adam Ferguson. The President's prize of \$120 for the best stallion was taken by Thomas Blanchard, of Toronto Township, while for the best saddle horse Mr. E. C. Jones, of Toronto, was the successful contestant. The Canada Company's prize for wheat, amounting to \$100, was awarded to Mr. J. B. Carpenter, of Townsend, while R. L. Denison, of Toronto, took the same Company's prize, amounting to \$24, for the best 112 lbs. of flax.

I quote the *Examiner* for a few remarks. It says: "On Thursday and Friday mornings the show was opened with an imposing procession of several thousands, horses to the number of eighty, and cattle of the different classes, including Durham, Devon and Ayrshire bulls, cows, horses, oxen, etc., besides a large number of carriages and horsemen. The procession, which was preceded by a band, formed on the County of York Show Ground, near the gaol. The display of horses, as it moved along King, Yonge and Queen Streets, to the Exhibition Grounds, was perhaps the most attractive sight to agriculturists at least, and we doubt not also to citizens, that was to be seen during the Fair."

Five more years passed away before Toronto was again visited by the Provincial Exhibition and in that five years many important, even startling changes took place. Up to that date it had been the custom whenever such buildings were required to accommodate machinery, agricultural produce and other articles unsuitable to be shown in the open air, to erect wooden buildings on the site chosen for the Exhibition, and these were removed as soon as they were no longer useful. In 1857, though, a new departure took place and the building known at the time as the Crystal Palace was erected. This stood about 500 yards directly

south of the centre dome of the Provincial Lunatic Asylum; as nearly as possible the centre of the building was situated where the King Street viaduct begins on the east. There was really very little glass used in the construction of this pavilion, it was crystal in little else than name. In its centre, on the ground floor, was a large fountain, in the basin of which during the week that the Exhibition was open, gold and silver fish were placed, and there they swam about to the great amusement and delight of the younger portion of the visitors to whom, even then, it had already developed into a very great show. It is not necessary for me to go into the history of the decadence of the Provincial, and the rise of what we now know as the Industrial Exhibition. The latter is an outcome of the former, which, as the country developed, had outgrown its usefulness; it was too strong for Toronto and the district immediately surrounding it, and not strong enough for the whole of the Province, consequently, local exhibitions and fairs in the smaller towns were instituted, and these towns gradually withdrew their support from it.

In this necessary fragmentary address I have only been able to give an account of the early Exhibitions in the most sketchy manner. I have been compelled to omit the names of many worthy agriculturists and public men who were associated with the development of these earlier shows, and who, in that and other respects, rendered splendid service to their country. Should any person, though, who has heard me, be at all desirous of obtaining further facts I shall be delighted upon his applying to me either personally or by letter to supply him with all the information that I possess.

