

auditorium with a seating capacity of 5,000. In this auditorium the sessions of the International Commercial Congress will be held and concerts will be given every afternoon and evening by the leading musical organizations of the country. The building covers an area of nine acres and there is an area of floor space aggregating twelve and one-half acres.

Every line of American manufactured products which is, can or might be exported, from locomotives and the heaviest machinery to the smallest novelties, is to be exhibited.

Delegates from Chambers of Commerce and other commercial organizations all over the world will be present. Every foreign government has been invited, through the State Department at Washington, to send an official representative. The Philadelphia Commercial Museum has also invited 20,000 foreign business houses with which it is in close correspondence to send representatives to the Exposition.

In addition to the foreign exhibit of samples in foreign markets there will be a department in which will be shown how goods must be packed, labeled and shipped, in order to meet the requirements of foreign trade.

On October 10th, an International Commercial Congress will convene in the Exposition Auditorium in connection with the meeting of the International Advisory Board of the Philadelphia Commercial Museum. This Congress is likely to prove one of the most beneficial results of the exposition.

Canadian manufacturers and exporters should avail themselves of this opportunity to learn the lessons that their American competitors are preparing to teach.

THE FOURTH CONGRESS OF CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE, 1900.

The London Chamber of Commerce, through its Secretary, Mr. Kenric B. Murray, has sent to the Canadian Manufacturers' Association a prospectus having reference to the Fourth Congress of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire which is to convene in London towards the end of June next year. This date is selected as likely to be suitable to the convenience of a large number of Colonial merchants, who, it is expected, will be attending the Paris Exhibition in 1900. Mr. Murray was instructed to invite the Canadian Manufacturers' Association to co-operate in this Congress.

A representative Organizing Committee, which had been formed for the purpose, at a meeting held in June, approved of the following list of topics as likely to afford material for discussion at the Congress:—1. Commercial Relations between the Mother Country and her Colonies and Dependencies. 2. Inter-Colonial Trade Relations. 3. Foreign and Colonial Bounties. 4. Foreign Competition. 5. Boards of Labor Conciliation and Arbitration. 6. Codification of the Commercial Law of the Empire. 7. Bills of Exchange: Uniform Procedure. 8. Bills of Lading Reform. 9. Commercial Education. 10. The Decimal System of Weights, Measures and Currency. 11. Light Dues. 12. Railways: Light Railways: Railway Communication with India and the East. 13. Secret Commissions. 14. Arbitration for Internal Disputes. 15. Imperial Trade Marks Registration and Patent Law. 16. Cable Communication: Construction, Rates, Codes. 17. Steamship Communication: Rates, Subsidies, War Risks, Insurance. 18. Closer Connection between Governments and Chambers of Commerce by establishment

of Commercial Advisory or Consultative Councils, Home and Colonial. 19. Supply of Government Publications to Chambers of Commerce and Mutual Interchange of Documents. 20. Representation of United Kingdom in Colonies, and in other parts of the Empire for the promotion of Mutual Trade. 21. Appointment of an Imperial Council to consider commercial questions of Imperial interest. 22. Copyright. 23. Municipal Trading.

Included in the Organizing Committee as representing Canadian interests are Lord Strathcona, High Commissioner for Canada at London, and Lieut.-Gen. John W. Laurie, M.P., Chairman of the Canadian Trade Section of the London Chamber of Commerce.

The list of commercial associations invited to participate in the Congress embraces all the commercial bodies in the British Empire, including the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. It is quite certain that in due time the Association will appoint a strong delegation of experienced business men from the roster of its membership as representatives to the Congress.

AS TO ACETYLENE GAS.

The Canadian Electrical News publishes a tabulated statement covering four of its pages which purports to show a record of the acetylene gas plants installed throughout Canada, the summary showing the total number of generators to be 217; number discontinued 62, number in use 155, and number of accidents arising from their use 30.

We have not attempted to verify these figures, but from statements made by some of the manufacturers of acetylene lighting plants we are led to believe that the information contained in the Electrical News is very inaccurate, and it is certainly unfortunate that our contemporary should allow itself to set forth a condition that it cannot possibly prove. The production of calcium carbide by electrical energy for commercial purposes is a very recent Canadian discovery, and the utilization of the article for domestic lighting purposes has resulted in the establishment of a new industry not only in Canada but in many other countries, which has evidently come to stay. In this country there are already established quite a large number of factories for making acetylene gas generators, and we think we are quite within bounds when we estimate the number of such generators now in successful use as not less than one thousand. So-called "accidents" may result from their use, growing out of ignorance concerning the properties of the gas, the same as similar accidents result from the use of the ordinary illuminating gas, but such occurrences do not demand the abandonment of either.

The Electrical News should hasten to explain itself.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

NOTICE.—A general meeting of the Canadian Manufacturers' Association will be held in the Board Room on the grounds during the time of Toronto's Great Industrial Fair, which opens on August 29th. The meeting has been called for 2.30 o'clock in the afternoon of Tuesday, September 5th, and it is hoped that every member of the Association, and all manufacturers who may be in attendance at the Fair, will be present, as matters of much interest to them will be presented and discussed.