

# REPORT

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## INTRODUCTION.

The French decrees for the Exhibition of 1878 were dated in April, 1876, and became law about the 1st of August, when France assumed the undertaking as a Government work, in concert with the city of Paris, which city contributed 6,000,000 francs. The British Commission was gazetted on 23rd January, 1877, with the Prince of Wales as President, and upon the same day His Royal Highness addressed the Colonial Secretary and expressed the pleasure he should feel in learning that the various Governments of the Colonies "have determined to take a prominent part in making a suitable representation." A circular was sent by the Colonial Secretary, 16th February, 1877, to each of the Colonial Governments, in which he said:—"The distinguished success which crowned the labors of the Colonial Commissioners at the Philadelphia Exhibition in 1876, encourages me to hope that no effort will be wanting on the part of your Government to respond to the wishes of His Royal Highness." On 26th February, His Royal Highness announced that space available for Great Britain and her Colonies had been allotted to the "collective British Empire," the application for which must be made through the Imperial Executive, and pledged himself to use his best endeavors to promote equitable distribution of available space between the United Kingdom and the Colonies in proportion to their several requirements.

The Parliament of Canada having made an appropriation, intending exhibitors were invited, on 25th May, to make application for space, and upon 1st June a circular was sent by the Minister of Agriculture to the principal Canadian exhibitors at the Centennial, enclosing printed rules, &c., and saying that "the expressed desire of His Royal Highness will, I am sure, meet with a quick response from every Province of the Dominion. The proud position you have taken at the Centennial will be an additional inducement for you to put prominently before the nations of Europe the valuable collection exhibited by you at Philadelphia." The Secretaries and the Executive Commissioner were appointed in July, and immediately set about the canvassing for and collection of exhibits. The Director of the Geological Survey was also instructed by the Government to prepare a mineral collection for Paris.

## PREPARATION—LARGE MAP.

As this was the first occasion in which the Dominion would appear as an exhibitor among the nations in the Old World, it was felt that a fuller exposition of where and what the new comer was, was needed for Paris than that for Philadelphia. The Canada which had appeared at London and Paris on former occasions was the old Province—Ontario and Quebec, and it was desirable to show that the country was now a Dominion from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and that it embraced an area about as large as that of the United States. This could best be accomplished by a map drawn upon a scale corresponding to the magnitude of the country. A scale of ten miles to the inch, the scale of published Provincial maps, was therefore adopted as the least which would exhibit the narrow peninsula between the great lakes. By omitting all small subdivisions, advantage was taken of the field of the map to illustrate, directly and