

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION AT QUEBEC.
(From the Quebec Mercury.)

Yesterday at one o'clock, the entrance to the Grand Provincial Exhibition was thrown open. The day being as beautiful as the most earnest supporter of the undertaking could have desired, and everything propitious, crowds of citizens were densely thronging from all directions to view the fair.

Usually on such occasions there is a great deal of unnecessary and disagreeable formality adopted by those entrusted to receive the tickets, but this department, thanks to Captain Rhodes, M.P.P., was conducted in a manner calculated to please all and prevent disagreeable crowding at the entry.

The site is without doubt the very best in the vicinity of Quebec that could have been selected for so large a show. Spacious and level, at a pleasant distance from town, and commanding as it does one of the finest views on the St. Lawrence, it offers all those advantages and attractions, which a place designed for such a display, should possess. The managers have not, that we could see, omitted anything calculated to make the fair pass off with eclat, and the arrangements generally reflect honor on those who designed and are carrying them out.

The first exclamation that escapes one on entering is "which way shall we go," for on all sides, and in all corners: crowds are seen pushing eagerly about, desirous that nothing may escape their observation. Yesterday the splendid band of Her Majesty's 71st regiment was on the ground, and ever and anon discoursed sweet music to the excited hundreds. The fountains which have been erected in the immense square are very beautiful, and they play occasionally to the delight of those who never before have had the opportunity of witnessing jets of such magnitude. We have not space nor time in this number to particularize each article or each collection of articles, but we may mention that the collection of cattle and fowls are well worthy of the attention of the most uninterested spectator. The vegetables and fruit for beauty and size, we have never seen surpassed.

The cursory glance which we have been able to bestow upon the varied marvels contained within the Building, inclines us to the belief that the anticipations we have entertained of the result will be realised, and that the Exhibition will receive a measure of recognition and support seldom equalled in this part of the country. We will endeavour to give a brief *catalogue raisonné* of the most striking and interesting objects.

The building is acknowledged by visitors from all parts of the United States and Canada to be the best arranged structure of the kind ever seen. It extends over twenty-four acres of ground, and cannot but meet with the admiration of all who view it. The sheds composing the building form three sides of a square, the entrance to which is from St. Lewis Road.

On entering the grounds and turning to the left, after passing the offices of the Com-mittees, &c., we came to the first department of the fine arts; on surveying this section we perceived that though there were several contributions of oil and water color paintings, engravings, &c., of merit, there were no specimens of the highest order of artistic genius—sculpture. Embroidery, crochet, and ladies' fancy work, occupied nearly the whole of the centre table in this department.

Miscellaneous articles too numerous to describe in our limits, occupied the spare room.

We were much struck by a splendid set of Furs from the well known establishment of J. Henderson & Co., of this city. For beauty and comfort they cannot be excelled anywhere.

The division of woollen manufacture shows examples from the coarsest productions of *classe du pays*, up to the finest example which the present state of the trade in Lower Canada permits it to produce.

Under manufactures we saw Saddlery of the best description from Montreal, and Mr. Auld's warehouse, Fabrique Street, which is worthy of notice.

Mr. Clovis Leduc of Montreal has brought down a very splendid barouche and wagon, and Mr. Gingras, Ursule Street, exhibits several well finished carriages. Leduc's carriages both took 1st prizes: they are highly ornamented with ivory and silver, mounted on improved single elliptic springs, and are valued at £75 and £125.

Mr. Craig, St. Paul Street, exhibits a set of gorgeous Drawing Room furniture in black walnut (native wood) also a centre and two side tables, with marble tops, the marble cut out of the solid block and finished in Quebec. Mr. Drum exhibited some magnificently finished chairs.

In the department of manufacture we may mention the carriages and Chinese furniture, and among the fine arts, the daguerreotype likenesses of Mr. Smith, of St. John street, attract universal attention and admiration.

The show of iron ware was very scant, there was a small show of stoves; an improved axletree by M. Huot, St. John Suburbs; specimens of horse-shoes by Mr. Howard, blacksmith, St. John Street, and a sample of nails from Messrs. Clinie, Simard & Co's Factory.

Mr. Moodie, of Montreal, and Mr. H. S. Scott, were the principal exhibitors of agricultural implements. The models of Agricultural utensils were innumerable.

Mr. Radon exhibits 10 specimens of Submarine Telegraph wire cable.

A variety of the Porpoise leather which obtained a prize at the World's Fair in 1851, was shown by Mr. Tétu.

The visitors must not fail to look at the beautiful Stained Glass windows from Messrs Ramsay and McArthur's, Montreal, painted by Spence. The subjects are "The Burial

of Christ," "The Virgin and Child," the Arms of Great Britain, and a Medieval design.

The Ottawa Glass Company has contributed its usual show of window and plate glass.

The class of naval architecture includes models of vessels, and plans, &c., of the same. The models are exceedingly numerous, and the display is calculated to prove that Quebec is decidedly "going ahead" in ship building. A yacht schooner built by a young aspirant for nautical fame commands much admiration.

Every variety of articles of Cooperage and Turned Ware are shewn. A turning lathe, the invention of a workman in the Ordnance Department, draws especial attention.

Though the specimens of Minerals are not numerous, they are very select, and the iron and copper ores are of superior quality. The St. Lawrence Mining Company display specimens of Gold in great variety. Anticosti marble, Stanstead granite, and Shipton slate, are good samples of Lower Canada building materials.

The Singing Bird Show, in the east wing, was not so large as we expected; there were, however, many choice birds on view.

The display of Poultry surpassed our most sanguine expectations, and 150 coops were filled with specimens. Here Mr. J. W. Platt, of New York, and Mr. Peacock, of Montreal, were exhibitors on a large scale. The display of Cattle is decidedly the best part of the Exhibition, and the sheds which are erected on the most approved principles occupy a space of 800 feet.

Notwithstanding appearance of rain, the attendance this afternoon was immense, being over 8,000 persons. The fine band of 26th was present this afternoon, and that of the St. Jean Baptist Society in the forenoon.

The trial of Engines occupied the whole day. The winning Engine of the first class was, we believe the Voltigeur Company's "Canadienne," built by Lemoine.

His Excellency the Governor General and suite arrived on the grounds soon after 2 o'clock, and were received with all the honours.

In the centre of the square is a fountain, to supply which, water has been brought from Lake St. Charles. A Reservoir has also been erected to supply the Fire Engines on the occasion of the "Great Trial," to-day. Tents in which flowers, fruit and garden productions are exhibited; confectionary and refreshments are sold; and "the skeleton brothers," and numerous phenomena shewn, fill up the area.

The menagerie belong to Mr. Guilbault, of Montreal, is on exhibition opposite the grounds, and immediately alongside," Mr. Bilin, a well made French giant, has taken up his temporary abode, and willingly receives visits from any who have curiosity