

port between that port and London docks at the rate of 17s. 6d. per ton, weight or measurement, the negotiations for transport from the docks to South Kensington being made by the Government at a rate of 7s. 8d. per ton of 40 cubic feet, and 11s. per ton of 2,240 lbs. It soon became apparent that the desire of the Prince of Wales to have all exhibits installed a fortnight prior to the date of the opening, would not be fulfilled, though in this respect Canada was no worse than her sister colonies. The most important failure was in the case of the large pictures of Canadian cities designed for the main entrance, for which eight large panels had been set apart. These pictures, although sent forward by the Messrs. Notman from Montreal on the 15th March, were detained week after week in the shippers' warehouses in Halifax, and all in London who were interested in the credit of the Dominion, had the mortification of seeing, long after the opening of the Exhibition, these still vacant spaces inscribed, in huge capitals, "Reserved for views to be received from Canada."

But notwithstanding all these shortcomings, the courts were in a presentable condition when the opening day arrived. Three days before that date the Prince of Wales inspected the Exhibition, and expressed himself much pleased with the state of readiness in which he found the several courts. The Prince was accompanied by myself and staff, and those who were so fortunate as to be present will ever remember that pleasant half hour.

On the 4th May, Her Majesty opened the Exhibition with a pomp and splendor which proved the high appreciation in which she holds her Colonial Dominions and her Indian Empire. The noble conception of the Prince of Wales now took visible form, thrilling the nation with a sense of its greatness, and for the first time in their history, bringing home to the English people the grandeur of the achievements of their race. The ability of the English press, unrivalled as it is, was taxed to give utterance to the rush of patriotic feeling called forth by this signal event. England's indebtedness to her colonies was fully realized and generously expressed. The economic objects of the Exhibition, to which its royal initiator had alone alluded, seemed to be forgotten in the momentous political consequences which appeared from the opening day. For, although the share of the Exhibition of the Colonies and India in the ever memorable rally round the throne which marked this year can never be estimated, no student of the contemporary press can doubt that it was great indeed.

From the hour of its opening, the Exhibition was pronounced to be by far the most attractive ever held in South Kensington, and it soon became apparent that the numbers visiting it would be very much greater than in any former instance. With practical men, seeking investment for capital, fields for enterprise, or inventions useful in the business of life or adding to its comforts, the Canadian section was the favorite. As I have said, the space originally allotted to Canada had been much more than taken up long before the shipments of the exhibits had commenced. As applications for space for very important exhibits continued to pour in, it became necessary to provide further accommodation; and although I succeeded in having