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TOPICS OF THE TIME

Showing Canada to the World

CANADA is beginning, none too soon, to "show off." The tendency to display is a common one in everyday life, and sometimes unpleasantly so; but what a man cannot safely do is often quite pardonable, and even desirable, in a nation. The doubtful modesty of Canadians has hitherto reflected itself too clearly in national affairs, and it is encouraging to note, even at this late day, that there is now a tendency to show off Canada to the world. It will no longer do to keep our national talents rolled up and hidden away.

One of the most successful attempts to advertise Canada that has yet been made is the Canadian exhibit at the World's Fair. Every Canadian visitor to St. Louis will find reason to be proud of his country, and to the thousands of other visitors the powers and resources that lie behind the display are proving a revelation. Good seed is being sown these summer months at the St. Louis Exposition that will bring forth fruit in future years. Attractive as the building and the exhibits are, there is an evident air of business about it all. Canada is advertising herself and is carrying on an active immigration canvass at the same time that she is helping to entertain the crowds.

Surely this kind of showing off is both justifiable and profitable. It has cost money, however, and a few weeks after the Fair

opened one or two of our members of Parliament raised objection to the policy of thus contributing to outside exhibitions. The Government intends sending exhibits to a number of coming fairs in England and the Continent, which these would-be economists deprecated as unwise expenditure. It is safe to say, however, that few people will agree with them. An appropriation of national funds, applied to as good purpose as at St. Louis, cannot but have a beneficial effect in making Canada better known to the world. We are now at a stage where we must do some national advertising, and that economy which would not dare to spend wisely now for future profits is surely false, or at least doubtful, economy. We have been modest long enough; it is time now to "show off" a little.

Protection for Canadian Labor

SOME attention has been paid of late to a phase of the labor problem not usually on the list. Strikes continue to be of frequent occurrence, and some of considerable importance have already made the situation uneasy. But another trouble has arisen in Canada out of the alleged employment of alien laborers on the new trans-continental railway surveys. It was asserted that workmen from the United States were given preference over Canadians, and the intervention of the Minister of Labor and a special commissioner was necessary before the difficulty was settled.