

British Association to Meet at Winnipeg

WE have much pleasure in drawing the attention of our readers to the great meeting of the British Association for the advancement of science, which event will take place the last week in August.

The last meeting of the Association in Canada (Toronto, 1897) was most successful, the number of members and associates present being 1362. During the twelve years that have since elapsed, great progress has been made in all branches of science, and it may confidently be anticipated that the forthcoming meeting will be of unusual scientific interest. The social success of the meeting depends largely upon the cordial support of the people of Manitoba and the Western provinces.

Much interest in the meeting has already been manifested in Canada and the United States, as well as in Great Britain, and it may reasonably be expected that a large number of scientists from both sides of the Atlantic will take advantage of the meeting—not only because of their interest in science, but in order to obtain a glimpse of the great Canadian West, and to meet its people. It is estimated that 400 to 500 members from Europe will be present, and it is hoped that the total number of members and associates attending the Winnipeg meeting will be at least 1,500.

The objects of the British Association are: To give a stronger impulse and more systematic direction to scientific enquiry; to promote the intercourse of those who cultivate science in different parts of the British Empire, with one another and with foreign philosophers; to obtain more attention for the objects of science, and the removal of any disadvantages of a public kind which impedes its progress. These objects it seeks to obtain by holding meetings in the principal towns and cities of the Empire; by appointing committees to investigate problems of special or general moment—such as those which concern crops and manures, effects of various conditions upon the growth of seeds and plants, meteorological observations and climatology (rainfall, temperature, etc.) the diseases of plants, the culture and preservation of food fishes, the protection of indigenous animals, the migration of birds, the natural history of unexplored regions, electrolysis, the phenomena of earthquakes, the teaching of science in elementary

schools, etc.; and by making grants of money in aid of such investigations.

This will be the fourth time only that the Association has met outside the British Isles; the previous occasions were: Montreal, 1884, Toronto 1897, and South Africa, 1905. The Annual Meeting of the Association lasts for one week, and it is perhaps the largest and most representative gathering of scientific men held in the year. The proceedings open with an address from the President; on the following days

meetings of the various sections are held, at which addresses are delivered, papers read, and discussions invited on subjects of general interest, special opportunity being given for the consideration of questions of local importance. On two evenings discourses are delivered by prominent men; during the week there are usually two conversaciones, open to all members and associates; and in Winnipeg two popular lectures will also probably be given free to the public.

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