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PROVINCIAL AGRICULTURAL  
AND  
**INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION,**  
1868.

OPENING CEREMONIES.

The Formal Opening of the Exhibition took place on Tuesday 6th October, at 2 o'clock, p. m. It had been arranged that the opening ceremonies should be carried out at the Grand Stand in the centre of the cattle field; but the doubtful state of the weather induced a change in the arrangements, and the whole proceedings were conducted in the Drill Shed. His Excellency General Doyle, Lieut. Governor of the Province, was escorted by a Guard of Honour of H. M. 47th Regiment. Besides Members of the Committee and others who took part in the proceedings, there was a large concourse of spectators.

The Hon. Chief Justice Young, on behalf of the Commissioners, presented to His Excellency the following

ADDRESS.

*To His Excellency Major-General Charles Hastings Doyle, Lieutenant-Governor of Nova Scotia, &c., &c., &c.*

The Commissioners of the Provincial Agricultural and Industrial Exhibition, have much gratification in meeting your Excellency at this opening ceremony, and in announcing the completion of the useful and extensive undertaking with which they have been entrusted.

It would be needless for the Commissioners to dwell upon the importance and

advantages of periodical exhibitions; of the progress made in the various branches of agricultural and manufacturing industry of a country. The great and universally admitted success which has attended such exhibitions in the Parent Country, in France, in the United States, and in Eastern and Western Canada, has established their value beyond the reach of controversy. While they afford an unerring means of determining the progress made by a people in the various pursuits of art and industry in the period which has elapsed since any former exhibition, they tend largely to foster that progress by the legitimate stimulus which they supply to every department of industrial pursuits.

Five years ago the Legislature provided, by Act, for Exhibitions every third or fourth year in central localities in the Province, and two years ago the time for the first exhibition was definitely fixed by Resolution of the House of Assembly for the present year, and the Legislature pledged themselves to provide the necessary funds. Last year the sum of \$6000 was voted and drawn, and this year a further grant of \$3000 was given by the present Legislature. The Agricultural Societies have contributed \$1400 and the Fruit Growers' Association \$100

The amount of prizes offered is \$10,000, and the Commissioners are therefore obliged to look to the receipts from admission tickets to defray the heavy expenses incurred in making the necessary arrangements.

The progress made since the last Provincial Exhibition, which was held in the year 1854, under your Excellency's predecessor, Sir Gaspard LeMarchant, will perhaps afford the best evidence of the value of periodical competitions. Thus

while in 1854 the total number of exhibitors was 1260, and total number of articles was 3010, the entries in the present exhibition show a marked advance, there being 4000 articles entered for competition, and a large increase in the number of exhibitors. But it is not only in the number of animals or articles exhibited for competition that the Commissioners believe the highest evidence of progress will be found, but a more striking proof will be afforded in the additional branches of industry represented and in the higher standard of excellence attained. As one evidence of this, it may be mentioned that through the efforts of the Provincial Agricultural Board, in importing improved breeds of cattle, we have, for the first time in this Province, thorough-bred animals in several classes exhibited for competition, while the wealth and vast extent of our mineral resources, whose development may be said to be yet only in its infancy, are indicated by the exhibition of ores and minerals from the various mining districts of the Province.

The labor of preparing for an exhibition on so large a scale as this has been very great, but the Commissioners, with the valuable aid of their efficient Secretaries, to whom the success of the exhibition is largely due, feel rewarded for all their toil and anxiety in the result, of which the noble collection now about to be opened to the public by your Excellency, is the most gratifying evidence.

To your Excellency personally, the Commissioners have to tender their thanks for the cordial assistance which they have always received at your hands, and especially for the use of the field devoted to the exhibition of animals, which your Excellency has so kindly placed at their