

NOTES RE CENTRAL CANADA EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION.

The only Fair held in Ottawa previous to 1887 was a Provincial Fair which was held in the different Cities in Ontario and visited Ottawa in 1887. The only other Fair in the district was an Annual one held by the County of Carleton at Bells Corners. The first exhibition held by the C. C. E. Association opened on September 24th, 1888, and was officially declared open by the Governor General, Lord Stanley. The President was Mr. Charles Magee, Mr. R. C. W. McCuaig, Secretary, and Mr. R. J. Devlin, Treasurer.

The total receipts for the first Exhibition were approximately \$12,000.00.

The first exhibition was held on the present location, Lansdowne Park. The original building of which the present Dog Show Building was a wing, was situated in the centre of the Race Track. There was no evening show, just held during the day and the admission to the first exhibition was 25¢. Due to the efforts and interest taken by Col. Hutchinson who was reputed to be one of the greatest showmen of his time, an evening show was started in the Old Rideau Skating Rink, where they held a Pony and Dog Show.

The Aberdeen Building now known as the Manufacturer's Building was built during the regime and named after, The Earl of Aberdeen who followed Lord Stanley as Governor General.

Due to the necessity of paying a toll at the old toll gate situated between Gladstone and McLeod Streets if travelling by road, the popular means of transportation to the exhibition in its earlier days was by Boat from the old basin situated across from the present Union Station to the wharf which was opposite the Race Track at Lansdowne Park.

From the small beginning in 1888 with one building the exhibition has grown to its present stage with- Manufacturer's, Grandstand Pavilion, Horticultural, Pure Food, General Purpose, Handicrafts, Experimental Farm, Dog Show, Coliseum Buildings together with Rest Rooms and Horse Stable. In addition to Industrial, commercial and government department exhibits, the exhibition has also the following competitive departments;- Horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, dog show, horticulture, and agriculture, junior agriculture, dairy and other food products, baby show, child welfare, hobby show, women's institute displays, handicrafts, highland dancing, sports day, and trials of speed.

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