

PARIS EXHIBITION.

PARIS, June 6th, 1887.

MUCH has been said and written about the first view of the "Exposition Universelle." It has been compared to a gasometer, to a prison, to a levathan snake, and to a thousand other disagreeable objects; and I confess that I was one of the very many who described it, when in an unfeigned state, as the ugliest object I had ever beheld. Consistency should, perhaps, induce me still so to describe it. But, in common justice, I cannot do so. Painted as it is now, ornamented by flags, surrounded by the most brilliant equipages in the world, and eagerly sought by the most richly-bedecked people in existence, the approach to the building is, as it is now beheld, most fascinating and attractive. Not that the edifice has changed its form in the slightest degree—not that the elevation is increased. No! it is still the same nest of oval galleries, wanting in height to give it architectural beauty, and a different form to express its true and astonishing magnitude—faults as much felt when inside as outside, since the roofs for the most part are very low, and the egg-like form of the building deprives the visitor of anything like a vista or prolonged view. The vanishing point is always, thanks to the circular plan of the whole, within fifty yards of the visitor. And yet, without all this, the approach to the Exhibition, as I said before, is pleasing to the eye, and the interior strikingly grand and picturesque. The grand principal gate opens on the *Avenue d'Honneur*, and is covered during its entire length, some 300 yards, by a green velvet awning spotted with golden bees, and looped up with cords and tassels of the same costly material. On the left of this road is situated the French park, on the right is that of the English. But though they are so called, they are by no means confined to these nationalities. For instance, the Great International Club, the Egyptian Temples and other edifices, the Tunisian palace, the Italian catacombs, and Mexican places of sacrifice, as well as the Chinese coffee-house and a score of other erections, intermingled with our gun sheds, our agricultural instruments and evangelist establishments; while, on the opposite side, the Emperor's pavilion is surrounded by Swiss establishments of various kinds. But to notice any of them is not the object of my present letter, which only is intended as a general cursory glance. Suffice it to say, you pass between theatres and churches, light-houses and shawl shops, temples, mosques, palaces, beaux arts, baby nurseries, picture shops, cannons and ploughs—in a word 211 different out-door exhibitions in the parks—before you enter—that is, if you so feel inclined—the Great Exhibition itself. Here the goods are divided into national departments, not according to the nature of the goods. Thus lovers of cutlery, or of drapery, of china, or of beaux arts, must walk from one end of the edifice to the other to follow up the inspect-on of his favourite study, even to touch lightly on any of the wonders. The commercial magnificence of the naves, tastefully displayed, would be a lengthened work. I, therefore, confine myself to the fact, that so many marvellous, beautiful objects as are here brought forward for display by the sixty-two thousand exhibitors, were never before assembled; and I think I may safely add that they cannot be truly seen and appreciated without at least fifty visits to the *Exposition Universelle*.

The first idea of this "world's fair" was well worthy of a great nation—a nation who thus invited the whole world to become her guests, and maser minds to improve the universe, by comparing their best works and exchanging their best thoughts. It was a bold (and has been a successful) attempt to make Paris the whole earth's capital.

This settled, the difficulty of finding a fitting site within the boundaries next arose. The search for such a spot was long and arduous, and ended by the Emperor giving up for twelve months his only extensive drilling round, the Champ de Mars—a level plain on which he could with ease manoeuvre 80,000 soldiers. But even this, though covering some 37 acres, was considered too small; and it was only by the great ingenuity of the architect, and the positive absence of architectural beauty, that it could be (as it has been) made to fulfil the desired purpose.

The next question which arose was the realization of a sum sufficient to defray the necessary expenses, which were estimated at 20,000,000 francs (£800,000). The Government gave 12,000,000 francs, and a number of rich capitalists guaranteed the remaining 8,000,000 francs.

This settled, the work began. The ground was cleared. The ironwork, which had all been previously formed in the workshops of the contractors, was brought to the spot—foreign commissioners were appointed, and the wondrous undertaking began to shew its form and figure.

Within three months the wonderful show was thrown open to the public under the most adverse circumstances. The exhibitors were culpably behindhand in sending in their goods. The elements seemed determined that the undertaking should not be completed; petty squabbles arose, and only those, like myself, who daily visited the spot during the progress of the work, can tell how impossible it seemed to inaugurate the building on the first of April. But the French Emperor seldom or never changes his plans so in spite of every opposition he opened the then unsuccessful Exhibition on the day appointed.

Every one growled—every one (including the representatives of the press) predicted the utter failure of the project, and indeed everything looked blank. The roads were knee deep in mud. The goods were still unpacked. The object of the originators of the mighty marvel had been changed. National glory was obscured

by the love of gain. The parks and alleys, the galleries and the outskirts, were sold at fabulous prices, and beauty was fairly aucufected by greed.

But a sudden change came over the spirit of the dream.

The weather has suddenly changed. Crowned heads have visited Paris, and millions of strangers have come over to gaze upon them as they have contemplated the glories of the great Exhibition. Napoleon the Third is no longer an unrecognised Sovereign. The King of Belgium, the King of Greece, the Emperor of Russia, the Queen of Portugal, the Prince of Wales, the Crown Prince of Prussia, and the Princess Royal of England, have already visited him, and very many of them have assembled while I write this despatch. They are guests of the Prisoner of Ham and a simple young lady of Scotch extraction. The King of Italy and the Queen of England are expected. The Viceroy of Egypt comes on the 14th inst. and (*mirabile dictu*) the Sultan will arrive for the first time in Europe on the 28th. All to do honour to Napoleon—thanks to the *Exposition Universelle*!!!

Who then shall call it a failure?

It has preserved the peace of Europe.

It has attracted the attention of the most distant nations.

It has made the fortune of its projectors.

It will leave on a most moderate calculation £27,000,000 sterling for the benefit of the Parisians.*

Lastly it has consolidated the political power of France. It has allied the Sovereigns of Europe, and marked Paris as the Capital of the World.—*Correspondent Gazette*.

* I thus calculate the gain of the city. Supposing 8,000,000 strangers visit Paris, and only spend (on an average) £3 5s each—they will expend £24,000,000 sterling, of which say the outlay for supply was £17,000,000, then the net profit left within the city walls amounts to £7,000,000.

ST. JOHN TRADE REPORT.

ST. JOHN, N.B. June 22, 1887.

THE general business of the week has been without material change, with the exception of the flour market, which has experienced a complete break down. Although we naturally look for a busy time at this season of the year, to compensate for the habitual dullness of the winter months, yet from various causes things cannot be said to be at all brisk. Country merchants buy sparingly, and there is less doing than usual on Nova Scotia account. The bulk of the spring importations has been landed, and stocks of every kind are tolerably complete. Sterling Exchange is becoming more plentiful, but all offering is freely absorbed by the banks at rates current for some time past. The shipping arrivals of the week, with cargo, have been confined to two vessels from Scotch ports, and one from Philadelphia with coals, two from New York, and one from Boston, with general cargoes, one from Portland with flour, and the usual steamers. Besides these there have arrived nineteen vessels in ballast, most of them ships of large tonnage, one of them, the "America," from New York, ran on the rocks at the west end of Partridge Island during a thick fog, and will be a total loss. We notice that on the 1st July, an additional steamer will be placed on the route between Boston, Portland and St. John, which will give us three departures each way per week. There is also the boat to Boston, via Yarmouth, N.S., and steamers twice a week to Windsor and Digby, so that there is no lack of accommodation for the travelling public.

LUMBER.—The clearances of the week have amounted to thirteen vessels for ports in Great Britain with timber and deals, two for West India ports, and four for United States with sawn lumber of various descriptions. The mills are now fully supplied with logs, and lumbermen are complaining that sales are beginning to drag. The large amount of tonnage in port causes freights to rule very low, and at present there seems to be no prospect of any advance. We quote:

Deals to Liverpool...	57s 8d to 58s 9d	per standard.
" to London.....	55s 0d to 57s 6d	do
" to Dublin.....	62s 6d	do
" to West Coast.....	72s 8d	do
Boards to Boston.....	\$4 00 per M.	
" to New York.....	5 00	
" to Philadelphia.....	4 50	
" North Side Cuba.....	6 75	

Spruce logs are selling at \$5 50 to \$6 00, and sapling pine at from \$4 to \$7, according to quality. Spruce deals \$9, laths \$1 to \$1 10. The bulk of the shingles exported are manufactured on the Upper St. John, (many of them on American territory) and shipped at Fredericton, consequently quotations here are merely nominal.

FLOUR, &c.—The flour market is completely paralyzed, and the small sales already possible in the regular way of business, have been still further curtailed. During the week several auction sales have

taken place which have had the effect of leaving the market in a still more unsettled state. Under these circumstances we prefer giving the actual results of these sales to making quotations more or less unreliable. On Monday 17th, 800 bbs Dundas mills and other brands realized \$7 75 to \$8 50; on Thursday, 200 bbs Rose Valley mills, &c. realized \$6 80 to \$7 45; and on Saturday 900 bbs Viaduct, Napier, &c. brought \$6 25 to \$7 75. The demand for oatmeal is not brisk, but neither is the stock large, and prices do not appear to have been much affected by the great fall in flour. We quote to-day at \$7 to \$7 50, according to quality. Cornmeal \$4 75 to \$5.

PROVISIONS, &c.—In this department there is but little change. Pork remains steady at the same rates as quoted for some weeks past. Butter is in ample supply for current wants, and there is at present no prospect whatever of Canadian shipments of this article becoming profitable.

Notwithstanding the cold and backward spring, all accounts from the country concur in representing the crops as being unusually promising. The prospects of the hay crop in particular are described as first rate, and a personal inspection during the past week of one of our finest agricultural districts, assures us that these accounts are not in the least overstated.

A steam flour mill is about to be erected at Sussex in King's Co. The intention of the proprietors is to import wheat from Canada via Shediac, and to manufacture flour for local consumption. Sussex is situated about 40 miles from St. John, on the line of the St. John and Shediac Railway, and besides being the centre of a considerable population, would be a favorable point for distribution, yet we doubt very much whether competition with the Western Canadian mills would be successful.

The fine new steamer "Rothesay," belonging to Messrs Lunt, made the run from St. John to Fredericton, a distance of 95 miles in less than five hours.

We append below a copy of the alterations in the New Brunswick Tariff made during the session just closed.

CAP I.

An Act to amend the Law relating to the imposition of Duties for raising a Revenue.

Section.	Section.
1. Imposes additional duty on rum, alcohol, &c.	2 Table of Exemptions. 3. Limitation.

Passed 10th June, 1887.

Be it enacted by the Governor, Legislative Council, and Assembly, as follows:—

1 Instead of the duty imposed by an Act made and passed in the thirtieth year of the Reign of Her present Majesty intitled *An Act relating to the imposition of Duties for raising a Revenue*, upon Rum, Alcohol, and all other Spirits not enumerated in the Act to which it is an amendment, there shall be collected and paid unto the Queen for the use of the Province, upon all such Rum, Alcohol, and other Spirit not herein enumerated, brought into the Province from any part of the British Empire or Foreign place, being either below proof or of the strength of proof of Sykes' Hydrometer, 50 cents per gallon; and for all such Spirits being over proof by Sykes' Hydrometer, such duty of 50 cents per gallon shall be increased in proportion for any greater strength as may be indicated by the said Hydrometer per gallon.

2 Notwithstanding the provisions of any Act in force imposing Duties for raising a Revenue, or to levy an impost for Railway purposes, the following goods, wares, and merchandise, shall be imported into the Province free, and be exempt from the payment of any Duty whatever, viz:

Anchors, acids—sulphuric and muriatic, brass or patent metal, in sheets, bars, bolts or scraps, barills, barley, chain cables, and other chains, canvass under No. 6, coals, copper, in sheets, bars, bolts, and scraps, corn broom brush, furs, skins and tails of all kinds, guano, hemp, hides, green, dried, salted, and cured, ink—printers', junk, iron, in pigs, bolts, bars and sheets, and railway rails and chairs, and fastenings for railway rails, marble in its crude and unwrought state, mahogany, rough timber, or sawn, manilla, unmanufactured, manures of all kinds, pelts, rags, slate—roofing, salt, soda ash, steel, in bars and sheets, tin, block and plate, tobacco, unmanufactured zinc, in pigs and sheets.

3 This Act shall continue and be in force during the time the said recited Act to which it is an amendment continues, or until altered by the Parliament of Canada.

BY TELEGRAPH.

ST. JOHN, N.B., June 27th, 1887.

GENERAL aspect of business unchanged; flour market still very unsettled, and quotations merely nominal. Sterling Exchange declined, 60 day bills on London, ten per cent premium. Montreal O.S.S. Cos. ship St. David arrived from Halifax with troops.