

incorporated as the city of Toronto, now seventy years, the citizens have chosen forty different mayors. In bygone days it was more the custom than to-day to give the mayor an extended term. For example, in the period between 1838 and 1850 four men in succession served three years each in the mayor's chair, namely, Messrs. John Powell, Henry Sherwood, W. H. Boulton and George Gurnett. But this length of service was exceeded by that of J. G. Bowes, who served for six years in two terms, 1851 to 1853 and 1861 to 1863. Subsequently, F. H. Medcalf held the mayoralty for nearly five years in all till his death, and coming down nearer our own day, E. F. Clarke was mayor from 1888 to 1891 inclusive. No citizen has since been such a popular favorite, measured by this standard.

THE TORONTO EXHIBITION.

Opinions, we believe, are generally agreed that in the particulars of cattle and horses the Toronto Fair is not surpassed on this continent. The spectacular part of the entertainment given at the Fair we are not so much concerned with; and will only remark that it is shrewdly conducted to please a variety of tastes, and that the bringing of English and Scottish bands across the Atlantic has proved a good thing in more respects than one. The exhibits in the manufactures and arts have, however, usually had more of our attention for the last quarter century than any other. And in these the improvement shown during that period has been really wonderful. We shall instance at this time only two branches of manufacture, in which progress has been especially marked: vehicles and pianos.

To visit the Transportation Building, and to see the array of carriages, wagons, sleighs, omnibuses, carts, there to be found is bewildering. They come from twenty different places, some of them as much as 500 miles apart, and they illustrate English and French styles, adroitly mingled with the greater lightness of the American. We speak now of the wheeled vehicles, for no country can surpass Canada in designs of sleighs and carioles for snow travel. One factory in south-western Ontario shows this year fifty summer and winter vehicles; another in eastern Ontario has a catalogue picturing twenty-two different sleighs. These vehicles are colored and decorated to suit various tastes among their customers, and, therefore, are sometimes more gaudy than good taste might dictate. But in finish they are as a rule admirable, and in strength of material and workmanship merit great commendation.

Unless the certificates given to Canadian pianos of late years by a considerable number of distinguished musicians are altogether dishonest, which is an incredible thing, these instruments merit high praise for sweetness, resonance, and substantial construction, while to the ordinary observer their exterior speaks for itself. They are made now in nearly every Province of the Dominion, and nearly 100 instruments from nineteen different makers, were to be seen at the Toronto Fair of 1904.

The number of Canadian pianos and organs that go abroad is very large. In five years ended with

1903 the value of musical instruments exported from Canada was \$2,397,647, or at the rate of \$480,000 worth a year. The largest item in the list was organs, whose average export per annum numbered 7,564, while of pianos it was only 342. But the value of the respective shipments for the period mentioned was, pianos, \$67,165 per year; organs, \$408,061 per year. They were sent to the United States, to seven European countries, to the West Indies, Japan and Australia.

In view of the continued success of this Exhibition, in respect of the growing number of exhibitors and the increasing crowds which it attracts, any one who has been observant must have seen that more permanent housing space is needed. The Manufactures Building commends itself, and does not need eulogy; the art gallery and the Dairy Building are likewise satisfactory. What the Fair needs is more buildings of this class, substantial, rain-proof, becoming. Seeing that the new cement structures in Exhibition Park have so well sufficed the need they were built to fill, it will be the part of wisdom to replace present unsatisfactory buildings with more modern ones. This cannot be done all at once, but something towards it should be done each year. And the movement, we feel sure, will meet the cordial approval of exhibitors as well as of the citizens who take a continuing interest in the Exhibition.

AUGUST FIRE WASTE.

The month of August, while a little less destructive in the matter of fires than its predecessor, showing a loss of \$9,715,200, as against \$11,923,200 for July, is still no improvement upon that month last year the loss for August then being \$8,428,350. The summary compiled by the New York Journal of Commerce gives details as follows. Fire loss in United States and Canada:

| | 1902. | 1903. | 1904. |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| January | \$ 15,032,800 | \$ 13,166,350 | \$ 21,790,200 |
| February ... | 21,010,500 | 16,090,800 | 90,051,000 |
| March | 12,056,600 | 9,907,650 | 11,212,150 |
| April | 13,894,600 | 13,549,000 | 23,623,000 |
| May | 14,866,000 | 16,366,800 | 15,221,400 |
| June | 10,245,350 | 14,684,350 | 10,646,700 |
| July | 10,028,000 | 12,838,600 | 11,923,200 |
| August | 7,425,550 | 8,428,350 | 9,715,200 |

Totals . \$104,559,400 \$105,021,900 \$194,172,850

There were 222 fires in that month, we are told, of a greater destructiveness than \$10,000. Toledo, Buffalo and St. Louis each had big fires.

—Having prevailed upon the captain of the team of Canadian bowlers who lately crossed the Atlantic to try conclusions with old countrymen at bowls on the green, we are able to give to-day Mr. Anderson's views upon the friendly advantage of such trips. When the Scottish curlers were here last year they were spoken of as being so pleased with what they saw that every one of the score would be, when he reached home, an immigration agent for Canada. In