

The Imperial Institute.

The increased interest taken by all classes in Great Britain in colonial affairs is now receiving fresh stimulus from the completion of the Imperial Institute. This magnificent edifice now stands on the site at South Kensington, formerly occupied by the series of annual exhibitions. It is indeed an appropriate monument to the growth and prosperity of the great Empire. The success of the Indian and Colonial Exhibition in 1880, led the Prince of Wales to suggest that the establishment of a permanent institution, for the intercourse and welfare of the subjects of her vast dominions, would be the most fitting memorial wherewith to mark the jubilee year of Queen Victoria's reign. The scheme found ready support both in Great Britain, and on 4th July 1897, Her Majesty laid the foundation stone—a block of granite from the Cape Colony—of the splendid building to open which, early in the month of May next, she will make one of her rare public appearances. A slight idea of the dimensions of the Institute may be gleaned from the fact that its frontage alone extends rather more than 750 feet, whilst the summit of the central tower which crowns the fabric attains a height of no less than 350 feet. The style of architecture adopted is a free rendering of the Renaissance, and all that modern artistic skill and ingenuity could devise has been done to render the Imperial Institute worthy of its title. If the exterior is striking, it is, however, the object and purposes of the interior that will chiefly commend themselves to all who have the prosperity of the British Empire at heart. As there must be many who as yet imperfectly understand its aims, we cannot do better than quote briefly from the charter.

1. The formation and exhibition of collections, representing the raw materials and manufactured products of the Empire, so maintained as to illustrate the development of agricultural, commercial, and industrial progress.
2. The establishment or promotion of commercial museums, sample rooms, and intelligence offices in London and other parts of the Empire.
3. The collection and dissemination of such information relating to trades and industries, to emigration, and to other purposes of the charter as may be of use to the subjects of the Empire.
4. The furtherance of systematic colonization.

In brief, emigration and the fostering of trade between Great Britain and her colonies, is the surest means of tightening the bond of union. When in addition it is learnt that part of the building is to be devoted to the social intercourse of colonists of all descriptions, forming as it were a vast club, the gigantic and far-reaching nature of the undertaking will be appreciated.

To no colony can the success of the Institute be of more importance than to our own Dominion. The largest of the dependencies, and particularly available for the immigration which is required for the proper development of its vast resources, Canada, has been allotted the whole of the western gallery, with the additional advantage of a main entrance of its own. By this disposition the Dominion receives rather over 100 yards of a gallery, 20 ft. 6 in. in breadth, and 20 ft. 6 in. in height, for the

exhibition of her products and resources. Each separate province has its own section, in which to show its special features and attractions and the kinds of products and manufacture, for which it is best adapted, and here in return the prospective emigrant can find visible proof of the prosperity of the country. Already two or three of the provinces have made considerable progress with their collections, and it can only be hoped that the others will hasten to forward their contributions, so that on the day of inauguration the whole Dominion from Atlantic to Pacific, will be able to show uninterrupted evidence of its wealth and enterprise. India, Australia, and the other colonies, are all making great efforts, and it should be the aim and desire of Canadians to eclipse all others. There is a market here for many of our products at present almost unknown, and the success of the Imperial Institute, means the further development of our already rapidly increasing export trade.

The Canadian section will be under the supervision of a committee, consisting of the representatives on the governing body of the Imperial Institute, of the various provinces. This committee will meet at frequent intervals and deal with any matters that may arise, and upon which general action is necessary or desirable. The collections will be under the charge of a curator and an assistant curator. Harrison Watson, of Montreal, has been appointed to the former position, and Frederick Plumb, formerly of Toronto, to the latter. Both these gentlemen are well acquainted with the resources and capabilities of the different provinces of the Dominion, and are much interested in the work that is before them.

Any firm or individuals desiring to exhibit at the Imperial Institute, had better communicate with the provincial secretary of his province, who will place them in communication with the officials deputed to make proper collections to represent the resources of the province, and to forward them to London, in time for the opening of the Institute.

Another Province.

The inhabitants of the provisional district of Saskatchewan, which embraces an area of about 114,000 square miles or 72,960,000 acres, are taking steps to have that district admitted as a province of Canada. The people of Prince Albert, its principal town, have been agitating in this direction for some time and they are at the head of the present movement. At a public meeting held recently in that place the following resolution was passed with only two dissenting voices, after able speeches had been delivered by leading business men:—

Moved by James Taylor, seconded by J. F. Betts, M.L.A.:—

Whereas the burden of development of this district is imposed upon its inhabitants without adequate provision being made by which they can be put in possession of resources to meet their requirements and to add to their embarrassment they are inviting people from all countries to settle in this district, people who were in full enjoyment of all advantages and improvements obtainable in other communities, and who naturally look for similar privileges and conveniences to those they enjoyed in the places whence they came. And

Whereas the inhabitants of Saskatchewan, especially the mercantile and farming community, have a more direct interest at stake in the opening up of communication via Hudson's

Bay than the inhabitants or people of any other district or province, and as there is no probability of any province being formed between the present district of Saskatchewan and Hudson's Bay, the extension of our boundaries would not interfere with the right or ambition of any other province and it having been the channel through which for over two centuries access was obtained to this country, Port Churchill naturally belongs to Saskatchewan. And

Whereas it is absolutely necessary for the requirements of this district of Saskatchewan that a readjustment of her political and financial status should at once be made.

Therefore, in the opinion of this meeting the boundaries of the district of Saskatchewan should be extended so as to include Port Churchill on Hudson's Bay and that his excellency the Governor-General of Canada be asked by the people of this district to grant provincial autonomy to Saskatchewan equal in every respect to that enjoyed by the other provinces of the Dominion and also in accordance with the terms and conditions agreed to between the people of Canada and the people of Rupert's Land and the North-west Territories in 1870, when these territories were admitted by Her Majesty into the union.

A stirring speech was made by Mr. James Taylor, who was a pioneer resident of the country, in which he described the events which lead to the acquirement from the Imperial Government, by Canada, of the immensity of which Saskatchewan is a part. Following is the concluding portion of this speech, it is pregnant with suggestions of the splendid future of this whole country:—

"The building of the H. B. R. Y. is a subject of vital importance, not only to our district of Saskatchewan but to the whole of the North-west Territories. In fact the subject is one in which not only the people of our territories but also of all Canada should take a thoughtful and personal interest, since we must stand either as men of progress, who will develop and open up their new highway for our products through Hudson's Strait; or form the obstruction to this great enterprise. Port Churchill naturally belongs to Saskatchewan. It is the best harbor for any kind of vessel, the water being deeper and the channels safer. The entrance to Churchill harbor is through a narrow, rocky inlet about half a mile across, a ledge of rock jutting out from the east side nearly across the mouth, upon the extremity of which is the ruins of an old stone battery. The depth in this channel in low water is five fathoms. The breadth of the harbor inside the entrance is about two miles, and continues that width for upwards of fourteen miles from the mouth. The average tide rise is about 9 to 12 ft. and the tide runs nine miles up the river. The overtopping points at the entrance make the harbor perfectly secure from any storm that may rage in the bay, and there is room in the harbor for a large fleet of ocean steamers. Here, then, gentlemen, is the great front door to this country. When the ships from all parts of the world are invited by us to cast their anchors in Churchill harbor a large northern commercial city will arise at Port Churchill, a city exactly a degree and a quarter further south than St. Petersburg, the capital of the Russian Empire. St. Petersburg is in latitude 59° 59', Port Churchill in latitude 53° 44'.

The revenue that will be collected at Churchill will more than compensate the Federal Government for giving us provincial autonomy. We will not then be a source of expense to the Dominion. We will not then require to send immigration agents abroad for the purpose of peopling our Northwest. The tide of immigration will flow directly into our province. Our farmers will find a ready market for their products. The price of grain will be as high in Saskatchewan as in Chicago or Montreal. This, gentlemen is our destiny. The mainline of the Canadian Pacific railway will be a great and