

A BIRMINGHAM EDITORIAL.

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The all too brief visit of the Canadians to Birmingham, with the extensive programme carried out by them and on their behalf yesterday, was, it is satisfactory to note, conspicuously successful. Our visitors had admittedly looked forward with a good deal of pleasure to the reception awaiting them and to making acquaintance with the city and its industries. In neither of these were they disappointed. No warmth was lacking at civic reception or lunch, and if they did not see all they would have liked of local institutions and manufactures it was because time did not suffice to cover all the engagements that might otherwise have been entered into. The speech of the Lord Mayor was a model of frankness, as well as of heartiness of welcome. From it the visitors would be enabled to form a fairly clear idea of the present state of various municipal enterprises in Birmingham, of what has been accomplished, and of what is in progress. Alderman Beale's remarks upon the public spirit so commonly displayed by the citizens were happily chosen, and would doubtless be fully appreciated by our Canadian kinsmen, who as a community have, with signal success, stood shoulder to shoulder in furtherance of the highest interests of the Land of the Maple. The greeting given to the visitors by Mr. J. S. Taylor, as President of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce, was likewise fully in accordance with the occasion, and both welcomes were admirably reciprocated in the thanks so well-voiced by Mr. W. K. George, the President of the Association. After these preliminaries the work of the day began in earnest, with visits paid to various enterprises, municipal and private. The Museum and Art Gallery, the Central Library, and the School of Art would afford the visitors excellent glimpses into what may be looked upon as the higher branches of communal culture. The more material aspects of civic ambition and interest were typified by the Technical School, the General Hospital, the Law Courts, the Fire Station, and the Corporation Electricity Generating Station. The acquaintance made with Bourneville would also afford gratification to the visitors, though we may justifiably surmise that, to the inhabitants of the almost boundless wheat fields of the Great North-West, a model township would scarcely appeal with such force as to us of narrower limitations. Winding up with a reception given by the Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce, the delegates assuredly may claim to have fulfilled all that could be expected of them during their brief stay in Birmingham. From their cordial appreciation of the welcome held out to them here and elsewhere we may confidently expect an all-round improvement of the already happy relationships between the mother country and her oldest colony.

