

proposed home. Indeed, we are not sure that any definite plan has yet been formed. The general idea is, however, to purchase a suitable building and to provide a temporary endowment, sufficient to support in simple comfort those who might be found in need of such aid. The sum required would not be very large, and the pleasure of ministering to the comfort of those who might find in such a home a happy release from privations or humiliations which make their lives unspeakably wretched, should be an ample return to a benevolent mind for the investment. We are sure that it is only necessary that some suitable and energetic person should take the matter in hand, to elicit a generous and adequate response.

It is to be hoped that the good sense of the citizens of Toronto and of other cities and towns in Ontario will assert itself in time to prevent the serious mischief which may otherwise arise from the impulse which is just now making itself felt in favour of the use of artificial stimulants to quicken business life and induce a semblance of prosperity. In any large view there is something not at all seemly in the bidding of one municipality against another for the possession of some existing or projected factory, or other industry. It may be pretty safely assumed that the business enterprise which needs that its promoters should go from place to place seeking to stir up a local rivalry which may be turned to account, is not the kind of business which is most likely to be prosperous and permanent. The mere transfer of a business already existing from one locality to another adds nothing to the wealth or prosperity of the country, and it is very doubtful whether the tendency to concentrate the industries of the Province in one great centre, instead of having them distributed in various localities, is not distinctly harmful on the whole. In so far as such concentration is due to natural or special advantages afforded by the locality to which the removal is made, it should not, of course, be interfered with, but in so far as it may be in any case caused or hastened by bribes from the municipal purse of the wealthier locality, it is not only unpardonably selfish, but of doubtful utility to the community in which it is thus effected. Every proposal to tax the citizens whose industry is the source of whatever prosperity the city may have, for the benefit of some new-comer, is so manifestly unjust that it should be voted down without hesitation or compunction.

It is almost a relief to know that the great Columbian Exposition, of which we have heard so much during the last two years, is at length, as our neighbours would say, "in full swing." The love of the dramatic, which is always and everywhere so strong in the human breast, has lost none of its energy on American soil. It is not easy to see how human ingenuity could have added to the elaborateness of the prepara-

tions which had been made to render the opening ceremony as impressive as science and enthusiasm and millions of dollars could make it. The President's address was a model of brevity, but the man who could have made a long speech on such an occasion would have needed nerves of steel and an overweening self-esteem reaching to the sublime. In the presence of that seething mass of human beings, the sense of personal importance in the ordinary man must have dwindled to very small dimensions. The address had, perhaps, a little too much of the Johnsonese, and was also somewhat marred by the inevitable tendency of Americanism to forget the wise man's injunction to "let another man praise thee and not thine own mouth," but was on the whole appropriate and sufficient for the occasion. A more suggestive hint of the wonderful achievements of modern science could not easily be conceived than that which was conveyed to the vast audience when, by the simple touching of a button, the wheels innumerable throughout the great machinery hall began to revolve, the fountains to play, the bells to peal and flags of all nations by the hundred being unfurled. A display unique in the world's history is opened for the admiration of the world in Jackson Park and it may be assumed that the ambition even of Chicago and the United States is satisfied with the effect.

As we go to press the tariff investigation by the Minister of Finance and his colleagues is, we suppose, going on in this City. Mr. Foster is reported as having said that as many importers as manufacturers were consulted in Montreal. That is well. To have consulted the manufacturers alone would have been to make the whole proceeding farcical. Mr. Foster is further quoted to the effect that, taken all around, both manufacturers and importers seemed satisfied with the present tariff. That is not very surprising. Of course both of these very important classes have a right to be consulted and no Government can afford to disregard their opinions. At the same time it goes without saying that neither of them is likely to be among the first to agitate for a lowering of the tariff. The manufacturers, for whose benefit the protective features of the tariff were created, can hardly be expected to demand their removal. The importers, it is true, might naturally be supposed to view the subject from another standpoint and reach a different conclusion. But then it is to be borne in mind that they do not pay the tax, but merely shift it to the shoulders of their customers. Consequently, so long as the volume of imports is not materially reduced, their business being now adapted to the present system, they are very likely to manifest the conservatism which usually characterizes those who are doing well enough, the more especially as they probably are accustomed to receive a percentage of profit on the duty as well as

on the original cost of their merchandise. The real question is with regard to the great consuming classes scattered all over the Dominion,—the farmers, the artisans, the labourers—all who are in receipt of fixed incomes. On these the burden of increased prices mainly falls. These are they who are crying out for tariff reform. By what means do the Ministers propose to consult these, who are obviously the very persons who have the best right to be consulted?

To-day, the first Friday in May, is set apart to be observed as Arbor Day in the schools of Ontario. The idea is a good one and it is to be hoped that teachers and trustees and parents, all over the Province, are observing the day enthusiastically. The capacity of the grounds in connection with the greater number of the schools for trees and shrubs is, unfortunately, soon exhausted, and it may be that many of them have already been adorned with as many as the space will admit. But even in such cases, it may be made a means of lasting benefit as well as pleasure to the children to have one day in the Spring sacred to the spirit of idleness. The time can always be well spent, especially if there be some cultivated taste to direct efforts in the right channels, in clearing up the rubbish which is sure to have accumulated during the winter, making improvements indoors and out, and rendering the whole premises as attractive as possible. These improvements should be followed up throughout the season. The teacher who succeeds in awakening an enthusiasm for neatness and tastefulness in the children, and sustaining it from week to week, is doing them and the communities in which they shall afterwards live an inestimable service. But one of the best uses of the day will be lost sight of if the teacher, in addition to doing something to cultivate taste for regard to the surroundings within and without the school, does not also seize the opportunity to stimulate the powers of observation which are so often neglected, by leading the children to open their eyes to the beauties of tree and shrub and flower, though this should be the work of every day rather than of one. The day is forever past, it may be hoped, when boys and girls can grow up in the country and be crammed from year to year with the lore of the school text-books, and go forth at the end unable to distinguish one tree or plant from another, as we have known to be the case. Arbor Day, though it comes but once a year, brings with it possibilities which the true teacher may turn to account for the life-long good of the children. It might not be unwise if children of larger growth were to connect one day in Spring to similar uses in connection with their homes and streets and lanes, all over the land.

If the amendment moved by Mr. Ross to Mr. Marter's Prohibitory Bill really pledges the Government to obtain without