

the hub of the Dominion. I hope the Minister will take into his favorable consideration the question of giving the grant to Manitoba. I pointed out last year that it will be a great benefit to the country if the people who went there were able to see the exhibition held there. I hope the Minister will take the matter into consideration, not only in fairness to the Province but for the advantage to the Dominion.

Mr. TROW. The convincing argument of the hon. member for North Perth, should satisfy the Minister as to the advisability of holding the Dominion Exhibition at Stratford. We have every convenience there, and a more favorable point could not be selected in the Dominion. The Government, I hope, will take this matter into its favorable consideration.

Mr. CARLING. I am very glad to hear such glowing accounts from the different sections of the Dominion, including Victoria, B.C. I am sure this House has a desire to do everything possible to advance the interests of British Columbia; but the Canadian Pacific Railway is barely completed, and not in running operation. It will be in thorough order in a short time, and I hope we will all have an opportunity of seeing that beautiful country, when no doubt we will be able to consider the propriety and necessity of doing everything to advance its interests, from an agricultural point of view. With respect to the remarks of the members for North Perth and South Perth, I am sure no one knows the prosperous state of that country better than I do; that Stratford is a most prosperous city, and the county is one of the best agricultural districts in Canada. But as the amount of money voted for agricultural purposes was expended in the west last year, I can hardly promise that we will consider the claim from that quarter this year, but another year we will be glad to give it every consideration. With respect to Manitoba; there can be no doubt its turn will come, but for the present I hardly think the hon. member would expect the Dominion Exhibition to be held there. No doubt, in a few years, the excellent facilities for getting into the country will justify it being held there.

Mr. McMULLEN. I notice that the money was divided last year. According to the Auditor General's report \$5,000 was contributed to the Montreal exhibition and the balance to Ottawa.

Mr. CARLING. The hon. gentleman is referring to the previous year, when the amount was divided as he has stated. \$10,000 were given to the Provincial Exhibition at London last year.

Mr. BAIN. I do not propose to put in a claim for any particular locality with which I am connected, but I think it would be wise to ask, what is the beneficial effect to the Dominion of the grant we make to this exhibition? What is the benefit to the Dominion at large after the experiment has been tried for several years? I grant that, in so far as the localities receiving the money is concerned, I can understand that Stratford, Montreal, and all those places are quite interested in having the prize lists of their exhibitions in the locality increased by a handsome sum such as Parliament contributes. So far there is no fault to be found. But I remember a few years ago when this proposal was started it was with a view to secure something in the way of a Dominion representative character in those exhibitions. I begin to doubt whether we have any tangible results sufficient to justify us in continuing this large expenditure. In so far as the newer Provinces of British Columbia and of the Prairie Province are concerned, and perhaps one central point in the Maritime Provinces, there is considerable to be said, especially in regard to the North-West, in favor of a Dominion contribution proving useful. But I ask the representatives from the older Provinces, where agriculture has been developed for many years and where

Mr. Watson,

enterprise has shown itself, what are the net results to the Dominion from this additional expenditure of money? If the amount is given to encourage the development of the North-West Territories and British Columbia, then I am in favor of the proposal; but so far as the experience of the older Provinces goes the time has come to consider whether that money is not perfectly wasted. What is the result in regard to the Provincial Exhibition? Is there not a strong feeling that with our local development and the wealth and enterprise manifested in our Province that the Provincial Exhibition has almost survived its day and become a thing of the past. If the Dominion grant is to be any benefit, it can only be by aiding enterprises in some of the newer Provinces in the Confederacy.

Mr. CARLING. I differ from the hon. gentleman who has just sat down, as to the particular localities where the exhibitions are held getting the benefit. I do not think they receive any more benefit from \$30,000 in prizes than from \$20,000. These prizes are not paid to the localities; they are paid to the agriculturists and manufacturers from all parts of the Dominion. Last year when the exhibition was held in London, exhibitors came from Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and all the different Provinces. The show was not only a credit to the Province of Ontario, but a credit to the Dominion of Canada. The amount of prizes paid was something like \$30,000, and the larger the amount of prize money offered the greater is the inducement to exhibitors as well as others, to attend from the different Provinces. I am quite sure that \$10,000 added to the prize money of the Provincial Exhibition increases very much the number of the exhibits, and, of course, the exhibitors are chiefly from the agricultural districts.

Mr. BAIN (Wentworth). It simply amounts to this, that you offer the parties larger prizes, you help to draw a large local exhibit, and to the same extent a larger outside exhibit. But I ask any person familiar with the facts, what the number of exhibits was that was drawn to London, last year, from beyond the Province of Ontario. I venture to say it was but a small proportion of the exhibit. But this does not touch my objection, which is, that when we have paid our money, we have simply made the local exhibition a little larger; we have not succeeded in developing anything new in these exhibitions. So far as Ontario is concerned, the best guarantee of their success is to hold them in a densely populated part of the country and thereby draw large numbers of visitors. Everybody knows that the backbone of these exhibitions is the gate-money collected, and we all know that a week of pleasant weather, or the reverse, may mean all the difference between the success and failure of a show. The object was, when this grant originated, to give a Dominion character to these exhibitions, but I submit, from the way in which the Dominion is naturally placed, it is practically impossible to place any new feature in any exhibition in the Province of Ontario, by an additional grant of this kind, which it did not already possess in a very high degree, and it is for that reason that I begin to ask whether it is worth what it costs to the Dominion.

Mr. McMULLEN. I think it would be well, if the Minister of Agriculture feels it to be his duty to continue this grant, that the exhibition held in each Province each year should receive the entire sum which is going round the different Provinces, and that the prize list should be so arranged that a certain sum would be offered for a certain kind of exhibits from each of the Provinces. The money, as given at present, does not accomplish the end which is intended, that of giving it a Dominion character, though you may get a few more exhibits and a few more people. If you give a prize for the different classes of products of goods from each Province, it would undoubtedly have a