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A CANADIAN WORLD'S FAIR.

We observe that Joseph H. Stiles, the British Commissioner to the World's Fair at Chicago, and the Midwinter Fair at San Francisco, is endeavoring to organize an international exposition for Montreal in 1896, to last from the month of May to the end of October. Now, unless this continent has been surfeited with this kind of thing this idea is just such a one as would be of great benefit to the Dominion, which it would seem, wants more advertising than it appears possible for it to have under ordinary conditions.

Our people have worthily held their own wherever they have entered the lists abroad. Our agricultural, fishery, mineral and forest products have done us the highest credit wherever they have been placed in competition, while others of our developed products have amply demonstrated what it is possible for Canadian resources backed with Canadian enterprise to achieve. Still we have been compelled to a large extent to keep ourselves within narrow limits, owing to the overshadowment of our more numerous neighbors and to the more extended and older industrial efforts of the Mother land and other countries. Besides, thus far we have been but a unit in ever so many tens and hundreds. This has served to dwarf our exports, however extended they may have been, and to make us appear comparatively speaking, smaller than we really are.

With a Canadian World's Fair held at Montreal, or even at Toronto, there would be a much fuller opportunity for Canadians in every department of industry to give a much more adequate representation of the natural and industrial resources of their own half of the American continent, which contains within it so vast a variety and so immense an amount of the products which the consumers of the world require. It would be an excellent advertising card and would be the means of attracting here many of the kind of people and much of that surplus capital which could be turned to the very best advantage.

Apropos to this, we may remark that

in conversation, the other day, with a settler on one of the neighboring islands, he told some very interesting experiences. "When I came here, he said, "I knew nothing about agriculture and cared still less. I obtained when I arrived here work at the trade which I had learned. This enabled me to maintain my family. I, however, saw that there would come a time when I should probably be elbowed out, with advancing years, and so I took up land on which I did some work and made the necessary payments; and now I have a fine farm upon which I reside except when I occasionally come to town during the busy season to earn a little ready cash. The farm has practically cost me nothing and is a home for my boys and a standby for myself when I get older."

This man never knew what he could do till put to it, and had no idea of the advantages which were offered by the Province of British Columbia. And this latter because the Province was not advertised as it ought to have been, and there was really but little opportunity to know what the country could do. And so with other parts of the Dominion. An exposition on say the banks of the St. Lawrence or beside Lake Ontario would be a most effective means of attracting settlement and of inducing capitalists to invest their resources in Canadian agricultural and other enterprises. Besides, it would have the effect possibly of inducing not a few to purchase developed lands in the east, their present occupants coming along to the west to resume, it might be, the life of former years, that of clearing and preparing the virgin soil for cultivation.

And while this settlement was going on there would be a constantly augmenting demand for agricultural products, which would receive a material stimulus from this source, while all along if our merchants and manufacturers had the necessary enterprise—with so much of a home market assured and steadily improving—they would be pushing their business on outside countries. Manufacturing industry would grow not only in the sections where it has already obtained such a hold, but with ourselves at the Pacific Coast—the eastern outlet of the continent—they would grow up and prosper to an extent which few can imagine. Moreover, we are not only at the outlet for manufactured products, but we are at the inlet where many foreign substances which constitute the raw material can be most advantageously received and thus should be doubly advantaged in the cost of freightage.

We are in favor of a Dominion International Exposition, if it be not too soon after the run which has latterly been had upon such undertakings. In a variety

of ways we should be the gainers. The influx of a desirable class of settlers; the attractions there would be for the investment of capital and the manner in which our products would have the opportunity of commending themselves are considerations which can hardly be too favorably thought over. Moreover, Mr. Stiles, who is advocating the departure, is a man who has had considerable official experience and his opinions are entitled to some weight.

MUNICIPAL MATTERS.

Both Vancouver and Victoria are making departures in the establishment of Rate-payers' Associations, which must commend themselves. It is to be hoped that the movement will not be allowed to drop. The public do not take sufficient interest in municipal affairs. In fact, many people do not even take the trouble to go down and vote for Mayor and Aldermen when they have it in their power to say who shall rule the city, and if this power be practically placed in the hands of the men who aspire to office, who is to blame if matters do not go on as they ought to do? Were a stronger public sentiment brought to bear upon the Board of Aldermen we should find matters going on much more satisfactorily and there would not be those complaints and heart burnings, which at subsequent periods never fail to be discovered. The business of the city is that of every citizen, and let no one think because he is not an Alderman or Councillor that he has nothing to say on the subject.

FRUIT CULTURE.

We are glad to learn that the carrying out of the regulations under the Horticultural Act for the protection of fruit and fruit-growers have had most beneficial effects and on such authority as that of Mr. Thomas Cunningham to be informed that the outlook for this industry was never better than it is at present. Fruit-growing as a separate and distinct avocation in this Province is one that is capable of tremendous expansion, if we only go to work about it in the proper way. In the first place, we must secure the best varieties of fruit and those most suited to our climate; we must then see that the trees are free from disease and insects and are at all times kept in that condition. Besides, we must see that they are always kept flourishing and at their best through the attentions which are bestowed upon their culture. The fruit must always be picked when it is at the stage when that operation can be most successfully performed. Its packing is also a matter of much greater importance than some people appear inclined to think. The oldest and most experienced in the