

"The building is situated upon 20 acres of ground suitably enclosed, and will afford exhibition space of 32,000 feet. It is to be built in the style of the English exhibition of 1851. It will extend 256 feet in length, 144 in breadth, and will be 56 feet in height, the wings being so formed as to admit of subsequent extension if necessary. 2,000 square feet of glass will be fixed upon the roof, and fully 6,000 feet below. The glass will be of the rough-rolled plate description, manufactured expressly in England, being for the sides one-eighth of an inch in thickness, and for the roof one-sixteenth of an inch thicker. The gross weight of the glass will be 12 tons. It is worthy of mention that the roof has been adapted to our climate. There are no gutters, as gutters if broken when frozen would have a tendency to burst the framework, and in a year or two destroy the building. The circular portion of the roof will be covered with tin. The castings were all made by the Messrs. Hamilton & Sons, at the St. Lawrence Foundry, in this city. The contractors' cost of the building will amount to £4 878. To assure perfect safety the girders have been tested to a strain of double the pressure to which they can by any possibility be subjected, and are calculated to bear five times the ordinary strain of pressure."

At the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, Col. Thomson, President of the Board of Agriculture, said: "As to the objects of the Exhibition, they were intended not only to advance the interests of agriculture, but also to encourage arts and manufactures. The Society was anxious that arts and manufactures should advance equally with agriculture."

The thirteenth Exhibition was inaugurated with unusual ceremonies. The Metropolitan Choral Society, composed of 250 vocal and instrumental performers, officiated with great success. Prayers were offered up by the Lord Bishop of Toronto; and an address was presented to His Excellency Sir Edmund W. Head, Bart., Governor General.

The Rev. John McCanl, LL.D., President of University College, delivered an excellent address in the Exhibition building, which by the way, has very erroneously been called "The Crystal Palace," on "The state of Agriculture amongst the Romans."

The President of the Association, D. B. Staddon, Esq., was unfortunately unable to assume the duties of his office on account of continued ill health. His place was supplied by W. Ferguson, Esq., the first Vice-President, who dwelt upon the manufacturing interests of the Province to a greater length than any of his predecessors. The subjoined extracts will explain the views entertained by that gentleman, and should be glad to see other members of the Board of Agriculture more thoroughly imbued in the spirit they embody:—

"It may be alleged that this country is not

sufficiently advanced, to require or maintain manufacturing on an extensive scale; and that the reclaiming of our forests, and a better cultivation of our cleared lands, should for many years be our chief object. This course might be found to answer, if the whole immigration to this country consisted of farming people; but as it does not, and as a very large number of those annually arriving at our ports, consist of artisans in the various mechanical branches, from the principal manufacturing towns, and places in the old world, why should the suicidal course be persisted in, of encouraging or necessitating them to take to farming as the mode of earning their future living, or in the event of their not doing so, oblige them for the want of employment in their own line of business, to seek it in the neighboring republic, where with their skill and industry they contribute to build up the manufactures of foreign competitors at the expense of our own, and at the same time essentially advance the farming interests of that country by increasing the home consumption of the products of the farm.

"Thousands of the most skilful artisans and workmen from the Old World, are year after year following their friends, and seeking homes on this side of the Atlantic; and for want of suitable employment for them under our national flag, they as regularly leave our shores for the United States, where, with the wealth of their skill and labor, they enrich that country and make happy homes for themselves.

"As a proof of what Canada has done with the little encouragement which the Legislature has afforded her manufactures, we have but to examine within the limits of this Exhibition ground, and we perceive an excellence displayed in almost every department of Arts and Manufactures, in many instances not excelled by the older countries in Europe and America.

"And to what eminence our manufactures might arrive if properly encouraged, seeing the extensiveness of our forests, and the richness and profusion of our mineral productions, not even the most sanguine can predict. Notwithstanding the discouraging circumstances under which some of our infant manufactures are laboring against foreign importations, yet many are still successfully working, not only against want of proper protection, but also against the absence of that patronage to which home manufactures have so just a claim."

It is almost needless to say that this Exhibition was most successful, and illustrated in a very complete and satisfactory manner the remarkable progress made in the country in agriculture, manufactures and art.

(To be continued.)