

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

Difficult as it is to give in a brief space any adequate idea of the Paris Exhibition of 1900, the attempt ought to be made, for this is doubtless to be one of the great shows of the world. To a person who has seen the Chicago Exhibition of 1893 it occurs at once to make comparisons. But the conditions are too different to admit of any close comparison. At Chicago, besides the wonderful "White City" itself there was naught but flat ugliness in the surroundings, except the noble expanse of Lake Michigan to the eastward. Paris on the other hand, has planted her White and Gold city where its environs are such beauties of art and nature as the Elysee Garden, the Place Concorde, the golden dome of the Invalides, where lies Napoleon's tomb; the new bridge Alexandre III. over the Seine. It is from this last handsome structure that the Esplanade starts off, around it curving building with the flags and coats of arms of all nations.

The buildings of the Fair are for the most part extraordinary, some of them fantastic, almost garish in their Frenchness. But few suggest resemblance to any of those at Chicago, among the few are perhaps the Palais des Beaux Arts and the Social Congress hall, the latter very like the Women's Building of 1893. Another, the name of which I forget, suggests the curious Fisheries Building at the American Fair. Some of them are built of the Yankee-notion called staff, which was used so largely and so extensively on your side at Chicago. Over towards the Champ de Mars are the main buildings of Manufactures, Industrial Arts, Electricity and Transportation. These are big, plain, shed-like affairs, which were largely in use at the Exhibition of 1889, and their contents appear to be pretty well in readiness.

As France is well to the front in electrical invention we may expect wonderful displays of what can be done by electricity. A friend tells me that great things will be shown in this department. The buildings of the different countries and Governments show great variety. That of the Americans has a fine dome and is a spacious place, while the British one is less showy but solid. The most striking of all is that of Italy, which is an exact copy of an old building in one of the Italian cities. You would hardly expect Canada to compete successfully with these, but she has made a very respectable showing on this occasion. In the Industrial Arts place are to be seen some most instructive processes. Different countries vie with one another to show processes of textile manufacture, lace, carpet and glove making, Huddersfield, Brussels, Lyons, Crefeld, Genoa, will all be represented in their main industries, silk being especially strong. A great feature, too, will be the dress-making, millinery and hatters' show, while the great retail shops, such as the "Bon Marche," and the "Louvre," will be in evidence. There is one respect in which, on occasions like the present, the French excel, and that is in the artistic arrangement of anything and everything to produce the best effect. We may be sure that Paris will provide, in all directions, "*tout ce que pouvait charmer les yeux.*"

Something new will be found to be the Pollok Prize exhibit of life-saving clothing and appliances. After one of the great life-losing disasters to ocean vessels, the relative of a survivor gave \$20,000 for a prize for the best device for saving life at sea. A German, who resides here, tells me that the number of exhibitors aiming to get this prize is astonishing, and the quaintness of their exhibits of swimming shirts and drawers are almost laughable.

The ladies of your country doubtless take much interest in the productions of such artists as Virot in hats and bonnets. Felix in dresses. And I can promise that in these respects no reasonably tasteful, fashionable woman will be disappointed by the Parisian exhibitors. But M. Felix is the originator of something very attractive and novel in the Palais du Costume, near the Eiffel Tower. Here is represented the development of woman's dress, from the time of the ancient Gauls to the present. It is a Tussaud Gallery on a large scale; by this I mean that the costumes of various periods are displayed on wax figures of women, with occasionally a wax man for variety. The thing is exquisitely done, for not only the hangings of each room but the furniture corresponds in style to the date of the costumes. For instance, the Directoire period shows not only Directoire clothes but Directoire chairs and tables. In the case of the second Empire the same is done. And I am told by those who study such matters that historical accuracy has here been not alone aimed at but reached.

Bewildering it is to ramble round the part of the show called "Attractions Speciaux," the same sort of thing as was at your American World's Fair, the "Midway Plaisance." The bits of Old Paris reproduced are quaint and interesting in the extreme. The Porte St. Michel and the Rue St. Laurent are bits of history and romance. Hereabout are theatres and concert halls. Swiss chalets and Hindoo temples. Across the Seine are the minor but far from unnecessary quarters, such as dormitories of the officials, rooms for newspaper men, restaurants and the like.

It is hard to give any idea of this wonderful place without pictures, but the best way to get an idea of it is to come over. No one, not I at least, would have believed what the Chicago Fair was unless I had seen it. And without attempting to make either contrast or comparison between the World's Fairs of 1900 and 1893 I will simply describe both as dreams of beauty.

PAUL LEWIS.

WOOL AND WOOLENS.

When we hear, as we constantly do, of the prevailing firmness in the tone of European markets for woollen fabrics, and note the advances made from time to time for months in prices of woollen dress goods and other fabrics, it is natural to look for corresponding stiffness or advance in the market for the raw material. But this hardly seems to exist, certainly not to the extent one would suppose implied by the circumstances of January and February last. Then, in the face of a drop in London wool sale prices between December and January (caused by some bull holders unloading), unprecedented activity in demand for woollens made European and American holders of wool and manufacturers of it very confident in their views and very strong in their prices. A weakening, if not a downward tendency developed in the United States since then however. As the American Wool Reporter puts it: Consumers bought very freely at the beginning of last season, expecting large orders for goods needing fine wools, "but when the goods season opened, the demand unexpectedly ran to medium and low-wool fabrics."

The calculations of many of these manufacturers were upset, and they have as a result an abundant supply of fine wool still on hand, which they have been unable to work off." There was also in late March and early April less demand for medium wools in the Eastern States. In last week's issue of The Reporter we find it stated that while the Boston wool market cannot as yet be quoted as actually higher, the downward tendency which previously characterized it seems to have been arrested for the time being at any rate, and a comparatively firm feeling prevails.

The present time of year is usually a quiet season for Canadian wools, and this month is no exception to the rule. A circular just issued by John Hallam is as follows: "In fleece wool there has been practically nothing doing. What little is held amongst the mills being required for their own consumption. Prices have stood at 18c. to 19c. for washed, but these figures are only nominal, there being no transactions. English quotations to hand to-day for Lincoln and Irish fleeces, wools similar to ours give 8d. to 8½d. as current prices, equivalent to 16c. to 17c. There is nothing to warrant any higher prices here, and unless there should be some radical change in the situation in England these figures ought fairly to represent the value of the new clip now only some six or seven weeks distant. Of unwashed wool this season chiefly from breeders there is a good deal now being offered for which 11c. is the top price. Pulled wool is moving slowly."

MINING SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA.

That Nova Scotia mines are in the main enjoying a season of unparalleled prosperity was demonstrated at the annual meeting of the Mining Society of Nova Scotia, held in Halifax on April 11th. Among those present on the occasion were: President Chas. Fergie, vice-president Intercolonial Coal Co.; W. L. Libby, manager Brookfield Mining Co.; Major Stewart, Truro; A. A. Hayward, Waverley; R. H. Brown, Sydney; F. Peacock, Montreal; H. S. Poole, Stellarton; B. T. A. Bell, Ottawa; B. C. Wilson, Waverley; J. H. Austen, W. R. Askwith, S. H. Mason, C. E. Willis, Alex. McNeil, C. C. Starr, H. M. Wyld, Chas. Archibald, G. E. Franklyn, G. L. Burritt, G. S. Troope, M. R.