

when Mr. McKinnon, Jr., was not at school, he was poking around among the store clothes, dry goods, and groceries. Thus he cultivated an inherited instinct for shop-keeping. For a considerable time now, Mr. McKinnon has been associated with his uncle, Mr. S. F. McKinnon, in an extensive business which has helped to make Toronto a centre of the millinery trade. Exclusive of commerce, Mr. McKinnon's activities find an outlet in family and club life. He is a member of the R. C. Y. C. and the National Club, Toronto.

REFLECTIONS

EXHIBITIONS are now the order of the day. Out in the West the annual "fall fair" is held in the summer, between seed-time and harvest. In Ontario and the East the exhibition comes after the harvest is over. This difference in time gives a considerable contrast between the Western fair and the Eastern. The Western exhibition is made up of cattle, horse-racing, side-shows and people; the Eastern fair comprises all these elements and adds samples of the year's crop from field, orchard and garden.

The Western fairs have been fairly successful this year. The West has a natural buoyancy all its own, but this year's buoyancy is based upon a substantial hope. The most optimistic wheat estimate of any previous year was one-hundred and twenty million bushels. This year the most optimistic guess is that of Mr. D. D. Mann, Vice-President of the Canadian Northern Railway, who thinks the West may have one-hundred and forty million bushels of wheat. There is no doubt that the crop this year will be the largest in the history of Prairie Canada. That in itself is sufficient to explain the success of the Western fairs. The Winnipeg exhibition which closed last Saturday is said to be the most successful ever held in that city. The receipts were fourteen thousand dollars in excess of last year and the total attendance was one-hundred and fifteen thousand.

THE Eastern exhibitions do not begin until the last Monday in August, when the Canadian National Exhibition of Toronto opens its gates. This year Lord Charles Beresford is to be the guest of honour and the chief features are to be military and naval. The success of this institution is something phenomenal. Its reputation has gone round the globe. It is known as the most successful annual exhibition in the world. It has a collection of permanent buildings which represent an investment of one million and a half; its annual attendance runs over a half million, and its receipts are sufficiently large to enable it to show an annual profit of about fifty thousand dollars.

The title, "National," is fully justified. Manufacturers from all over Canada make exhibits of their wares and almost every province in the Dominion is officially represented. It lacks many of the features of the local fair and possesses some of those which have given character to the world's fairs of the past. Indeed, it tends to become an international exhibition, because the manufacturers of Great Britain, Europe and the United States are beginning to take advantage of the opportunity which it offers to exhibit their products to the largest Canadian buyers. This year the British section is expected to be more comprehensive than any exhibition of British manufactures ever shown in this country.

THE Canadian Press representatives had scarcely finished their work in Great Britain and sailed for home before the Canadian Bisley Team took up the task of keeping Canada's name to the front in the Motherland. This year's team is an excellent national advertisement. Its members have given practical demonstration of the ability of Canadians to hold their own in the use of the military rifle. By winning the McKinnon Cup for the second time in nineteen years they have proved that Canada has twelve rifle shots equal in ability to any twelve in England, Scotland, Ireland or any colony over seas, with the possible exception of Australia and New Zealand. If these two colonies had been represented this year at Bisley Canada's success might not have been so striking. In addition to this great victory they won the Kolapore Cup, which is an even greater honour. This Cup has been offered every year since 1871, and is considered to be one of the great prizes of this annual gathering. Moreover, in this competition, the Mother Country enters one team chosen from the whole of the United Kingdom and Ireland, whereas in the McKinnon Cup competition three teams are chosen, one from each of the three Kingdoms. The officials in charge of this year's Bisley Team are

to be congratulated in the success of their management, and the members of the team on the skill and courage which they have displayed.

Incidentally, the new pattern of the Ross Rifle, concerning which there has been so much discussion, has proved itself to be an excellent weapon. The lengthening of the barrel and the improvement of the sights have made it equal if not superior to the Lee-Enfield.

SPEAKING of rifle shooting, His Excellency the Governor-General has presented a Challenge Shield for Cadet competition. The Shield is to go to that town or city with five thousand inhabitants or over, or that recognised county in any of the Provinces not having within its county boundaries a town of five thousand inhabitants, which can show the greatest proportion of Cadets to its municipal (or county) population on the 24th of May, 1910. The Shield will be held by that Cadet Corps of the winning city, town or county which, upon inspection by the District Officer Commanding, or other selected military officer, shall show the greatest proficiency in military drill and rifle shooting.

IN a few months there is to be opened at Ottawa the new Victoria Memorial Museum which has been under construction for about four years. One of its chief features will be the National Art collection. This collection has been housed in Ottawa in a most inadequate fashion and has never attracted the attention which it deserves. Last year, in preparation for the opening of the new building, the Government appointed a special commission to select a number of paintings to be added to the present collection. This commission has been working steadily at its task and purchased a number of important pictures, some by Canadians and some by British and foreign artists.

What the National Art Gallery and the British Museum are to Great Britain, the Victoria Memorial Museum will be to Canada. It will take centuries to make our collection equal to those of the ancient and honourable institutions of London, Paris, Berlin and other European cities, but it should not require many years to gather together the material which will as truly represent Canadian culture as the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington represent the culture of the United States. The Victoria Memorial Museum will be another evidence that Canadians are not wholly concerned with the growing of wheat and the bartering of natural and commercial products.

THE Franco-Canadian treaty, which has been in process of making since September, 1907, has been finally approved by the French Parliament. It will not, however, come into force for some months, since the sub-convention arranged by the Hon. Mr. Fielding last January has not been ratified by the Canadian Parliament. This is only a small matter and will probably be arranged in a few hours when Parliament reassembles in November.

A despatch from Washington says that United States harvesting machinery makers will now be seriously handicapped in France by the preferential rates secured by Canadians. This preference varies from \$1.93 on a hay-rake to \$8.20 on a binder. The sender of the despatch failed to mention that the International Harvester Company, with its extensive branch factory at Hamilton, Ont., will be in a position to take advantage of the preferential rate to the same extent as the purely Canadian companies. Instead of filling the French orders in Chicago, they may fill them in Hamilton.

The treaty is a tribute to our developing diplomatic powers, whether or not it is a tribute to our commercial astuteness. It is the first great commercial treaty which Canada has negotiated direct with a foreign country. It is an invitation to other governments, desiring better access to this market, to enter into direct negotiations with the Canadian Ministers. Germany will certainly be the next. In all probability the early communications would pass through Downing Street, but as the negotiations advanced the British Government would allow, or shall we say encourage, the Canadian negotiators to deal direct with the German authorities. Such is the diplomatic autonomy which Great Britain in her wisdom now grants to her four great Dominions.

THERE is one phase of this new diplomacy which is worth considering. Every new commercial treaty between a foreign nation and one of the newer British Dominions is a hostage to peace. If Germany, for example, had special commercial treaties with the