

the cage, flies around a bit, finds freedom irksome and comes back to the cage for a rest.

It is well, however, that city men should occasionally clothe themselves in dirty trousers and negligee shirts and seek diversion where nature presents an unconverted face. It is well indeed if these savage-instincted citizens succeed in getting away in small groups to amuse themselves in such feasts and pow-wows and dances as have marked the natural man during all the centuries of human existence. It is not in the bar-room or the long verandah of the summer hotel that this can be attained. The true relaxation can be secured only by travelling away back among the smaller lakes and along the shady shores of the northern rivers.

DISTRICT DISPLAYS

A UNIQUE feature of the Dominion Fair at Calgary was the district displays which were in competition. Usually a district centres around a large town, and led by the Board of Trade and other organisations, the people brought samples of what they produced to make a collection. Granum district won the first prize. It contained Alberta red wheat fifty inches high, red clover, alfalfa, grasses, vegetables and honey. Regularity and completeness were the qualities which won. Red Deer exhibited coal, lumber, brick, sandstone and a growing apple tree. Raymond showed sugar and garden stuff; Medicine Hat flour, bread and canned goods; High River sacks of grain showing the district's growth from 500 bushels in 1900 to 50,000 bushels in 1907; Macleod strawberries and grain; Didsbury coal, butter, cheese and flour; Ponoka pickerel and an albino moose head; Pincher Creek butter, coal, coke, raw petroleum and apple blossoms; Vegreville a miniature elevator in operation; and so on. In addition there were special displays by Saskatchewan, by Prince Albert and Moosejaw districts, and by British Columbia.

The district display idea is one which might be profitably adopted by the managers of fairs in Eastern Canada. Fruit from Niagara, tobacco and beans from Essex and Kent, and similar displays from other Ontario districts would do much to improve the Agricultural Palace at Toronto's great annual exhibition.

CANADA AT THE FRANCO-BRITISH EXHIBITION

CANADA'S exhibit at the Franco-British Exhibition appears to be all that this "granary of the Empire" could desire. In an advertising age, when all the devices of art and commercial literature are brought to the aid of the merchant or nation, the design of the "Golden Hopper," originated by the Canadian Commissioner, Colonel Hutchison, appeals to the popular fancy as a picture of Canada's harvests. The fact that the French element in Canada's population is so large makes her representation at the Franco-British Exhibition peculiarly desirable. King Edward's policy has been to abolish the idea that any national enmity should exist between the countries divided by the English Channel, and in the present Exhibition the Canadian representation is especially welcome as coming from a land which has seen the political union, if not the fusion, of the two races. The Exhibition in the capital of the Empire is fortunately set in this Champlain year when the pioneer efforts of the France of the Seventeenth Century are being celebrated in the pageant held in this premier British colony with a French-named prime minister. Whether on the St. Lawrence or the Thames, the adventures and achievements of French and British appear to be jointly exploited in this year of Grace, 1908.

FEW FRENCH IMMIGRANTS

IN this year of Champlain and the Franco-British Exhibition, when the great *entente* appears to such glowing advantage, it may well occur to the Canadian to reflect over the small French immigration during the Nineteenth Century. The Republic of France may be as pleasant a land as was the kingdom in the days when Mary Stuart sang her eulogistic farewell as she departed for Knox-ruled Scotland. The religious strife which sent so many of her sons abroad disappeared long ago and the modern French agriculturist or merchant appears to find in his native land such opportunity as he may desire. Even in the United States, the great blending-place of race and creed, there is a comparatively small French element. During the last century the immigration rate from France was much lower than that of Germany or Italy and the only colony over which the French displayed any pronounced enthusiasm was Algiers. Should any considerable numbers leave the compact republic during the next score of years, the

claims of this country will surely be taken into consideration, for no country outside the territory of the Tricolour can afford such a congenial home for the French as Eastern Canada. The cry of race animosity is seldom heard in the Dominion of to-day and the language problem is by no means insoluble.

UNION OF MUNICIPALITIES

THIS week there is meeting in the city of Montreal, the Union of Canadian Municipalities, of which Alderman L. A. Lapointe is president and Mr. W. D. Lighthall honorary secretary-treasurer. Among the questions to be discussed are: City government by board of control, city government by commission, provincial municipal boards, uniform municipal accounting, sinking funds, bill boards and advertising monstrosities, and the handling of criminals.

This Union is a grand institution. It is doing valuable work through its annual meeting, its branches, and its excellent organ, "The Canadian Municipal Journal," in educating those who are called upon to administer our municipalities and in unifying municipal administration throughout Canada. Since our universities, being busy with the study of Hebrew and Greek, give so little attention to these important topics, it is absolutely necessary that there should be some class-room or lecture-hall to which the students of municipal law and administration may go. The Union supplies the need and hence is deserving of the highest commendation.

AN APPEAL TO PACKERS

MORE than once or twice has come the urgent appeal from Canadian representatives abroad that our farmers and fruit-growers should exercise the greatest care in packing the produce sent across the sea. This is a case in which the careless or dishonest packer can do an infinite deal of harm. The reputation for sending defective wares abroad is easily gained for us by a few exporters who either do not know their business or fancy that they know it too well. The yearly waste in this country in the apple trade alone is serious enough without our creating a wrong impression by the cases of inferior fruit badly packed which are sometimes exposed to public criticism at Liverpool. Repeated protests from abroad do not seem to have had the desired effect and it would seem as if the individuals ought to be reached by way of warning. Canada's fruit resources are too magnificent, the methods of the majority of our fruit-dealers are too far above the cheap tricks of the dishonest few, for us to risk considerable discredit by failing to direct attention to the importance of thorough packing of our best orchard and vineyard products.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS

THE movement for consolidated rural schools seems to have died away. Professor Robertson and Sir William Macdonald have been most generous and persistent, but they are apparently powerless. The farmer dislikes paternalism and also expenditures which come directly out of his pocket. He dislikes direct taxes and believes that schools and school-teachers should be provided by the government.

In order to keep up the consolidated school at Hillsborough, P.E.I., Professor Robertson has offered to contribute \$800, if the parents would contribute \$400 in fees. Towards this school, the provincial government already contributes \$1,015 and the Macdonald fund \$1,400. That Professor Robertson has to adopt so radical a departure in order to keep the school going is discreditable either to the system or to the people of the district. If the school cannot be maintained without private charity, it ought to be abandoned. Self-respect demands some better solution than that at present offered.

POLICE AND MUNICIPALITIES

POLITICAL government in large cities, where manhood suffrage obtains, is so much a failure that the police force must be in the hands of an independent commission. In Fredericton, the change from aldermanic control to commission control, was made a few days ago. Most of the other larger cities have already inaugurated the system. Montreal is the only notable exception, and there would be a much better enforcement of the law there if the aldermen could be persuaded to introduce "civil service reform." Politics and the administration of justice should be entirely separate. The enforcement of the law and the prevention of crime are two most important municipal functions. They should be performed by men absolutely independent of any person connected with the business of vote-getting.