

## CANADA AT THE LIEGE EXPOSITION.

(From an Occasional Correspondent.)

After leaving Italy and spending a few days in Germany we came into Belgium, that interesting country whose inhabitants have been a trading nation since the days, long ago, when the Flemings bartered their products of hides, furs, and wool with Britain. To-day the trade of Belgium with the United Kingdom amounts to some forty millions of pounds. Although the area of Belgium is only 11,372 square miles, say half the size of New Brunswick, its population is greater than that of all Canada. The land is in the hands of small holders and nearly every square foot of good soil is cultivated. Small as the country is, its people are ambitious, and a few years ago some of its leading citizens determined that Belgium should have a World's Fair.

In order to accomplish this object a joint stock company was organized and with the assistance of Government aid the International Universal Exposition was opened in Liege, in May last in commemoration of the 75th anniversary of Belgium's national independence. Liege is an important manufacturing city, having a population nearly as great as Toronto. The Exposition is really a good one, instructive as well as interesting. The French exhibits are very large and varied. Germany, too, and Belgium have extensive exhibits, as might be expected. But to my surprise neither the United States nor Great Britain makes a display worthy of their names. On the other hand Canada, Africa, and Algiers occupy separate buildings, and exhibit an extensive variety of products. Japan and China, too, are well represented.

The building occupied by Canadian merchandise stands out boldly and is very attractive. Its central tower is 120 feet high, and the hall itself is 180 by 105 feet. What is shown therein is worthy of a nation, and the visitor cannot fail to be impressed that ours is a great and vast country. There are numerous illustrations of the scenic beauty of Canada, its fertile prairies, its boundless wealth of mines, forest and fisheries, its abundant fruits. Sixteen large oil paintings of farms and farm buildings at various periods during a series of ten years show the stages of progress made by immigrant settlers. These pictures are framed in grass and grain, and with the aid of hidden lamps of electric light, they appear to have the sun shining on them. Beneath these pictures one can learn the name of the owner,

etc., etc. One may learn also the quantity of grain raised in the country for a period of years, showing enormous increases. Around the interior of the upper part of the building is a wide gallery devoted to raw and canned fruits, cereals, honey, maple syrup, etc., etc. These are displayed in a very artistic way and make one feel that Canada must be a fine country to live in when one can have such a great variety of rich food.

The mineral section, too, has an extensive and well arranged display. There are to be seen pyramids of iron, nickel, copper, mica, coal, plumbago, lead, antimony, cobalt, etc., and around these are printed in large letters: "Canada, the largest producer of nickel in the world"—"Furnishes 85 per cent. of the corundum produced in the world"—"Mineral production \$63,343,165." One may also learn a great deal about the fur-bearing animals of the country. Specimens of these have been stuffed and arranged in family groups. Some of our fish are also displayed in a preserved state, and with them is the statement in large letters: "Canada's fisheries, the largest in the world—The value of fish caught in 1903 reached the magnificent sum of \$23,101,878." A fine display of woods in their natural state is made; also dressed and polished Canadian woods. Attention is besides called to our large forests of pulp-wood, and figures are given showing the vast quantities. Specimens of pulp are shown. Among other facts stated are: "Edmonton, the capital of Alberta, is 455 miles farther south than St. Petersburg, Russia." This gives the foreigner some idea of the climate in our most northerly agricultural district.

In view of the facts I have stated, you will not be surprised to hear that the Canada building is one of the chief points of attraction at the Liege Exhibition, and that as many as 40,000 persons have passed through it in a single day. All these were freely supplied with abundant literature, well printed, in different languages. Nothing of that sort was given away elsewhere, so far as we saw, neither were there any samples distributed as is done at our fairs. Although the Chief Commissioner, W. Hutchinson, was absent in London while we were there, our party did not lack attention. His assistants, Messrs. Brodie and Girardot, ably discharged his duties. The former has had five years' experience in connection with other large fairs. This fair, in a word, serves the purpose of a high-class emigration bureau for Canada. Visitors can obtain every sort of information valuable to intending colonists—choice of

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