

turing Co., of London, Ont., all remarkable for their quality and elaborate finish.

#### THE FINE ARTS—OIL PAINTINGS.

This department cannot be said to have been a success; possibly the comparatively recent exhibition of the Art Union may account for this, but whatever the cause may be, the contributions in arts were a failure compared with the fine display made in other departments. Mr. F. A. Verner, an artist of no mean skill, did not, we think, exhibit his best efforts. Such as were shown attracted general attention. A figure of an Indian was perhaps the best of his paintings. Mr. J. Bell Smith presented a picture of a painted group, "Two Sisters," well conceived, and denoting in some points a careful study. Mr. W. N. Cresswell, a clever painter, exhibited two landscapes, which were among the best. Mr. Thomas Griffith's "Group of Flowers" was decidedly well done. There was a freshness and reality about this picture very pleasant to note. A collection of fruit was another study sent in by the same gentleman, fully equal to anything in the gallery. A clever pen and ink sketch, by Miss Alice Clarkson, was extremely well executed and deserving of commendation. Mr. Mollington also exhibited an extremely creditable study in carved wax work. In point of attraction Messrs. Bridgman & Forster's portraits in oil bore the palm, that section of the gallery being crowded with approving lookers on. In this department of art Messrs. Bridgman & Forster have long been favourably known in Western Canada. Every picture gives evidence of complete and careful study. The outlines are graceful, the position of the body natural and unconstrained, the head sitting well upon the shoulders and the whole presenting a life-like appearance. Take for instance the picture of Mr. W. Gooderham. There is a freshness about the portrait; we cannot fail to observe the feeling thrown into the expression of the face. The hair, always a difficult matter to paint well, is here detailed with an exactness which those who are acquainted with the original will at once detect. The same may be said of Senator Mills, of Hamilton; the likeness is excellent, and true to the original. The lines in the face are faithfully delineated, and the entire figure comes out boldly from the canvas, life-like and real. The colour in all the portraits is well distributed, and laid on with smoothness and delicacy of handling. The art of portrait-painting is yet in its infancy in Canada, but while there is yet much to learn, we must admit that this firm is on the high road to its attainment. To portray the expression of the human face so as to give a generally correct idea of its usual expression is one of the most difficult studies to master. In this the firm has succeeded in an eminent degree, as instanced by the life-like portraits of the public men on view during the past month.

A number of amateur paintings in oil and water colours were contributed by Miss Nancy Strickland, Oshawa; Miss Westmacott, Toronto; Mr. Bell Smith, Montreal; and Miss Josephine Oates, Toronto. Some of these gave indications of considerable ability.

#### LITHOGRAPHIC, COPPER AND STEEL ENGRAVINGS.

Messrs. Rolph, Smith & Co. had a fine collection of lithographs of different kinds, executed in the style for which this firm is noted. Some superb specimens of the engraver's art were submitted by

Messrs. Woodward and Grant, of Toronto, particularly in die-sinking, embossing, and steel and copper-plate engraving. The lettering and shading were particularly fine, equal to any specimens of European art we have seen. Their proof samples of steel engravings merit high praise. The ingenious designs in monograms were also noticeable, and the specimens of illuminated embossed work of a most superior description. The letters were all finely and clearly cut, showing great delicacy of finish. In cameo and relief stamping they were far ahead of anything exhibited. Mr. A. Fry, of Toronto, was present with his improved pentagraph, a simple and ingenious little instrument, designed to duplicate plans and drawings, and answers its purpose faithfully and well.

#### GROCERIES AND PROVISIONS.

The number of entries was small (46), but the quality of the goods submitted was very choice. For best barley and cornmeal, James Russell, Claremont, took the first prize. Specimens of buckwheat flour, exhibited by Morgan Bros., Howdon, were of unusually fine quality. In bottled pickles and sauces, Richardson, Moore & Co., of Toronto, took first prize. The firm of W. A. Snyder, of Grimsby, had a choice assortment of fruits bottled and hermetically sealed. The flavour of the samples of canned goods was fully equal to the best American brands. This is the only firm in the Dominion who put up fruits and vegetables in this form, and from the varieties of stock exhibited by them, they should command a large trade in this important branch of manufacture.

#### MACHINERY, CASTINGS, AND TOOLS.

This class occupied considerable prominence, it being the most magnificent collection that has ever been shown in Canada. The largest firms in the country were represented, and the exhibition was one worthy both of exhibitors and the Province at large. The number of entries was 259.

First on the list is The Watrous Engine Works Company of Brantford. The display of machinery made by this Company was the principal attraction to visitors interested in this important branch of manufacture. One of the sights on the grounds was the working of one of their 20 horse-power Patent Direct Action Portable Saw Mills. The simplicity and speed of the machine is its best recommendation. A brief description of its working will best enable our readers to judge of its value as a labour-saving agent. The logs are placed upon a carriage, at the end of which is a circular saw. In front of this saw is a circular piece of metal, answering the purpose of a wedge, and also freeing the saw itself from contact with the rough particles of dust, securing greater freedom of operation, and a material saving in the wear and tear of the saw itself. At the other end of the carriage the operative stands, who can, at will, control the machine. By pulling a simple apparatus with which is connected the piston rod, he can open or shut off the steam at will, and if necessary almost instantaneously stop the working of the machine. It is estimated that it will cut at the rate of 1,500 feet per hour. The value of this mill is becoming generally recognized, and its use is not confined simply to Ontario. It is employed in New Brunswick, Manitoba, Michigan, and even to New Zealand it has found its way. One of its most valuable features is, that it can be adapted to almost any position;