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INDUSTRIAL INSTRUCTION AND EXHIBITIONS—WHAT THEY DEVELOP.

In a former issue we endeavored to show the necessity of industrial instruction for mechanics, and the means that are being provided in Ontario for their improvement. In this connection, the subject of the origin and progress of industrial exhibitions, which, on the present day, have such great influence upon the education and industry of the working classes in civilized countries very naturally, suggests itself. We may be better able to judge of their practical value, and show that increased national prosperity is the significant result of industrial exhibitions, and though it is only within the past century that industrial exhibitions have wielded such controlling power, and influenced the advancement of the commercial pursuits of the nations of the world, it may be of interest to our readers if we give a brief historical sketch of exhibitions, their formation, rise and progress. We have to refer to Holy Writ for the first exhibition, and there we are told, in the Book of Esther, that Ahasuerus "showed the riches of his glorious kingdom and the honor of his excellent majesty many days, even an hundred and four score days" when were displayed "white, green and blue hangings, fastened with cords of fine linen and purple, to silver rings and pillars of marble; the beds were of gold and silver, upon a pavement of red and blue, and white and black marble." This exhibition, to a certain extent, may be called international, for Ahasuerus "reigned from India even to Ethiopia, over an hundred and seven and twenty provinces." The purple would suggest the celebrated dye from Tyre, the fine linen the product of Egypt, and silverware the skilled work of India. The prophets Isaiah and Ezekiel refer to Tyre, Sidon and Carthage as the marts of nations. Afterwards, when Rome became the centre of civilization, and her public exhibitions, comprising the spoils of her triumphs of peace. The imperial Romans were luxurious in their dress, wearing golden robes even in death, were wrapped in golden shrouds, and the grave of the wife of the Emperor Honorius opened in 1544, thirty-six pounds of golden cloth

was found, which had lain there for upwards of eleven hundred years. The subsequent invasion and division of the empires of the East and West prevented collective display of the industries of the world being made. In that era of rapine and pillage, even the soldier could not have been depended upon to guard such treasures as could have been gathered together, representing the manufactures of the world as it then existed. We cannot trace any attempt to form a collective exhibition illustrative of industrial progress until 1268. In that year a huge show of pageantry and splendor, combined with a display of articles descriptive of industries of various countries, was presented in Venice. In addition to an industrial exhibition, there was a water fête, also a procession of the trades. Da Canale says old and young thronged her three hundred bridges, and the galleys and gondolas of nobles and wealthy citizens moved in procession through the canals, until they were all massed in front of the Ducal Palace, where choruses were sung in honor of the new Doge, Lorenzo Trepolo. After the procession, they proceeded to inspect the exhibition, which was held in the apartments of the Palace. Soon after this, international fairs, for the sale and exchange of goods collected from all countries, were established. Some of these fairs survive to the present day, the most important being Leipzig, in Germany, and Nijni Novgorod, in Russia. Leipzig is one of the chief seats of commerce in Germany, great importance being attached to its noted fairs, particularly those held at Easter and Michaelmas. The people congregated at these fairs from the different quarters of the globe, frequently equal in number to the entire population of the town. Every available space is converted into a place of business, the main streets and promenades are covered with booths occupied by dealers in Bohemian glass, porcelain, linen, lace, cloth, furs, hardware, leather, etc. Leipzig is celebrated for its publication of books, producing, on the average, 50,000,000 of printed sheets annually. It is estimated that books to the value of 8,000,000 of thalers (\$5,600,000) are sold at these fairs. The whole value of goods that change hands being computed at 60,000,000 of thalers (\$42,000,000). The annual fair at Nijni Novgorod, formerly held in Makariev, is now continued for two months, commencing on the first day of July. When instituted it was continued only for four days. A century ago it was represented by a wooden building containing 800 booths. It has now an iron structure, having 48 blocks and 2,400 shops for the accommodation of merchants from different nations who regularly attend the fair. The buildings are erected on a triangular space formed by the junction of the banks of the Volga and Oka. During the fair it resembles a busy town, churches, hospitals, theatres, etc., being temporarily erected. It is surrounded by the rivers and a canal, presenting a very busy scene, the water being literally covered with boats and vessels of every description. The fair is divided into regular sections for the different kinds of goods, which include shawls, carpets and silk goods, tea, furs and skins, iron, both raw and manufactured, and merchandises of various kinds, chiefly from Europe and Asia. The annual value of goods exposed for sale at each of these fairs is about \$60,000,000. In 1698 an exhibition was held in Leyden which may be claimed to be somewhat of an international nature. It consisted of valuable productions from different parts of the world, together with a museum of curiosities; but it exhibited more of a morbid taste than intellectual progress. Instead of public attention being chiefly directed to industrial appliances, the attractions were intended more to satisfy the curious, and were of no real practical value to the visitors; for example, the following articles formed part of the exhibit: "The skin of a woman prepared like leather, the ears and tongue of a thief who had been hanged, the stomach of a man, the hand of a mermaid, several thunder-bolts, a murdering knife found in England, on which was inscribed 'kill the males, roast the females, and burn the whelps.'" Although there was a large collection of so called curiosities, no doubt great benefit was derived from the study of the products of Arabia, India, Egypt, China and other countries which were displayed. About half a century after this, great advancement was made in the prospective success of industrial exhibitions by the inauguration of competitive exhibits, by the Society of Arts, in London, England. As early as 1756, this Society offered prizes for the best specimens of carpets, tapestries, porcelain, etc. The motto of the Society, "Arts and Commerce," has been fully sustained from its formation, and it is impossible to estimate the benefits this Society has conferred upon the British nation by its ready assistance in advancing all that relates to the arts and manufactures.

It is to France, though, that the world is most indebted for the introduction of industrial exhibitions, that country, too, is the first that received Government aid and support for this purpose. In the year 1797, M. Francois de Neufchateau, Minister of the Interior, appointed the Marquis d'Arve as Commissioner to enquire into the state of the manufactures of Gobellus (tapestries), of Savres (china), and of the Savonnerie (carpets). The Marquis found great distress in these establishments; the workshops were deserted, and for two years the artisans had been in a state of semi-starvation, and although the warehouses contained a full supply of goods, there was no commercial enterprise to relieve the general embarrassment. To ameliorate this distress, the Marquis proposed to the Minister of the Interior that there should be an exhibition of the industry of national manufactures. This happily-conceived project was approved of by M. Francois de Neufchateau, who gave instructions that the proposed exhibition should be immediately carried into effect. An exhibition building was easily secured, the Chateau of St. Cloud, at that time uninhabited, was used for the purpose, and in the course of a few days, through the co-operation of the manufacturers, the walls were hung with the finest tapestries, the floors were covered with the beautiful carpets of the Savonnerie, and the saloons were decorated with exquisite Sevres china. A wheel of fortune was provided, containing lottery tickets, which were to be disposed of at twelve francs each, and for every ticket a prize would be drawn of greater or less value. The fame of this exhibition induced a number of wealthy persons to visit the chateau for the purpose of purchasing some of these beautiful goods, and the proceeds of the sales were at once distributed among the manufacturers to be applied to the relief of the workmen. In the meantime, the arrangement proceeded rapidly, and the day of opening was decided upon. Everything was ready, but, alas! for human expectation! the projector was doomed to fearful disappointment, which he most graphically described. He says:—"The day of opening for public admission was the 13th Fructidor, and the days previous the courtyard was filled with elegant equipages, whose owners graced the saloons of the Exposition, when I received a note from the Minister, from whom I received an order to close the chateau. Already on the walls of our city was placarded the decree of the Directory for the expulsion of the nobility, with an order for their retirement within four-and-twenty hours to a distance of at least thirty leagues from Paris, and this under pain of death." He immediately made application for a company of dragoons, and after making an inventory of the goods, posted the military around the chateau, and then obeyed the decree of the proscription. Thus we find in the history of the first National Exhibition, that even where the masterpieces of manufacturing skill had been gathered together to be displayed for the benefit of a starving population, the decree of the Republic prevented their being exhibited. We shall in subsequent articles continue our commentary upon the progress of Industrial Exhibitions in France and England, with special reference to the exhibits from Canada and the advantages gained therefrom.

WHY CANADIAN INDUSTRIES SHOULD BE PROTECTED—HISTORY'S LESSON.

In discussing this question, it is necessary to consider: first, whom we are addressing. A considerable body will be composed of those who, until recently, at any rate, have neither read nor thought much upon the subject, and who have hitherto been under the impression that the matter in no way concerns them personally. If not entirely ignorant, they have been at least indifferent. The second class, numerically considered, will be those who, misled by the term "free" trade as used politically, are under the impression that this means no duties—no taxes—consequently, cheap goods and low prices—whilst Protection means "monopolies" and "high prices." The third class, fortunately for the country, is not numerous, but brilliant and sophisticated. To attempt to convince a man of this class is simply folly, as neither facts nor arguments are of any avail. He adopts ready made opinions and phrases, thrown off by the eloquent champions of Free Trade in England, and repeats them glibly in rounded sentences, without for a moment considering whether or not they are applicable to the situation in this country. Ignoring for the present the latter class, we wish to call the attention of those composing the two former to a few facts which are, undoubtedly, of vital importance to them. England stands to-day at the head of the manufacturing nations of

the world. A proud position, which she has held for many years (a century or more), but she does not owe it to the ascendancy of Free Trade principles. In fact, we may say of the last few years that she has maintained this position in spite of Free Trade. Referring to the early history of England, as pointed out last week, we find that, down to the middle of the sixteenth century, very little progress had been made in manufactures. The people were mostly engaged in agriculture, and England imported her manufactured goods and paid for them with the raw products of her farms and mines. For several hundred years the increase of her population was small and the condition of the people poor. During this period, a high state of proficiency in both commerce and manufactures had been reached by the nations of the continent, especially Italy, Germany and the Netherlands. Vast numbers of skilled workmen were employed in the chief cities of these nations. Great wealth was accumulated, and the arts and sciences flourished. The policy of Protection was initiated by Edward III, who induced cloth weavers and other skilled workmen to immigrate from foreign countries, and put such restrictions upon the export of wool and the import of cloth as gave domestic manufactures a start. Under Edward IV, the importation of many manufactured articles was entirely prohibited. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, the legislation of England affecting the importation of foreign goods competing with those of domestic manufacture, grew more and more restrictive. As a direct result of this policy, great progress was made, the wants of the country were supplied, and, in the days of Elizabeth, the annual export of finished cloth reached 200,000 pieces. Commerce was stimulated by legislation in favor of British ships, large bounties of public money were granted to navigation companies, which system has been continued to the present day, and to such protective measures the commercial supremacy of England is mainly due. The policy pursued towards her colonies was such as to destroy or prevent any growth of manufacture or commerce, and absolutely to force them to buy from home manufacturers and merchants. It was not until 1842 that the home Government commenced to abandon protective duties, and down to 1859 such duties were still retained on various foreign goods. England possesses natural advantages and resources superior to any other country, in addition to which she has an immense accumulation of capital, vast workshops with improved machinery and armies of skilled workmen. But all these have not saved her, during the crisis of the last few years, from ruinous competition in foreign markets, and even her home markets have been invaded by her neighbors and competitors to such an extent as to extort the cry in many quarters for a return to a protective system.

Turning to the United States, we find that, after the separation from the mother country, a protective tariff was almost the first enactment of the young nation. It was very moderate—15 per cent.—and under it only the most common articles could be manufactured. English manufacturers systematically reduced their prices, flooded the country with goods, and endeavored to crush out the rising manufactures, and for a time, to a great extent, succeeded. The war of 1812 checked the influx of foreign goods, and turned the attention of the country to the state of its manufactures, which were found inadequate to supply their wants. They were without the means to supply clothing to their soldiers, or material of war. At this period the tariff was doubled, both for the purpose of raising the revenue and to protect and stimulate manufactures. This brought out capital, and there was a great industrial awakening. In 1816 a new tariff was made and the duties lowered, and the seven following years were most disastrous to the industrial interests of the country. In 1821, a tariff of a thoroughly protective character was passed, and the succeeding seven years were as markedly prosperous as the previous ones had been calamitous. In 1833 political changes occurred, and the protective policy was exchanged for one which provided for a general reduction of duties, until, in 1842, there should be one even duty of 20 per cent. The disastrous consequences of this tariff culminated, in 1837, in one of the severest financial panics in the history of the country, and the succeeding five years formed a period of deep depression and misery. The protective tariff of 1842 was followed by an immediate revival in business and manufactures, evidently the direct result of this measure. A change of political supremacy took place in 1846, resulting in a lower tariff being again adopted. Progress was arrested, prosperity checked, and, in 1857, another deplorable crisis took place. Such severe lessons as the country had thus received resulted in the adoption of a more