NWP 971.315 88626

⇒B. C. ÷ AGF REVIEW O THE NEW C

HISTORY OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The Fifteenth Provincial Exhibition under the auspices of the British Columbia Agricultural Association, which opens at Victoria on the 29th September, 1891, may well be taken as a point of vantage from which to look back upon a past that, despite some drawbacks, is full of encouragement as showing that the operations of the organization and those that preceded it have been very beneficial. There may be some,—there always are such in every community,—who will be disposed to place the very lowest estimate upon past achievements, but they forget the difficulties that have had to be overcome, and do not remember that the Victoria Association has every claim to be regarded as the parent of those local societies which, upon the Island and the Mainland, have stimulated the taste for agriculture, have assisted to develop the interest, and have, indeed, led to the adoption of something like method and science in its pursuance.

It may well be said that, considering the favorable conditions of the Pacific Coast country and the progress that has been made on the other side the lines, far greater headway ought to have been made here, and that by this time there ought to be little necessity to import agricultural or horticultural produce from either the United States or Ontario. Whatever the reason may be, the blame does not attach to the country ; and therefore it is well to "let the dead past bury its dead," as far as anything like complaint or regret is concerned. There are, however, many matters of interest which, unless recalled, may drop forever out of memory, and to these the occasion of, inaugurating the new buildings and grounds, is a fitting one to refer.

Early in the sixties, in 1861 or 1862, the Vancouver Agricultural and Horticultural Society was formed, Mr. J. T. Pidwell being secretary and Mr. James Lowe treasurer. In 1863 it held an exhibition in—if the information at hand be correct the old Fort yard, between Government and Wharf Streets. The amount of prizes then awarded was \$259, the late Dr. Tolmie being the most successful exhibitor, and carrying off seven first and five second prizes for cattle and produce. Among other successful competitors were Governor Douglas, John Clayton, Jas. Dean, Col. Foster, H. Henley, G. Harvey and the late Kenneth McKenzie.

In 1864 the amount of prizes competed for was \$193.50,

Brown, R. Porter, H. Cogan, W. Dalt Irvine, P. Imrie, and G. Deans. Mr. M. P. for Victoria, was elected a life was held in Buckley's Hall, Yates yard. Special features of the prize sheep raised and fed in the Pro for building purposes. In 1873 presilent, Mr. W. Thompson 1st Cogan 2nd vice president; Mr. E. I Thomas Russell, secretary; Mr. T. for many years as assistant secreta exhibitors at this time, were Dr. Tol The class of cattle was very fair, the inary grades, there having been a w descriptions of animals since that pe produce was raised beyond what w sumption.

At the show of 1873 the prize cattle, five of sheep, five of pigs, five twelve of fruit, seventeen of vege two of implements. Among those nection with agricultural matters a Governor Trutch, Messrs. W. Dalby, S. Sandover, J. T. McIlmoyle, G. H. Shakespeare, A. C. Wells (Chilliwha

The annual meeting of 1876 w ber, Mr. Noah Shakespeare in the 'elected president, D. Le Neveu, 1st 2nd vice-president; J. H. Turner, t secretary. At that meeting, among Messrs. N. Shakespeare, W. Turgor ridge, J. D. Pemberton, D. W. Higg D. Thompson, James Fell, J. H. T Mills, George Deans, J. B. Sere and

In 1878, during the president Society forwarded an exhibition of Exhibition, for which it obtain

The Agricultural Society contains succeeding years with marked ber special incidents until 1882, when park was formally inaugurated by