

The Toronto Exhibition is a reproach to Montreal. The Queen City started this enterprise 23 years ago, and in sunshine, gloom and storm it has kept it to the fore, as the most complete local exhibition of its class probably in the world. Even in the darkest years of reaction, from the "boom," and in hard times of trade depression, the Toronto Exhibition has been held, and did excellent service in modifying the local distress. Montreal had as fine an exhibition as Toronto for a few years, superior, indeed, in its display of cattle, fruits, vegetables and some local manufactures. But the enterprise collapsed. The loss to the city was far greater than the cost of the Exhibition. Consider what it means to the hotels, storekeepers, railways, street railway company, theatres, cabmen and others for several hundred thousand visitors to enter the city bent on sightseeing, purchasing goods, and having a "good time" generally. The expenditure of such visitors runs from a minimum of \$5 to \$100 each. To the farmers of the Province the exhibit of cattle, horses, dairy products, implements, at an Exhibition is an object lesson of incalculable value. It means raising the productive value of the whole of the farms, a result to be estimated by an enormous sum of money. To manufacturers the Exhibition is a splendid advertisement, and to them also has an educative value. They see each other's goods, they catch at opportunities of improvement, or see some suggestion of a new line of enterprise, and they thus reap untold benefits from the display. Why cannot Montreal rise to its opportunities in this respect? Here is the natural place for a Dominion Exhibition. Were due enterprise shown by the citizens one would be founded here that would enrich them and prove of advantage to all Canada. Providence has been too good to Montreal, its enterprise has been checked in development by so much trade and so much wealth having fallen to its lot like an inheritance.

The question of annexing the municipalities on the borders of this city has again been broached. The situation remains to-day as it stood in February 1896, when the then Mayor, Mr. R. Wilson-Smith, alluded to the matter in his Inaugural Address. What was then said is equally appropriate now.

"The annexation of outlying municipalities, the dividing lines of which are difficult to trace, forming as they geographically and naturally do, part and parcel of the City proper, a question which should, in my opinion, be carefully considered and dealt with as soon as possible. From a geographical, financial and hygienic point of view they should be annexed, and they are quite ripe for it at the present time. Not only have they incurred large debts for the purpose of carrying out improvements,

but they are granting privileges to manufacturing concerns and other corporations for objects, which are perhaps justifiable under their existing circumstances, including special privileges, such as exemption of taxation, etc., but which will not be in the interest of the City of Montreal. The majority of these municipalities have already incurred large debts which, however, compare in a reasonable degree with our own. Some of them have not only asphalted their streets, but also their lane-ways. When considering this matter it may be found that they have gone too far, either in indebtedness or in the granting of privileges, and that it would not be fair for the citizens of Montreal generally to assume these burdens."

Careful consideration has not been given to the matter, but whatever changes have occurred since the above words were spoken have, to some extent, rather complicated the annexation question than rendered it easier of solution.

THE SUN LIFE OF CANADA.

ANNUAL RE-UNION OF OFFICIALS.

The annual re-union of the officials of the Sun Life of Canada held last week at Brockville and other points on the St. Lawrence, was a great success, though the elements were occasionally out of humour. But, what power is there equal to the Sun for clearing the sky and dispelling gloom? We are not going to give a party away when on pleasure bent, but, the agents of this company have an infinite capacity for the enjoyment of "innocent merriment," like the Mikado. Such buoyancy of spirits as they have displayed is a good sign for the company, for the more capable a man is of hard, steady work, the more intelligently, whole-heartedly a worker applies himself to his daily task, the more does he throw the same earnestness into his recreations. The agent who "goes mourning all his days," is a wet blanket on business. The gathering had several most enjoyable trips on the river, to Alexandria Bay and other points. They also visited Athens, where the President, Mr. Robt. Macaulay was presented with an address of welcome from the Reeve and Council of the municipality at a public reception, which was read by Mr. Loverin, the clerk. To this address the President made a happy and feeling reply, in which, after alluding to the pleasant relations of Canadians with the people of the States, he eulogised the position and work of the Sun Life. He was followed by Mr. T. B. Macaulay, who described life assurance as, "systemized philanthropy." The visit to Athens and Charleston Lake was much enjoyed and left memories that will long be a pleasure. The re-union was intensely enjoyed and the Sun Life party made a most agreeable impression upon all with whom they became associated.