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TORONTO, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1878.

THE PROVINCIAL EXHIBITION.

THE universal verdict is that the Provincial Exhibition was a great success. A few months since, it looked doubtful whether we would not lose our opportunity. The people of Toronto were determined to have the Exhibition. They were willing to be taxed to any undue extent for the purpose. Every one felt that such an attraction in the city would cause a large amount of money to go into circulation. Not only would the Exhibition itself bring in a handsome revenue, (and all previous calculations have been more than realized in the actual results,) but general business would be favorably affected by the influx of visitors to the city. The good done to the trade of Toronto during last week is incalculable. The city was thronged from Monday till Saturday. While the buildings of the Exhibition were literally besieged, and the grounds were well covered by the surging multitude, the streets of the city presented an unusually animated scene. Wholesale houses were put to an extraordinary strain to meet the demand made upon them. The retail stores were crowded all day long, and had to continue open till almost midnight. Hotels, railroads, steamboats, the street-cars, houses of amusement, must have found the one week as good as an ordinary year. It must be confessed that the increased taxation to which our citizens must now submit will prove in the end to be a wise and profitable expenditure.

The presence of the Governor-General gave a certain *eclat* to the proceedings. The visit of Lord Dufferin at such a time was an auspicious occurrence, as while it was saddened by the thought that it would prove to be his last in his vice-royal capacity, it gave the people a valuable opportunity of expressing their sense of gratitude in view of the eminent services rendered by Lord Dufferin and the happy influence he has exercised upon the country. It also furnished his lordship with an occasion upon which to indulge in his peculiar vein of kindly humor and flowing eloquence, which, without any Exhibition at all, would have put us all into the very best of

spirits. The marvellous fertility of the Governor-General in speech-making was put to the utmost test. What with the curlers' and the Mayor's gifts, and the innumerable addresses that were presented in the course of the week, and with the speaking required for the opening of the Exhibition alone, there are few men who could have responded with such a variety of language and choice bits of humor. Should the Exhibition have served no other purpose than that of allowing our favorite governor to see for himself the high place he has gained in the affections of the people whom he has ruled so long and so well, and of carrying with him the earnest prayers of the community in behalf of himself, his lady and family, it would be entitled to be considered a very great success.

The buildings and grounds, of themselves, constituted an important feature of the Exhibition. The site is an admirable one. Standing out in the lake, with the fresh breezes floating in from the vast expanse beyond, and with the waters of Ontario ever in view, it is a delightful place of resort. With the lapse of a few years, we may well expect to see the grounds beautifully adorned with a rich variety of flower-beds and umbrageous trees, and it will then prove one of those spots so common in the old country, but which we all desiderate in this—a place combining natural beauty and the loveliness resulting from careful and industrious culture. The buildings, again, are well worthy of appreciative remark. The main building looks like a well-sized model of the similarly named structure at the Centennial Exhibition, and was at once seen to be admirably adapted for the purposes for which it was erected. Machinery Hall is an excellent adjunct, while the other buildings devoted to horticulture, the dairy, and the poultry, were worthy of their special departments in the Exhibition. The outhouses containing the sheep and cattle pens and stables for horses, are substantial and commodious. The grounds being so extensive, the visitor finds himself relieved from time to time by walking from the one building to the other, while there is ample room given for dining-rooms and refreshment stands, and for the exhibition in the open air of agricultural implements and rustic work.

The exhibits on the whole were eminently satisfactory and gratifying. No one could fail to be instructed by looking upon the endless variety of horses, cattle, sheep and poultry. Who could regard such a display of earth's produce without being moved to gratitude to God for giving us such a noble heritage? What a variety of food for man and beast met the eye as you wandered along! Then there was the beautiful display of flowers and fruits, refreshing to the sight and gratifying to the smell. The inventive genius which was shown in the various agricultural machines and implements, is a matter of special congratulation in a land where physical labor is made scarce by the inducements which are offered to enter the higher professions. There was not another sight that proved so attractive as that of Machinery Hall, with its engines and shafts and pulleys all in rapid motion, and with the machinery attached, all determined to show to the utmost advantage the work it is capable of doing. The display of the industrial occupations in life was also

exceedingly attractive, showing how far we have attained in the science of social economics. The space given to education, to the arts, and in particular to drawing, painting, and photography was well occupied, and proved such an attraction that during Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday the thronging masses were frequently blocked up. In a word, there was nothing wanting to give the on-looker a fair idea of the variety and extent of human occupation. The Exhibition was the country, nay, the world, in epitome. We saw in it the harmony that blends from the different gifts and talents with which God has endowed his creatures, and the lesson that was read to all was this, that in a country where every one learns to do something skillfully there will be room and to spare. It is only where the crowd is put upon the same kind of labor, which needs no great amount of skill or handicraft, that they are compelled to jostle each other out of the way. The skilled artizan will generally find plenty of work to do. As Daniel Webster said, there is always room in the upper tier.

The most interesting part of the Exhibition, to our view, was the people themselves, inasmuch as men and women are better than the cattle and horses they rear, or are of more value than the machinery they invent, the pictures they execute, or the books they write. Let us see the men and women and we soon know what a country is, is a sage remark worthy of attention. A poor, wretched, ragged, goitred people like the inhabitants of the mountain passes of Switzerland, speak for themselves of a land poor in invention, in agricultural skill, in education. A well-fed, healthy, comfortably dressed, intelligent, and well-conducted multitude like that which assailed our Exhibition grounds and buildings soon tell the tale of a rich and prosperous country. The people, we are glad to say, were all this and much more. Such a crowd and the same amount of sobriety would have been an impossibility in any part of the old country. Such a thronging multitude and the same quiet orderliness could only occur to a British philosopher as the realization of some Utopian dream. We do not say that as a people we are perfect. Far from it, when we consider the evils that exist in the body corporate of the nation. But when we think of the intelligence, decency, and respectable appearance of the thousands who flooded our city, we are encouraged to believe that they are the seeds from which a vast nation of moral, religious, intelligent and enterprising people will arise, and develop this Dominion into a land that will be eminent amongst the nations of the earth for its agricultural wealth, and for its energy and ambition in every good and noble cause.

With the efforts which are now being put forth to establish an annual exhibition in Toronto and thus utilize the grounds and the buildings which have so admirably answered the purposes for which they were erected, we sympathize deeply. Every one must be convinced of the stimulus given to business by the gathering of last week. As a source of pleasant instruction and amusement to the many the occasion was invaluable. For the development of the inventive faculty, of commerce in many new channels, and of the agriculture of the country, we cannot fancy any-