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THE CANADIAN HISTORICAL EXHIBITION, 1897.

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IN the course of a very able report which the City Treasurer lately presented to the Mayor and the newly constituted Board of Control of Toronto, occurs a reference to a project of more than usual interest, not merely from a civic but from a wider point of view.

It very justly foreshadows that if proper advantage is taken of the opportunities, the coming year 1897 may be made a great year, attended by temporary and perhaps permanent advantages. I quote Mr. Cody's words as to next year's events in Canada.

He says: "In addition to the enlargement of the Industrial Exhibition into a Dominion Exhibition, which has been announced, and the meeting of the British Association, energetic steps have been taken by the Committee of the Canadian Institute and the Universities to prepare for the holding of a general Canadian Historical Exhibition, and otherwise to celebrate and commemorate that year, as the anniversary of the discovery of Canada in June, 1497. The programme of the Canadian Historical Exhibition Committee has appeared in the press from time to time, and was pretty fully reported on at a recent public meeting of the Committee on the 16th of April.

"Perhaps one of the most important consequences of the success of the efforts of this Committee will be the inducing of the Duke and Duchess of York to visit Toronto in connection with the proposed commemoration.

"It also seems probable that it needs the special inducement, or reason, of the holding of a national celebration, and a special exhibition of a high and commemorative character, such as the committee proposes, to ensure the desired visit from a Prince so near the

throne, and so full of important engagements as the Duke of York must be.

"The Historical Exhibition will be entirely distinct in character from the Industrial, and, from the programme presented by the committee, is one that is likely to attract an entirely different class of visitors, both from Europe and the cities of the United States."

It is surely a great honor that so comparatively young a city should be selected, by general agreement of those who have interested themselves in the subject, in all parts of the Dominion, to become the scene of the chief demonstration in honour of a man and an event interesting to students of history in every part of this New World.

The Canadian Historical Exhibition movement ought not to be a strange subject to the readers of THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE.

The duty of Canadians to commemorate in some manner the first discovery on what is now Canadian soil, had been urged by the Royal Society of Canada. The first small seed of a definite project had been sown, as it were, by the wayside, in resolutions at a union meeting of the Ontario Historical Associations, held by the courtesy of the York Pioneers in the log cabin, erected by the latter body on the site of old Fort Rouille, now included in the Toronto Industrial Exhibition Grounds.

The next step towards the successful inception of the project was an article which appeared in THE CANADIAN MAGAZINE of January, 1895, entitled "The Fourth Century of Canadian History." The historical reasons for initiating such a celebration in Canada were there fully set forth.