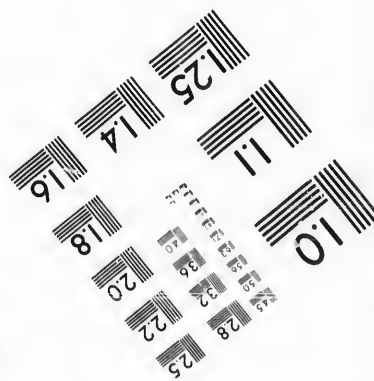
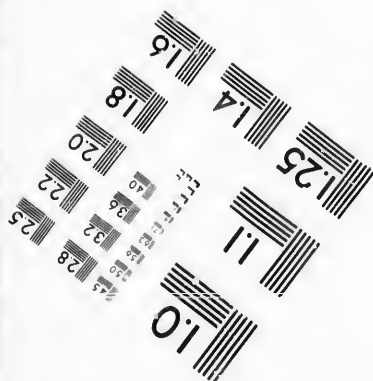
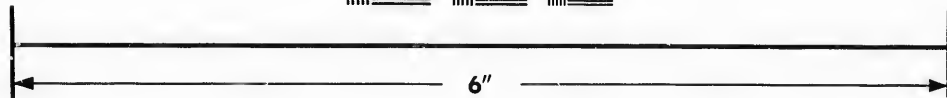
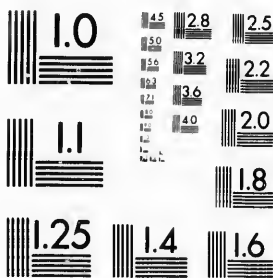


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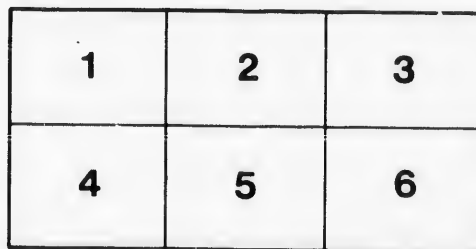
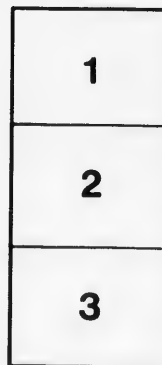
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SHALL WE HAVE
A WORLD'S FAIR

— IN —

MONTREAL

IN 1892,

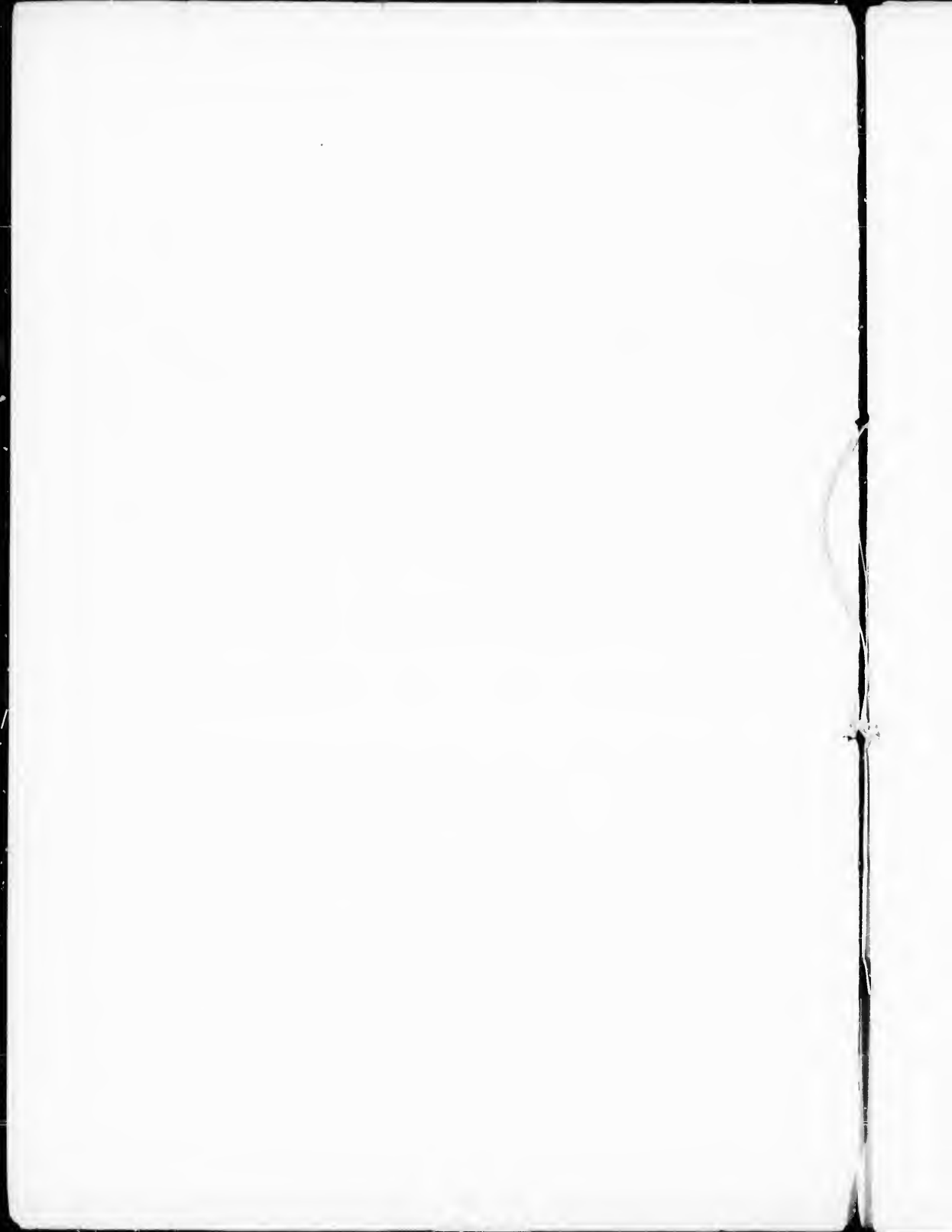
TO CELEBRATE

— THE —

250th ANNIVERSARY

OF THE FOUNDING OF

VILLE MARIE ?



A WORLD'S FAIR
IN MONTREAL IN 1892,
THE 250th ANNIVERSARY
Of the Foundation of the City.

On the 17th April last the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal passed a resolution suggesting the celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the founding of Montreal, by the holding of an

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION

in this city in the year 1892.

This proposition was communicated to the public press of the city, and was received with such marked favour that the Society feels justified in calling attention to the circumstances and conditions which must conduce to the success of such a scheme ; we also wish to point out some of

THE MANY BENEFITS

which would flow from its accomplishment.

In advocating an undertaking which should appertain rather to such bodies as the Board of Trade, or the Chambre de Commerce, the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society does so in no spirit of obtrusive meddling, but feeling strongly the importance of the occasion, finds itself unexpectedly obliged to support an idea which is passively approved of by many, but actively taken hold of by none of those bodies which might be supposed to be the most interested in it.

We would point out that

THE EVENT IS WORTHY OF COMMEMORATION

on account of

- 1st, Montreal's position as the foremost city of the Dominion.
- 2nd, The 250 years ending 1892 embrace the largest and most important part of the history of the country,

Last year South Australia held an International Exhibition in celebration of its Jubilee. 1892 will be the Fifth Jubilee of Montreal and therefore five times more worthy of being celebrated. A further interest attaches to the date from the fact that it is also the

400th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RE-DISCOVERY OF AMERICA
BY COLUMBUS ;

the fruitful results of which have caused the earlier discoveries of the Norsemen to be almost forgotten.

THE IMMENSE COMMERCIAL BENEFITS

which are sure to result from such an enterprise must form its chief *raison d'etre*. Canada, by the completion of the C. P. R. has now become a great highway between Europe and the far East and no scheme could be devised which would do more to make both Europe and Asia contribute to the prosperity and development of our country than bringing them together here.

The London *Standard* describes our position in these words:—
“But the greatest of Canada’s advantages is that of position. The Dominion sits astride the civilized world. Its territories lie on the very track of the great lines of commerce of the future. On one side it commands the Pacific, on the other the Atlantic. It holds out one hand to the civilized West and the other to the swarming and now awakened East.”

OUR GREAT RAILROAD AND STEAMSHIP LINES would reap IMMEDIATE AND DIRECT BENEFITS from the increase in passenger traffic, and still more so in freight. Moreover the country would be magnificently advertised ; new markets as well as new avenues of trade would be opened up for both agricultural and manufactured products ; attention would be called to our great resources and natural advantages : immigration would be stimulated, and foreign capital would probably be attracted here for investment ; for though our manufactures may be in excess of present demands, there is a wide field for work in the development of our mineral resources.

CONSOLIDATION OF THE DOMINION.

The very circumstance of our different provinces being brought together in a friendly rivalry, in a way which would do credit to the whole country ; would do much to cement their union, increase the pride and confidence of Canadians in the future of their country, and foster a self-reliant patriotism, founded on an intelligent understanding of the advance already made and the possibilities of the future.

In addition to the general benefits to the country at large,
MONTREAL COULD NOT FAIL TO BENEFIT IMMENSELY.

This is so obvious that it hardly seems to need demonstration. MANY THOUSANDS would be added to the population of the city for several months; this addition would consist of consumers; and all of those trades which minister to the daily wants and comforts of the community would receive a proportionate impetus.

In short the immediate benefit would equal that of dozens of Winter Carnivals, and besides would leave a train of lasting benefits hardly attainable in any other way.

THE PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS

are exceedingly good. There can be little doubt that

THE NUMBER OF EXHIBITS WOULD BE LARGE.

The UNITED STATES (to take foreign countries first) would be sure to be well represented: their proximity combined with a keen desire to extend their trade, would secure that.

MEXICO, we are assured, will enter into the idea heartily, the government being likely to send a very good exhibit.

The SOUTH AMERICAN countries though not so enterprising as our neighbors will probably be represented.

The revived interest which FRANCE is taking in Canada, in addition to the desire for new markets should secure hearty co-operation from her.

THE INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN PARIS IN 1889, WILL NOT INTERFERE with another here three years later. Had the Paris show been in 1891 it would probably have greatly helped us, as exhibits could have been repacked and sent on instead of being taken back by their owners, just as many of the exhibits at Antwerp were shown in London the following year.

Besides France, no doubt SPAIN and ITALY as well as BELGIUM, SWEDEN, and NORWAY, would be represented and judging from the present volume of their trade with Canada, the GERMANS would probably not be behind the others.

As for GREAT BRITAIN we may count on the most hearty sympathy and active co-operation there, both from the government and from private enterprise. We might get a very fine loan Art Exhibition like that sent to Melbourne this year, which would prove a most

valuable attraction. Then with good exhibits from India and our sister colonies we would have certainly a more varied and probably a more extensive exhibition than that of the Colonies and India in London in the year 1886, which was an unquestioned success. We should remember that the governments or individuals who might not think the Canadian market worth troubling about, would be very glad to reach the United States through us.

Canada may be said to have a claim on many countries to assist her in

HER FIRST WORLD'S FAIR

since she has taken part in so many Exhibitions herself; for example, once in Vienna; thrice in Paris; once in Antwerp, Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Dublin, Liverpool, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Newcastle, Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne; and some six or more times in London.

But even were this claim not recognized, and were her overtures received with coldness by foreign nations, there would still remain

AN ALTERNATIVE SCHEME,

which could be carried out with perfect success at considerably less expense and with a minimum of risk; namely that of

A BRITISH AND COLONIAL EXHIBITION,

similar to that of the Colonies and India held in London in 1886, with the addition of a magnificent display from Great Britain and Ireland. It would be very important to have India extensively and thoroughly represented, and there need be no anxiety on that point, as Lord Dufferin's sympathy and Lord Lansdowne's active co-operation may be counted upon to make the Indian department complete and attractive. THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES in simple justice could hardly do less than reciprocate the advances we have made in participating in their Jubilee and Centennial Exhibitions, and they, if they take up the idea at all, will do so heartily, we may be sure, and in such a way as to rival the Dominion itself.

As for Great Britain; the desire or perhaps even the necessity of meeting American competition would tend to make the British Section all that could be desired in beauty, variety, and extent.

CANADA HAS MADE IMMENSE STRIDES

in material progress of late years, and one great advantage of an International Exhibition on her own soil would be the opportunity for

making a display commensurate with her advance in the industrial arts and the extent of her natural resources, without having to incur the trouble and expense unavoidable in sending a large number of exhibits to a great distance.

THE ATTENDANCE OF VISITORS

should also be good. Besides the many thousands of Canadians who would not visit the city without some greater attraction than a mere annual fair, we could count on attracting a large number from the United States. A really good display of the

ARTS AND MANUFACTURES OF INDIA

would by itself draw hundreds of thousands who have neither the means or leisure to study them abroad. Moreover Canada is attracting more and more interest abroad, and such an exhibition here in 1892 would probably get the benefit travel of three years, not only of those coming to Canada, but also those who might wish to make a trip to the States. Many who might think of a trip to the U. S. in 1891 might defer their visit till the next year, and some who otherwise might not come over until 1893 might come a year earlier so as to combine a visit to the Exhibition with other attractions.

THE EXPENSE SHOULD BE MODERATE.

So many exhibitions are going on simultaneously that in a short time a number of excellent buildings will be for sale and obtainable at perhaps one fourth or one fifth of the cost of a new building.

Then again,

WE HAVE A GOOD SITE :

the present Exhibition grounds are finely situated and there is a considerable extent of vacant property adjoining which could be utilized for such a special occasion. The tract between Mt. Royal Avenue and Pine Avenue, Park Avenue and Upper St. Urbain is about 34 acres ; there is a similar tract lying West of Park Avenue, and another addition might be made on the North West, so that 70 or 80 acres could be added for that year to the present Exhibition grounds.

While these figures do not reach the proportions of Fairmount Park, Philadelphia, there should be ample room, seeing that the extent of the Antwerp exhibition grounds of 1885 was only $54\frac{1}{2}$ acres, that of Liverpool 1886, only 35 acres ; that of Glasgow being held now, 60 acres.

EP
1885
1886

WAYS AND MEANS.

No doubt if Montreal desires the benefit of such an undertaking, the citizens of Montreal must be prepared to subscribe, and subscribe handsomely to a guarantee fund ; and it promises well for success that our enterprising business men are already coming forward with offers of active support in that way.

THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS might fairly be called upon to aid, and the leading cities of the Dominion (following the precedent of similar occasions in other countries) might subscribe to the capital stock necessary to put such an undertaking on a sound footing.

As it seems advisable to have the opinion of as many influential men as possible on the desirability and practicability of this scheme of a World's Fair, will you kindly communicate your views on the subject as early as possible to Mr. S. C. Stevenson, 76 St. Gabriel Street, Montreal, P.Q.

There is no time to be lost ; for an enterprise of such magnitude requires careful preparation to ensure success.

Trusting that you will give this matter your most earnest consideration we are

Your obedient servants,

THE COMMITTEE ON EXHIBITION CIRCULAR.
N. & A. S. OF MONTREAL.



Montreal, October, 1888.

