

CONSULS ACCLAIM MONTREAL'S PLANS TO HOLD BIG FAIR

Hopes for International Co-
operation Appear Well
Founded

READY FOR 1925

Believe That Annual Exhi-
bition Will Be Fully
Self-Supporting

The staging of an industrial exhibition in the fall of 1925 advanced a big step towards realization last night when the consuls-general and consuls of the various countries represented in Canada attended a banquet given at the Windsor Hotel by the Montreal Industrial Exhibition Association for the purpose of ascertaining the extent to which the exhibition will be supported by their countries. From the point of view of the executive of the association the result was excellent, for there was general endorsement of the proposal not only from foreign countries but from the various organizations in the Dominion, and particularly in Montreal. There is reason to hope that in 1925 Montreal will have an industrial exhibition which will compare with others in the Dominion, and which will lead to the establishment of a trading centre that will be of benefit to the Dominion in its trade relations with foreign countries.

The banquet primarily marked the gathering of consular representatives of no less than 28 countries—something that has not occurred for nearly thirty years when the project of a consular corps was mooted. In addition there were representatives of local organizations that were prepared to give their support to an exhibition on the assurance that it would be run on business-like lines and for the general benefit of the city and province. The Chambre de Commerce, the Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club each sent their presidents to the banquet in order to testify to their willingness and the full support of their organizations to the project, while the Trade Commissioner of Great Britain, the Consul General of Norway—the doyen of the consular service in Montreal—of France and Italy all spoke in commendatory terms of the exhibition. The representatives of the Federal and Provincial Governments both spoke appreciatively of the project, while not committing their governments to any financial support, and their remarks were endorsed by the city representatives and those of other organizations that were present.

EXPLAINS PROJECT

Hon. Henry Miles, M.L.C., the president of the Montreal Industrial Exhibition Association, presided and was supported by one of the most representative gatherings that has assembled in Montreal for a long time.

Mr. Miles told the gathering that the association was already in possession of valuable plans made several years ago and which were adequate for the purpose in view, and the foundation work of the exhibition might now be considered complete. It was expected that during the next six months these plans could be modified slightly for use, and that in the early spring of 1924 active work could be begun, affording fifteen or sixteen months for construction and preparation for an exhibition to be held two years hence—in the fall of 1925. It was believed this object could be achieved with the approbation and interest of the citizens.

The speaker pointed out that the fair was not contemplated as a profit maker, but to make ends meet and use any excess for improvements and extending the prize list. Mr. Miles remarked that in some 25 exhibitions the attendance ran from twice to five

or six times the population of the place in which it was held. The Toronto exhibition attracted three times the population of the Queen city. Taking the lowest figure, with an admission of a quarter, the revenue from this source would be \$400,000, while there were many other sources of revenue, such as concessions, privileges, etc., from which a positive annual revenue of nearly \$1,000,000 could be assured. Mr. Miles also pointed out that there would be other returns to the city, for the influx of visitors meant the expenditure of a large sum of money in the city, and every branch of the business community benefitted. The establishment of an exhibition at the park would also give an increased value to the surrounding land, which would rapidly be built up and bring the city a tax revenue, while the provision of an athletic centre in the park would release many grounds that were now not paying taxes and could be built on. Proceeding Mr. Miles spoke of the educational value of the exhibitions and of the interest and pleasure it would give the general public, and then went on to speak of the international aspect of such an organization. He said that an opportunity was furnished to the various foreign nations to participate in the program and aid on their side in establishing and strengthening trading between their countries and Canada. Canada required an outlet for many products and manufactures, and it was necessary that exchange relations should be established with the outside world.

NATIONAL BUILDINGS

He outlined the proposal of the association to set aside adequate ground at the exhibition so that countries could erect their own buildings suitable to contain and exhibit the products and manufactures of their own countries, such buildings to be free from taxation and built on a free site. In cases where countries would not feel warranted in erecting their own buildings the association proposed to construct exhibition halls and allot the space in it for exhibits. The present gathering was called to enable the consuls-general and consuls in the Dominion to understand the situation, and the next step would be to approach foreign governments, through the accredited representatives. Mr. Miles expressed the hope that representatives of the consular service would voice their opinion on the project, and concluded with a few words on immigration in its relation to an exhibition.

APPROVAL VOICED

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman Leon Trepanier, who followed, said that the spirit of international fraternity was spreading throughout the world, and before such an exceptional gathering of official representatives of nations that desired to see the progress of humanity it was unnecessary to emphasize the ideal to which their efforts tended—the ideal of peace, of work and of fraternity in order to render the people united and friendly. Their presence was an indication of the interest they had in the project that the city of Montreal was considering, one worthy of the metropolis, worthy of Canada, and of all countries who participated in it.

The Consul-General for Norway, M. L. Aubert, responded on behalf of the consular service, and while expressing the view that it meant an immense amount of work, he did not doubt that those connected with the organization would carry the exhibition through, and that something lasting and good would come out of it. The Norwegian Consul added that he was sure that all the nations represented had but one wish, and that was that the exhibition would be a big success, and he was also sure that the consuls would lend their utmost assistance to this end, for reciprocal trade relations contributed more than anything else to good relations, brotherhood and peace among nations.

Senator Raoul Dandurand, speaking as a representative of the Federal Government, wished the Montreal Exhibition the best of success.

M. Paul Naggiar, the Consul-General for France, said that the Government of France was ready to do everything in its power to encourage the prosperity of Canada, and particularly

the Province of Quebec, and the day that the Federal, provincial and civic governments decided to support an exhibition France would co-operate with them to its fullest extent.

PERSONAL SUPPORT

Hon. J. A. Robb, Minister of Immigration, followed with an address which outlined the advance made by Canada, and said that as a business man of Montreal he was delighted to support the exhibition in every possible way.

Hon. J. L. Perron, Provincial Minister of Highways, said that speaking as a citizen and not as representative of the Government, he felt that an exhibition in Montreal was destined to assist considerably in the prosperity of Montreal. The people who were behind the association were business men who would look after it properly. He understood that the City of Montreal was behind it, and while he could not speak officially for the Government, he assured his listeners that the prosperity of the province was wrapped up in the prosperity of the city of Montreal.

The representative of the British Trade Commissioner, H. R. Adams, suggested that it was up to the promoters of the exhibition to convince the commercial community of England that it was worth while to participate in the exhibition, and in this connection he placed his department at the disposal of the association.

Joseph Daoust, of the Chambre de Commerce, pledged the support of his organization.

Chevalier Pio Margotti, Consul-General for Italy, also expressed his sympathy with the enterprise.

Fitzjames E. Browne followed with an enthusiastic boost for Montreal and its future possibilities and addresses commendatory of the idea of an exhibition were given by Henri Jones, of the French Chambre de Commerce, and Dr. Thornton, president of the Montreal Rotary Club, the latter stating that the Rotary Club would stand behind any effort that would bring better conditions for the people of Montreal.

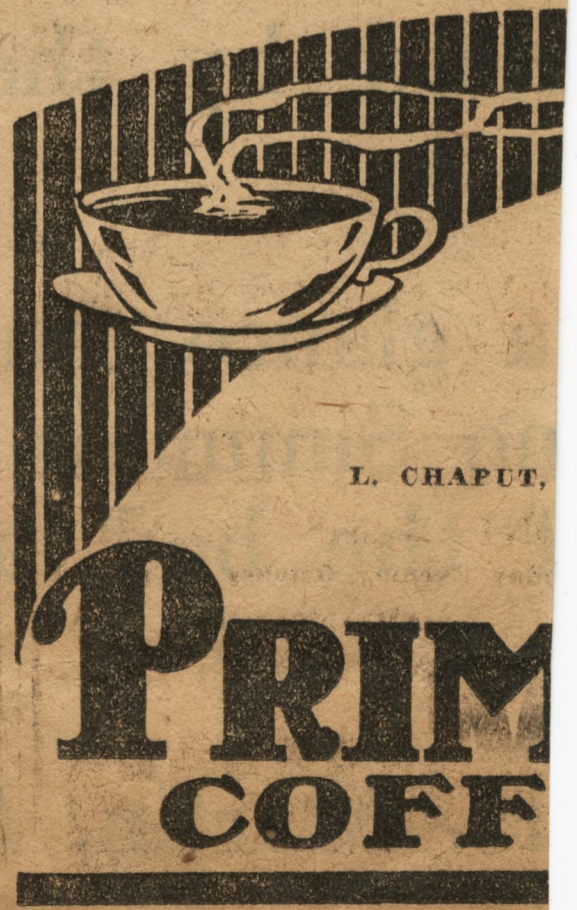
The thanks of the gathering were accorded Mr. Miles on the proposal of Senator Raoul Dandurand.

DENIED FIRING PROPERTY

Setting fire to his property at Ste. Agathe, on May 26 is the charge laid against Napoleon Meunier of Ste. Scholastique who was arraigned before Magistrate Groulx on Monday. The prisoner pleaded not guilty and was remanded until September 28 for enquete without bail. Detective Ouellette of the Provincial Police and Detective Lorrain laid the charge.

STAMPS STOLEN

Legal and postage stamps worth \$20 were stolen Monday night from the offices of the firm of Roland Maillet in the Sauvegarde Building. The thieves, who entered by means of false keys did not gain access to valuable papers which had been placed in a vault.



L. CHAPUT,
**PRIM
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