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JOHN McLAGGAN.

Miramichi Advance.

CHATHAM, OCTOBER 4, 1883.

The Exhibition.

(From our own correspondent.)

St. John, Oct. 1st. Yesterday did not promise well as the eve of a great exhibition-opening, and much anxiety was manifested by the citizens of St. John, as well as among visitors, while the rain fell in a dull atmosphere.

Yesterday, Sunday, though it was found a few artisans at work at the Exhibition Buildings and not at all times as the builders of Solomon's Temple are said to have labored—without the sound of axe or hammer—and, I confess, that the appearance of things did not give promise of readiness for the opening at the appointed time therefor, three o'clock to-day.

At midnight on Sunday night the rain fell in torrents, but the morning brought us a sky flecked with white clouds upon a blue background, giving promise of a fair day.

Early visitors to the Exhibition buildings and grounds found work going forward with a will. The Secretary's assistants, and members of the Commission, including members of the Local Government present, were doing their best to attend to the wants of exhibitors, while the latter, with their assistants, were doing their best to put their exhibits in order.

So far, I am not in a position to say where the fault lies, but there is evidence of the want of a strong and competent organizing head. Many who had forwarded exhibits could not find them without much unnecessary delay, though they were in the building.

In many cases the duty of allotting space to exhibitors who had made their entries fully fifteen days or more ago had been neglected, while parties who had made post-entries appeared to have been given advantageous space.

The progress made, however, during the day, up to three o'clock, in getting the floors into presentable shape was great, each exhibitor having worked in his own interest, with a will. If any one expected an impressive ceremony at the opening he was disappointed.

Two men of war—the Garnet, British, and the Alliance, American—had entered the harbor during the forenoon and anchored off the Exhibition grounds. The officers of both ships had come on shore and reached the buildings shortly before three, the Lieutenant Governor and staff putting in an appearance about the same time.

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Honor to declare this Exhibition open to the public.

His Honor replied as follows:

To the Chairman and Gentlemen of the Commission for holding the Dominion and Centennial Exhibition in this city: I thank you sincerely for your kind address, and it affords me extreme gratification to know that your labors and efforts have been successful in inducing the people in the several Provinces of the Dominion to contribute specimens of their varied industries to this Exhibition, in the Centennial year of our Provincial history.

Under the benign rule of our Most Gracious Queen the people of this Dominion enjoy the blessings of peace and security, together with all those constitutional rights, under a self-government, and it only requires wise statesmanship and patriotic legislation to enable all of them to procure the necessities and comforts and many of the luxuries of life that the varied natural resources of this wide Dominion can, with the blessing of God, yield to intelligent and energetic industry.

As a descendant of those loyal men whose motto was to fear God and honor the King, who gave the best proof of their loyalty and attachment to the British throne by abandoning their property 100 years ago and coming to the rock-bound coasts of the Maritime Provinces to hew out for themselves new homes in the primeval forest, I heartily join with you in giving honor to their memory and their energy.

I have personally to thank you for your expression of kindly feeling towards me, after a period of nearly forty years spent in public life, during a part of the time connected with the city of St. John as Mayor and Alderman, and for many years a representative in the Local Legislature of this Province as member for the city and county of Saint John, it is very gratifying to me to be assured that I still retain your confidence. It has been my anxious desire at all times in the performance of my public duties to have a sole regard to the public interests, and I will retain your confidence. It has been my anxious desire at all times in the performance of my public duties to have a sole regard to the public interests, and I will retain your confidence.

His Honor then, with the assistance of Mr. Harris Allan, pulled the clothes-line attached to the engine-valve and set the machinery in motion. The reading of the address and reply was not heard, save by the few nearest to His Honor, owing to the continued noise of workmen each period being emphasized by the blows of hammers and a running fusillade of conglomerate sounds keeping time with words as they fell from the lips of the two distinguished readers. This, however, though seemingly out of place was appropriate, for it asserted the independence of industry and gave evidence of the determination of individuals to push forward their part of the work to the opening condition, regardless of what others were doing.

As the machinery started, the steam whistle screamed and the first gun of the shore battery salute boomed over the hills announcing that the Centennial Exhibition had commenced. As the shore guns ceased the Garnet ran up the American flag to the main royal and saluted it, the Alliance returning the compliment.

Before proceeding further it may be well to give an idea of the extent of the buildings and grounds and the general character of the Exhibition. This cannot be done better than by the plan and description for outlines of which I am indebted to the Telegraph.

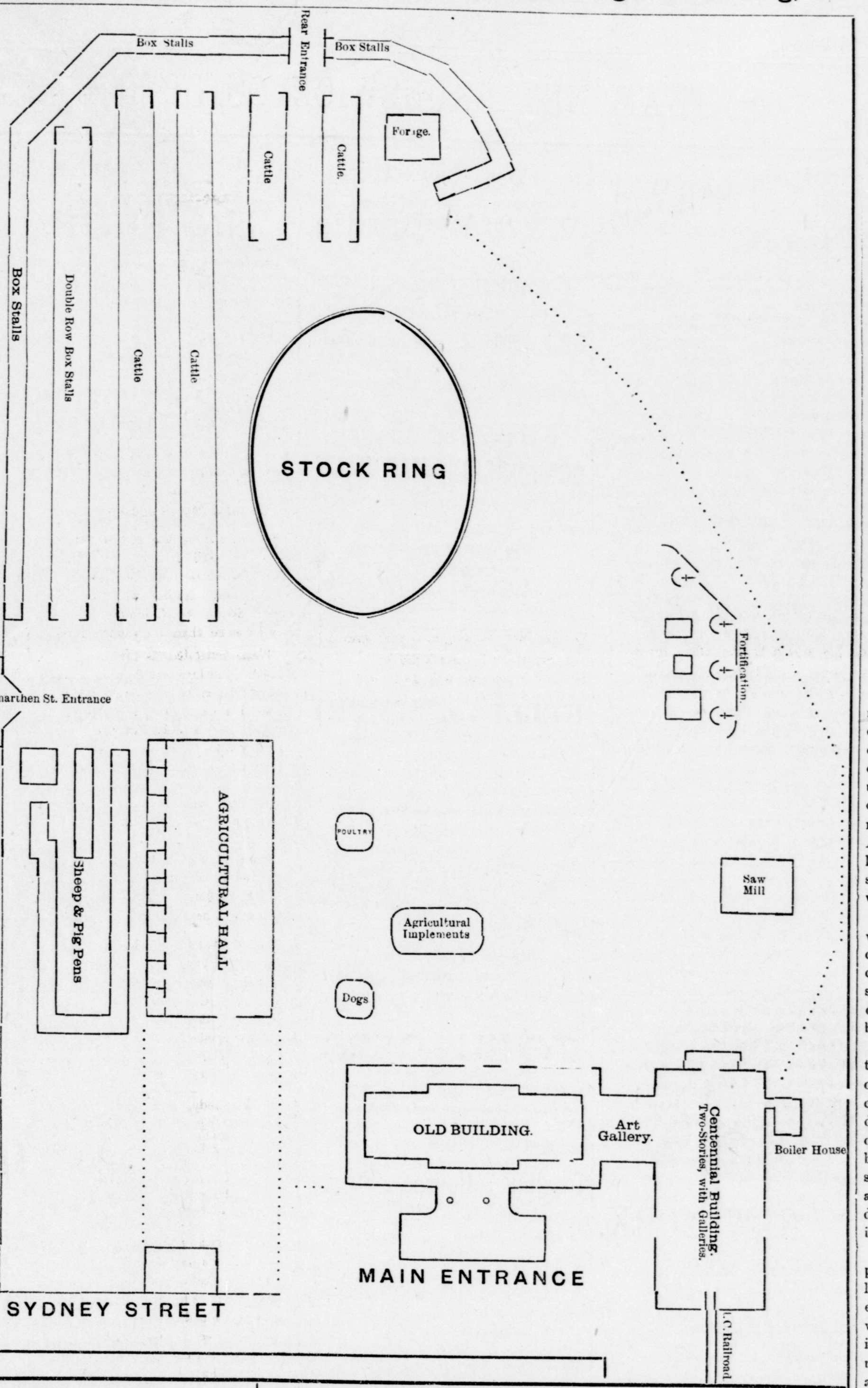
Four immense halls with spacious galleries in two of them, three large tents, three thousand stalls, and a fire uncovered area furnish space for exhibits. These, if displayed in two parallel rows would extend, arranged in their present form, over three miles, and every rod of the distance would be full of interest to any one who desires to study the capabilities of the Dominion or form an intelligent opinion of the progress achieved by New Brunswick during the first century of its existence as a Province. Three thousand exhibitors contribute something like fourteen thousand exhibits. The products of six provinces and more than one foreign country are represented. Agriculture is represented by a display which will enable a comparison to be made between the sea-board provinces and the centre of the Dominion. Stock raising is illustrated by a collection of horses, cattle, sheep, and swine, such as few persons in the Maritime Provinces have ever had an opportunity of witnessing. The display of the fruits of mechanical art are remarkably large, varied, and excellent; while in the fine arts and educational departments there is much to interest the eye and please the taste.

The public entrance to the Exhibition is from Sydney street. All persons, whether visitors or exhibitors must enter from this street. The two permanent Exhibition buildings, which are united by an annex, front on Sydney street.

The building of 1880 is a large structure standing back about 100 feet from Sydney street, and is reached by a wide flight of steps outside the building. The main building is 160 feet long by 80 feet wide, and there is an addition to the front of 80x35 feet, which contains the secretary's office, board room, press headquarters, and ladies' and gents' toilets on the first floor, and an art gallery 17x80 ft. on the gallery floor. The building presents a handsome appearance, having a dome in the centre about 20 feet above the roof, which is largely of glass. The arrangements for light are ample, the walls being punctured at intervals of a few feet by large windows. Staircases at all the four corners of the building furnish means of communication between the main floor and galleries, which run entirely around the building projecting 15 feet from the walls. The new building occupies the site to the south of the 1880 building and is 35 feet distant from it. Connecting the two large buildings is a small one, 35x46 feet. The Centennial Building, as it is called, is a magnificent structure and well adapted for the purposes of an exhibition. It covers a ground area of 290x80 feet and is two stories high, besides having a gallery running entirely around the building, above the main floor, 25 feet wide. The lower floor or basement of this building, which is well furnished with windows, has been designated Machinery Hall, and contains all the machinery shown in operation. The Intercolonial Railway authorities have run a branch line of the railway from the Government pier directly into the building. The engine is located within a few feet of the south eastern corner of the building and just opposite the boiler house, a brick structure, 32 feet square and one storey high, which is located a few feet south of the Centennial building. The second or main floor of the Centennial building is on level with the main floor of the old building, and is really the finest floor in either of the buildings. There is nothing to interrupt the view from an end

DOMINION CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION.

Plan showing Grounds, Location of Various Buildings, Stock Ring, etc.



of the building to the other, and as for light, nothing better could be desired. The greater portion of the ends of the building facing the east and west, are of glass, and the same may be said of the side walls both below and above the galleries. Besides the windows already mentioned there are a number of others in the clerestory of the building, which give additional light in the centre. The galleries are wide and well supported and give accommodation for a large number of exhibits. The upper floor of the annex between the two buildings, which is on a level with the gallery floor, has been fitted up for an art gallery.

The outside finish of the building is comparatively plain, the large semi-circular window in the end of the building fronting the street being one of the most prominent features. On the west end there are two flanking towers, each 20 feet square, and finished with small domes about 25 feet above the level of the roof. The building makes a handsome addition to the grounds, and gives an increase of 45,000 feet of floor space. Exclusive of the four tents, there are 92,000 feet of floor space in the permanent buildings, divided as follows:—

Table with 2 columns: Building Name and Area in Feet. Includes New building (45,000), Old building (27,000), Agricultural Hall (16,000), Art Annex (4,000), and Total (92,000).

This is more than two acres, and with the tents makes a total in the vicinity of 100,000 square feet. The original intention of the Commission was to have erected a temporary building to connect the two large buildings with agricultural hall, but this was abandoned on account of the cost, and tents procured to accommodate the exhibits of agricultural machinery, the poultry and the bench show. That for the exhibit of agricultural implements is the largest, and occupies a position on the level ground, in rear of old building. The poultry and bench show tents are about the same size, and are situated in the open space to the north of the agricultural tent.

A large amount of money has been expended on the horse and cattle sheds, which cover the large grounds known as the Barrack Square and in addition a portion of the city property to the eastward of the Fine Wenworth street. The yard is large but none too big for the accommodation of the number of exhibits that are sheltered in it. The arrangement of the yard is excellent, every attention having been given to secure proper care of the cattle during exhibition week. A small number of box stalls remained from the exhibition of 1880, but by all odds the larger number have been put up for the present Exhibition. They commence at the Camarthen street entrance and run east to extremity of the grounds, with a wide space between each row of sheds, thus providing ample room for visitors seeing the Exhibition.

In the row left standing there are 54 box stall and 25 stables, in each of which from two to five horses can be accommodated. One hundred and sixty horses are housed in this row alone. A few feet from this row there is another line of horse sheds, beginning at the gate and running 450 feet towards Courtenay Bay. In this row there are stalls for 140 horses. The next line of sheds runs parallel with the one just described and is 488 feet long. Of this space 113 feet are devoted to stables or horses, in which 24 animals can be accommodated. The total number of horses for which accommodation is provided is 344, but should there be more animals space can not doubt, be easily procured for them. The remaining 375 feet

of the shed alluded to is used for housing cattle—Ayrshires, Shortlands, Herefords and Devons. There is room for 134 cattle in it. The next cattle shed is 488 feet long and adjoins the ring. It is here housed the Jerseys and Ayrshires. Space has been provided for 196 animals. Running parallel with the eastern end of this shed is another, 136 feet long, in which are stalled fat cattle and steers. There are 60 stalls in it. The next shed is of the same length as the last, and is occupied by grade animals. Forty six are provided for. Another shed, is 128 feet long, will accommodate 38 grade cattle. There are two other sheds, each 102 feet long, one accommodating 32 and the other 30 grade cattle. The total number of cattle for which provision has been made is 521. There is no scarcity of hay and straw, two large sheds having been erected for the purpose. More than the usual amount of care has been expended in the preparation for this department.

General Business.

LEE & LOGAN, DIRECT IMPORTERS OF Groceries, Liquors, Wines, &c., 45 and 47 DOCK STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B.

"But it is the private character of this unaffected Christian man that it most concerns us to consider. He was great as the world counts greatness—in his death he was greater as God counts it. 'And now, all too soon, as we think—but God knows best—he rests from his labours, and his work to follow him. Oh the mystery of death, the silence of the dead! But a few days ago and he for whom we mourn was with us, with eager eye and noble aspiration; but now voiceless, still and cold he lies an unstrung harp, a shattered vase of ornament!'"

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