

cious, there was none of that patient weariness of expression one so often sees in the faces of sewing girls. They were neatly, and even tastefully dressed, and looked fresh and trim in their clean prints and bright blouses.

Separated from this room by a glass partition is the mantle making department, where every variety of cloak, jacket, and ulster is made, either to order or for custom.

Leading out of these rooms is the Ladies Room, which is especially sacred to every small want of the fair sex. Here is the millinery department with the trimming room partitioned off in ground glass, where may be found in the proper season, every imaginable dainty feminine fancy in imported and home-made head gear. Unfortunately it was the *demi saison* that I had selected for my visit, but just before the exhibition the autumn opening will take place, when the latest novelties in English and Parisian millinery will be displayed.

In each of these departments, the shirt making, the mantle making, and the millinery branches, there is, of course, a lady in charge, with various assistants under her.

In this room one may find almost every requisite for the toilette of ladies and children. Ladies underclothing of every style and quality from the dainty silk undervests of pale blue, pale pink and cream colored woven silk to the plainer white cotton and Hamburg. Bridal trousseaux are a speciality, and I was shown some charming lingerie, with dainty ribbons ran through the lace, and embroidered, fine enough almost for a princess. Ladies tea gowns and dressing jackets are also displayed in great variety. Infants robes, infants entire trousseaux, from lovely cloaks of embroidered cashmere with hoods to match, down to the finest bibs.

I saw charming little garments in surah silks and satins, in embroidered cashmere, and in muslin and lace. Everything needed to dress a child is to be found on these wonderful shelves.

Turning away from this counter the eye rests upon an entire section of the room given up to corsets of every make and branch, from the expensive English hand made corset, to the useful P. N., at one dollar each. Indeed here, as everywhere else, in this most convenient establishment there seemed to be something to suit every purse, light or heavy.

Before descending to inspect the engine room, I glanced round in search of the financial department, and found it in the counting room just at the end of the house-furnishing department, where a score of clerks attend to the cash, make change, receive the money, and give receipts to customers coming to pay their bills. Following my unwearied escort, I descended some more steps, and found myself in the engine room, where one large engine supplies the motive power for all the machinery in the building. The two freight elevators are worked by steam. The basement elevator has a different set of machinery altogether and is worked by hydraulic motor. My escort took some pains to explain the working of the latter, and I endeavored to look as if I thoroughly understood it, but I am afraid I did bring away with me a very clear idea of its true inwardness. I laid my hand cautiously on what I supposed was the boiler, and ascertained to my unbounded amazement that it was cold, but I concealed the feeling skillfully under an appearance of indifference not to say stupidity.

To the right of the boiler room, is a cellar devoted to the storage of packages cottons. Two Gurney furnaces, heat the building in winter.

Before I conclude, I must not forget to mention the excellent system of making change in use at M., R. & A's.

I do not know whether I have succeeded in conveying the impression of the size and variety of this wonderful establishment, as forcibly as these same qualities struck me. I only know that it made me think of the remark made by the admiring cockney, of Burlington Arcade, London, "You can buy anything there from a needle to a hanchor!" and though I can't truthfully say that I saw any anchors at Manchester's, except on spools of cotton, I saw needles in abundance.

And be it borne in mind that I have only described the retail department. As much more might be written about the wholesale business, to which are devoted the third and fourth stories.

One thing that strikes me forcibly about Messrs. Manchester, Robertson & Allison's store, is the very small number of lady clerks employed. With the exception of the departments mentioned all the clerks are men, and here let me take an opportunity of thanking not only my conductor, but all the clerks in the establishment, from the young lady who took such pains to explain the working of the cash balls to me to the elevator boy, for the unvarying courtesy and the trouble they took to explain everything connected with their several departments and to answer clearly the many questions I asked. I shall long remember it and it will be one of the pleasantest memories of my visit to St. John.

My tour of inspection was now over and I passed out of the door of Manchester, Robertson & Allison's more impressed than ever with the size and importance of Canadian institutions. I had seen a great deal in one day and I took away with me a large amount of food for thought.

BENCH AND POULTRY.

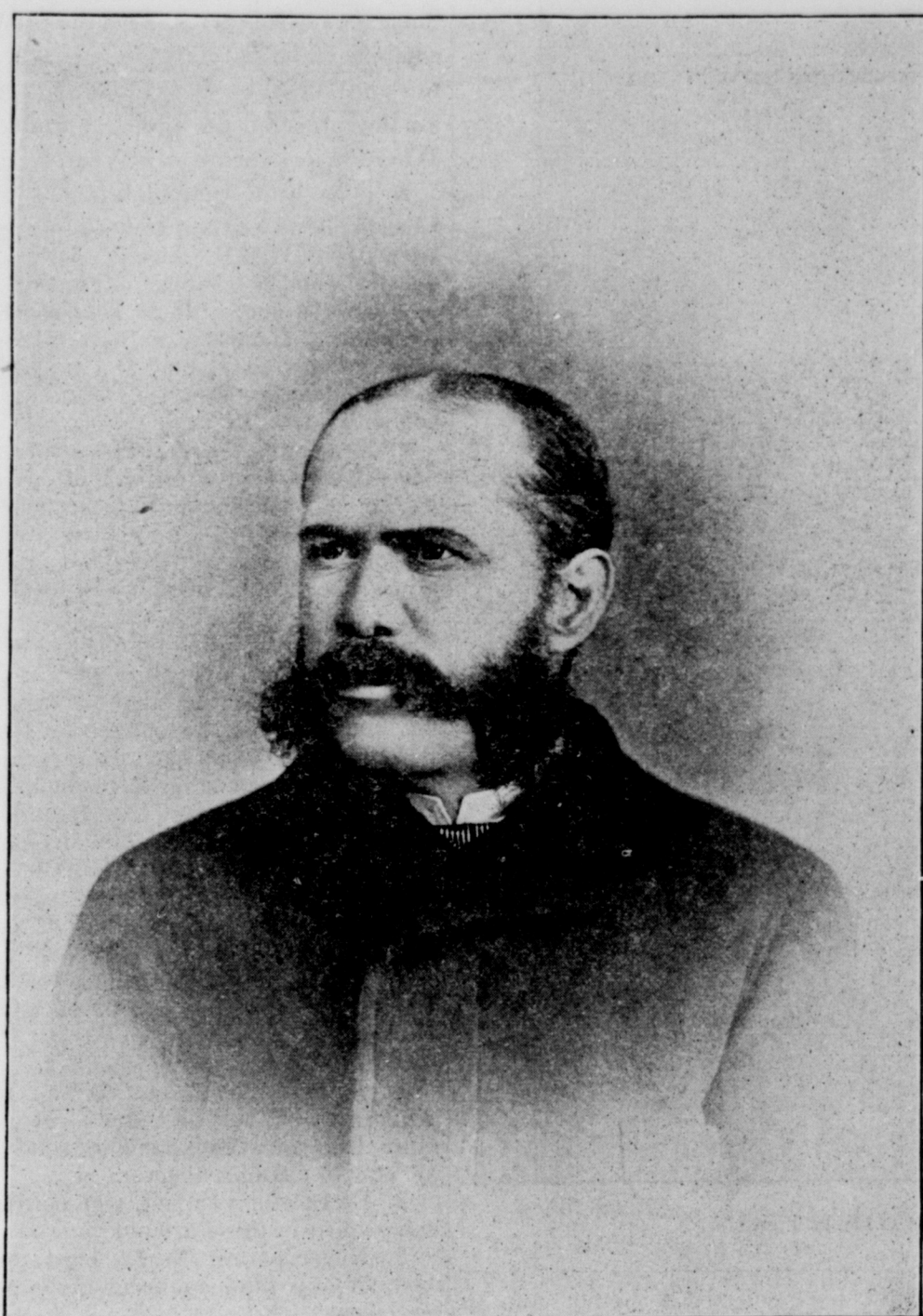
PREPARATIONS NOT AS COMPLETE AS THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN.

Had the Entries Been More Numerous—The Prizes Too Small Says One—Too Large Says Another—Coroner Berryman's Connection With the Show.

Dr. D. E. Berryman, or more properly Coroner Berryman, chairman of the Poultry and Bench show committee, has not been as busy with his department as some other chairmen. That, however, was not his own fault, nor in fact was it the fault of anybody. There was quite a general alarm raised when the prize list was printed to the effect that the poultry part of the show was given too large premiums. It

first instance that fanciers felt it useless to go to expense and trouble for such sums. The lack of numerous entries made the committee slack about providing accommodation and the poultry and bench show may in consequence take rather a back seat this year. Dr. Berryman, however, is an intelligent and enthusiastic member of the agricultural society. He always attends the meetings and his suggestions are ready and valuable. He is a member of the live stock committee and can be of great assistance to Chairman John M. Johnson in that department.

Active members of the exhibition association like Dr. Berryman are a great support and assistance in the work it has



CHAIRMAN D. E. BERRYMAN.

was too late to change it then, but could it have been done and enough influence brought to bear to bring it about, poultry would have stood even a poorer chance than at present. The real facts of the case are that the premiums were so low in the

undertaken. Their influence is always on the right side and when they can do anything for the show, they are ready and willing to come to the front. Few men who are not enthusiasts and independent can do more than this.

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THE WORK OF A LIVEMAN

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE ADVERTISING COMMITTEE.

Helping from the Start of the Association—Mr. Jas. F. Robertson's Work for the Exhibition—Some of the Special Attractions—Music and Fireworks.

To write about the special attraction and the printing and advertising committees work, both of which had for a capable, energetic chairman, Mr. James F. Robertson, would be to enter into the very features which bring success and failure to so many exhibitions.

To realize that a crowd must be entertained is one thing and to entertain them another. The committees have struck the happy idea that the two senses of pleasure are the eye and the ear. They expect rightly that the exhibitors will do their part and keep every visitor busy until his or her eyes are tired. Just as soon as that happens the ear will be charmed with music. Four of the city bands have been engaged at large cost to provide suitable music for the people during the afternoon and evening of each week.

Further than this with the assistance of Mr. F. A. Peters, the committee have arranged for a grand concert under the leadership of Mr. Thomas Hall. They have given him a certain sum to do the work and its immediate success depends upon him. Perhaps also the leading organists of the city will be persuaded to give organ recitals at certain hours and thus further entertain the crowds.

Every other evening, or at least fine evenings, during the ten days there will be splendid displays of fireworks. To arrange for a good display without costing a small fortune was a difficulty the committee had to surmount. That they did so and will make a good display PROGRESS has no doubt.

Perhaps the greater work that devolved upon Chairman Robertson was in connection with the advertising of the exhibition. To do this properly and to do it as well as it has been done requires long experience and a discretion possessed by but few men. Mr. Robertson's long experience stood him in good stead at this time and no one will say that the committee over which he presides has in any respect neglected its duties.

There have been a hundred and one things to look after in this connection and so far they have been well looked after. Every newspaper in the maritime provinces has an advertisement of the exhibition. They owe this in a great measure to the chairman whose experience of newspapers has no doubt proved to him that in the main "They do as they are done by." The lengthy and complimentary notices inserted about the exhibition have been one gratifying result of the committee's generosity and foresight.

Apart from his immediate work in connection with the committees, Mr. Jas. F. Robertson has been a most active and indefatigable worker. He has spared the time from his own business to give attention to the work of the exhibition and in many private ways has helped it along from the beginning of the association.



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