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**Reports by the juries on the subjects in the thirty classes into which
the exhibition was divided**

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Report of Viscount Canning, [...].

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REPORT

OF

VISCOUNT CANNING,

President of the Council of Chairmen of Juries.

ON PRESENTING THE AWARDS OF THE JURIES TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION.

HAVING had the honour of acting as President of the Council of Chairmen of the Juries, it falls to me to lay before your Royal Highness and Her Majesty's Commissioners the Reports of several Juries upon the subjects submitted to them for examination, and the names of the exhibitors whom they have judged entitled to rewards.

In doing so, it will be convenient that I should state briefly the Principle upon which, by the authority of Her Majesty's Commissioners, the Juries were constituted.

The various Subjects included in the Exhibition were divided, in the first instance, into Thirty Classes. Of these, two were subsequently found to embrace fields of action too large for single Juries, and were therefore divided into Sub-Juries. This increased the number of Acting Juries to Thirty-four.

Each of these Thirty-four Juries consisted of an equal number of British subjects and of Foreigners. The British Jurors were selected by Her Majesty's Commissioners from lists furnished by the Local Committees of various towns, each town being invited to recommend persons of skill and information in the manufactures or produce for which it is remarkable. The Foreign Jurors were appointed by authorities in their own countries, in such relative proportion amongst themselves as was agreed upon by the Foreign Commissioners sent here to represent their respective Governments.

In the event of a Jury finding themselves deficient in technical knowledge of any article submitted to them, they were empowered to call in the aid of Associates. These Associates, who acted as advisers only, without a vote, but whose services were of the greatest value, were selected either from the Jurymen of other classes, or from the lists of persons who had been recommended as Jurors but who had not been permanently appointed to any Jury.

Each Jury was superintended by a Chairman, chosen from its number by Her Majesty's Commissioners. The Deputy-Chairman and the Reporter were elected by the Jurors themselves.

Such was the constitution of the Thirty-four Juries taken singly. They did not, however, act independently of each other, inasmuch as they were associated into six Groups, each Group consisting of such Juries as had to deal with subjects in some degree of kindred nature; and before any decision of a Jury could be considered as final, it was required that it should be brought before the assembled Group of which that Jury formed a part, and that it should be approved by them.

The chief object of this provision was, that none of the many Foreign Nations taking part in the Exhibition

should incur the risk of seeing its interests overlooked or neglected from the accident (an unavoidable one in many instances) of its being unrepresented in any particular Jury.

Each Group of Juries received the assistance of a Deputy Commissioner and of a Special Commissioner, appointed by Her Majesty's Commissioners to record its proceedings, to furnish information respecting the arrangements of the Exhibition, and otherwise to facilitate the labours of the Juries composing the Group.

It was further determined by Her Majesty's Commissioners that the Chairmen of the Juries, consisting of British subjects and of Foreigners in equal numbers, should be formed into a Council; and that the duties of the Council should be, to determine the conditions upon which, in accordance with certain general principles previously laid down by Her Majesty's Commissioners, the different Prizes should be awarded; to frame rules to guide the working of the Juries; and to secure, as far as possible, uniformity in the result of their proceedings.

These are the most important features of the system upon which the Juries found themselves organized. I will now refer briefly to their course of action.

The Council of Chairmen, in proceeding to the discharge of their duties, were met at the outset by a serious difficulty. Her Majesty's Commissioners had expressed themselves desirous that merit should be rewarded wherever it presented itself, but anxious at the same time to avoid the recognition of competition between individual Exhibitors. They had also decided that the Prizes should consist of three Medals in different sizes; and that these should be awarded, not as first, second, and third in degree for the same class of subjects and merit, but as marking merit of different kinds and character.

The Council of Chairmen found, to their regret, that it would be impossible to lay down any rules for the awarding of the three Medals by which the appearance at least of denoting different degrees of success amongst exhibitors in the same branch of production could be avoided. Accordingly, after fully explaining their difficulty to Her Majesty's Commissioners, they requested, as a course by which it might be materially diminished, that one of the Medals might be withdrawn.

Of the remaining two, they suggested that one, the Prize Medal, should be conferred wherever a certain standard of excellence in production or workmanship had been attained—utility, beauty, cheapness, adaptation to particular markets, and other elements of merit being taken into consideration according to the nature of the object; and they recommended that this Medal should be

awarded by the Juries, subject to confirmation by the Groups.

In regard to the other and larger Medal, they suggested that the conditions of its award should be some important novelty of invention or application, either in material, or processes of manufacture, or originality combined with great beauty of design; but that it should not be conferred for excellence of production or workmanship alone, however eminent: and they further suggested that this Medal should be awarded by the Council of Chairmen upon the recommendation of a Jury, supported by its Group.

The principle thus described met the views of Her Majesty's Commissioners, and was subsequently further developed by them in a Minute which they communicated to the Council of Chairmen. (See APPENDIX C.) Its application, however, was not without difficulties, especially as regarded the Foreign Jurors. Many of these had taken part in the National Exhibitions of France and Germany; and to them the distinctive character of the two Medals, and the avoidance of all recognition of degrees of merit between the recipients of prizes, were novel principles, and at variance with their experience; inasmuch as one of the chief purposes of the National Exhibitions of the Continent has been to distinguish the various degrees of success attained by rival exhibitors.

It was to be expected, therefore, that cases would arise in which the Council Medal, as the higher reward, would be asked for Exhibitors whose claims were only somewhat stronger in degree, without differing in kind from those of others to whom the Prize Medal had been awarded. In such cases it became the duty of the Council of Chairmen to refuse their sanction to the award of the Council Medal; without, however, necessarily impugning the alleged superiority of the article for which it was demanded. On the other hand, some instances have occurred in which they have felt themselves called upon to confirm the claim to a Council Medal, where the object for which it was claimed showed, in itself, less merit of execution or manufacture than others of its Class. It follows, therefore, that the award of a Council Medal does not necessarily stamp its recipient as a better manufacturer or producer than others who have received the Prize Medal. It is rather a mark of such invention, ingenuity, or originality as may be expected to exercise an influence upon industry more extended, and more important, than could be produced by mere excellence of manufacture.

This is to be borne in mind in considering the List of Awards which I have the honour to lay before your Royal Highness; and I trust it will be found that the Juries have succeeded in doing justice to the Exhibitors of every Nation and Class, and that they have not departed in any important degree from the purpose of Her Majesty's Commissioners.

One of the first instructions addressed to the Juries by the Council of Chairmen was to the effect that the Prizes should be awarded without reference to the country of the Exhibitors, the Exhibition being considered in this respect as recognizing no distinction of Nations.

It is gratifying to add that the Jurors of every country

cordially acquiesced in this principle, and that, notwithstanding unavoidable differences of opinion, uninterrupted harmony prevailed amongst them throughout the whole course of their labours. It is not too much to hope that the happy influence of this intercourse may extend and endure far beyond the present occasion.

It is not necessary that I should detain your Royal Highness and Her Majesty's Commissioners with a recital of the other instructions framed by the Council of Chairmen for the guidance of the Juries, or with a detailed account of their proceedings in the discharge of their own functions.

The number of Prize Medals awarded is 2,918. The number of Council Medals is 170.

It is important to observe that no more than one Medal of either denomination has been allotted to one Exhibitor in the same Class, although he may have contributed to that Class more than one article deserving of reward.

The Juries have found it just, in framing their Reports, to make Honourable Mention of certain Exhibitors whose contributions were not such as to entitle them to receive a Medal. Some have applied specimens of raw materials, which, although curious and instructive, do not imply any great merit of production on the part of the Exhibitor; and others have furnished articles of manufacture which, without reaching a high degree of excellence, are interesting as examples of the processes, or present condition of the trades which they illustrate.

Before concluding, I trust I may be allowed to add that it would be difficult duly to estimate the time and labour expended by the Jurors in their endeavour to discharge faithfully the important duty confided to them. The number of Exhibitors was about 17,000. Of these many, who were reckoned but once in the Catalogue, contributed a large variety of objects, and came within the province of more than one Jury; whilst in other cases towns, and even whole countries, were counted as single Exhibitors, although they presented for examination every kind of manufacture and raw produce which their ingenuity and natural resources could furnish. Upon the whole, the task of the Juries involved the consideration and judgment of at least a million articles; the difficulties attending it being not a little increased by the want of a uniform system of classification of the subjects in some of the foreign divisions, and by unavoidable imperfections in the Catalogue.

In these circumstances the Juries can scarcely venture to hope that accidental omissions may not have occurred; but they have the satisfaction of feeling that these, if any, are not attributable to a want of care or diligence on their part.

It now only remains for me, in laying the result of our labours respectfully before your Royal Highness and Her Majesty's Commissioners, to offer, on behalf of my Colleagues and myself, our grateful acknowledgment of the honourable confidence which you have placed in us; and to express the hope that we shall be found to have fulfilled our trust in a manner worthy of the noble undertaking in which we are proud to have been called upon to bear a part.

CANNING.