
tion of the handicrafts. Immediately at its close the committee decided to open Our Handicrafts Shop, which since that time has always kept its doors open to craftsmen and women from every province of the Dominion.

We have constantly heard that the promotion of the cottage industries originated elsewhere than in Montreal, and at a very much earlier date. About this we do not know, but from 1902 for some years Our Handicrafts Shop in Montreal supplied every exhibition that was sent out through the Dominion, and elsewhere, and with the exception of a loan of \$200 (which was repaid in 1904) we bore the entire expense of such supply, sometimes having exhibitions out to the value of several thousand dollars at one time, exhibits which often came back damaged, thereby causing us considerable loss.

During the three following seasons 32 exhibitions were sent from our little shop, twelve of these being arranged by the Women's Art Association in Toronto, and the rest by the sub-committee of the Montreal Branch.

Everything went well until the close of 1904 when it was discovered that, owing to the rapid development of the movement, the charter of the Women's Art Association of Canada had been outgrown, and the Montreal Branch decided that the time had come to seek a new and separate charter for the Handicrafts, so as to allow every chance of growth to this its second offshoot, (the first being, during my presidency, The Women's Branch of the Antiquarian Society.)