

A museum will positively have to be built, the matter is already before the government. As a member of the teaching staff of the University of Toronto I feel the absolute need of this building, I feel that we must have it, but I should be overjoyed to see a large provincial museum take the place of a merely departmental and academic one.

Ontario is a rich province, its population is nearly half that of the whole Dominion, its natural resources are enormous. It is high time that the example of all progressive states were followed and a thoroughly complete provincial museum established. In this connection it may be permitted to quote from the presidential address of Mr. B. E. Walker to the Canadian Institute in 1899. After a strong plea for increased expenditure on Dominion and Provincial surveys Mr. Walker says:—

“And as to public museums, the Dominion Government at Ottawa and each province, at its city of chief importance, should have a museum belonging to and supported by the people. These museums should contain exhibits of the metallic and non-metallic minerals of the country, both those of economic and merely scientific value, the forest trees, with the bark preserved, in say six feet sections, cut also and partly polished, and each specimen accompanied by a small map showing its habitat; the fresh water and sea fishes, mounted after the modern methods; the fur-bearing animals, the game birds, and the birds of our forests, fields and sea coast, many of them mounted so as to tell a child their habits at a glance; the reptiles, crustaceans, insects, plants, indeed as complete a record of the fauna and flora of the country as possible; the rocks of stratigraphic importance and all the varieties of fossils which can be gathered in this country; the archaeological and ethnological evidences of the races we have supplanted in Canada, and much more that does not occur to me at this moment. I should not like to suggest a limit of expenditure on such museums. I can only repeat that we are rich enough to bear the cost with ease, but we are not intelligent enough to see our own interest in spending the money.”