

CANADIAN INSTITUTE.

SEVENTH ARCHÆOLOGICAL REPORT.

BY DAVID BOYLE.

To the President and Council of the Canadian Institute:—

During the past year nothing has been done directly by way of original work under the auspices of the Institute. This failure to perform what we all so much desire was purely on account of circumstances beyond our control, but by no means for the reason that there was nothing to be done. On the contrary, ever since we have been able to devote any special attention to this kind of work, the possible field of operation has widened to such an extent that, with our present means, the task of going over it, even in the most superficial manner, seems almost hopeless of accomplishment. From time to time we learn of this and that locality in which accidental discoveries have been made, or that appear to offer evidences worthy of examination. We have reason to feel gratified that now, at all events, a larger measure of intelligence animates those who make such finds, or who meet with such proofs of early occupation, and that even when the results may not be all that the Institute could desire, the specimens are not destroyed in the one case, nor is the knowledge allowed to lapse in the other. The efforts of the Institute to educate public opinion on this subject have not been put forth in vain, and thus it is that while we have not been able to investigate directly, or at first-hand, we have in various parts of the province those who are actuated by an earnest desire to increase public knowledge on archaeological matters, and who, on their own account, take every opportunity to visit localities, make examinations, and forward to us the results. During the past year we have been mainly indebted to Mr. George E. Laidlaw, of Victoria Road, in the County of Lindsay, and Dr. T. W. Beeman, of Perth, Lanark County. From both of these gentlemen we have received valuable contributions on previous occasions, in manuscript as well as in kind.

In a paper following this Mr. Laidlaw refers specifically to many of the two hundred and fifty specimens he now adds to his already good collection.

The specimens presented by Dr. Beeman consist chiefly of celts, gouges, tablets and flints. Some of the gouges are quite equal to the best in our cases, particularly one found by Mr. David Lepper on Lake Rideau. Mr. George Hone, along with other specimens, sends a very fine spearhead, almost perfect, found by him on Plum Point, Rideau Lake. Another excellent spearhead, eight inches long and well-formed comes from Mr. William Mason, of Jones' Falls. This fine specimen was found in the township of South Crosby. Mr. Mason supplies, also, a tablet or gorget of dark red slate with two holes. Other contributors to the collection sent by Dr. Beeman are Messrs. J. Stewart, W. J. Morris, Chas. Paget, D. McKeown, Wm. McLaren, Jas. Graham and John Poole, to all of whom thanks are due for their valuable assistance in forming a collection to illustrate ancient life on the shores of Rideau Lake.