

GRANT ASKED FOR A PROVINCIAL MUSEUM.

The first deputation to arrive was one from
THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE,

at 2.30 p. m., consisting of Hon. G. W. Allan, Dr. Daniel Wilson, Dr. Ellis, E. A. Meredith, Arthur Harvey, Allan Macdougall, David Boyle and James Bain, Jr.

The object of the deputation is explained by the following memorial, which was presented and read—

To the Hon. Oliver Mowat, Attorney-General for the Province of Ontario :

SIR,—Your memorialists most respectfully desire to impress upon you their well-considered belief, that in view of the material and intellectual position attained by this province, the time has come when, for many and good reasons, it is necessary as well as expedient to make a systematic, thorough, and scientific examination of all monuments, sites, and localities in any way connected with the prehistoric and early historic periods of our country in so far as these relate to the aboriginal race, or races, and to the pioneer explorations of French and British adventurers.

It is no doubt quite unnecessary to state that for a great many years, the early historic remains in the countries of Europe have been studied with deep and growing interest, so much so, that in Great Britain the titles to all such remains and sites has been permanently vested in the Crown, under the Ancient Monuments Act of 1880, while the establishment of the bureau of ethnology at Washington, to supplement the work undertaken by the different States by the Smithsonian Institute mark the growth of similar feeling on this side of the Atlantic.

As a result of investigations based on such archaeological surveys, discoveries have been made that throw much light upon moot, or disputed ethnological and historical questions.

Day by day the people of this province are learning to take a deeper and more abiding interest in literary and scientific studies, in proportion as the means of education are diffused, and as the wealth of the country is increased.

There are in Ontario at the present time a large number of persons who, as students of history, are extremely anxious to have at hand the means of verifying and illustrating statements made in the narratives of the early travelers, as well as of modern writers, who, like Parkman, deal to a very great extent with incidents that relate to the discovery, exploration and colonization of this country.

According to the proposed scheme your memorialists wish to place the student of Ontario on an equal footing with the student of other lands, in providing him not only with such data as will enable him more appreciately and intelligently to read the annals of his own country, but which may enable him to emulate the example of foreign writers in the prosecution of original research.

Already, it is to be deplored, that in the progress of settlement, many opportunities to investigate, to authenticate, and to compare have been lost beyond recall, thousands of existing traces are disappearing annually, and it is only because your memorialists perceive clearly that

in the not very distant future it will prove exceedingly difficult to study satisfactorily what may now be done with comparative ease, that they urge the necessity of at once beginning a work which has been already too long delayed.

What your memorialists propose is to have every old camping-ground, village site, battlefield, trading-post, burial-place, or other locality connected with the early or prehistoric period of the country, visited, measured, prescribed, sketched, and explored, and to collect the most valuable specimens of weapons, implements, utensils and ornaments for the purpose of forming a provincial museum to illustrate the life-history of those who occupied the soil before the advent of the white man, of those who are rapidly disappearing before the march of civilization.

To accomplish this task in a manner befitting the importance of the subject, and the rank held by Ontario as one of the most intelligent countries in the world, will require the expenditure of more time and money than any individual or society has at its disposal, and your memorialists beg to suggest that the Legislature of the province should grant aid for the prosecution of this work at the earliest possible moment.

Your memorialists are pleased to be able to state that many persons in various parts of the province have in their possession large numbers of such relics as it would be extremely desirable to possess in connection with the formation of a museum, and while it is undoubted that some of these would be presented to any provincial museum from time to time, it is equally true that others could be procured by purchase only, and for this purpose it would be necessary to have funds.

Again, as it will readily be granted that the safe-keeping of such objects is of paramount importance, it will be necessary to provide suitable case room, and this of itself forms an item of no small importance.

Your memorialists would also be pleased to issue in printed form, with appropriate engravings, reports of progress in the work, hoping by this means not only to educate the public taste, but to attract much strenuous sympathy and assistance.

In view of all the circumstances, your memorialists feel warranted in asking for a Legislative grant of not less than five thousand dollars, to be expended during the current year under the auspices of the Canadian Institute, which society will engage to act subject to the control of the Legislature, and as its custodian all that may go to form a Provincial Archæological Museum.

VIEWS OF THE MEMORIALISTS.

Mr. Arthur Havey in speaking on behalf of the memorialists said the graves of the Indians ought to be respected in a Christian country, as much as those of the whites, and the indiscriminate desecration of Indian burial places ought to be prevented. The Government ought to control the explorations necessary in the interests of science, and a typical collection of relics and implements, with an illustrated catalogue should be made either by the Government or under its auspices. In the second place, a record of the Indian villages and battle fields ought to be preserved. In the third place, it was very

desirable that the traces of the mound-builders should be preserved. In the territory lately awarded to Ontario, there were at least thirty of these mounds, and the lands in which they were situated should be reserved from settlement. They thought the Government should give \$5000 for each of these three objects.

Dr. Wilson strongly advocated the founding of a museum for the province. There were a number of people who were collecting relics, etc., in Canada and selling them in the United States, and we were thus deprived of valuable historical specimens.

Hon. Mr. Mowat asked what the State Governments of the United States were doing in regard to the preservation of their relics.

The deputation agreed to obtain information in regard to this point.

Hon. Mr. Mowat said he would consider the suggestions made and consult with his colleagues in reference thereto.

The deputation then withdrew.

The first Sunday School organized in New York was by an Indian preacher in an Indian woman's house.—*Indian Missionary.*

The United States guarantee to the people of the Cherokee Nation the quiet and peaceable possession of their country.

"The Creeks and Seminoles shall be secured in the unrestricted right of self-government, and full jurisdiction over person and property within their respective limits."—*Revised Indian Treaties, page 111, Treaty Aug. 7, 1850.*

"We ask that our Treaty stipulations with the United States Government be faithfully carried out, and that no bill will be passed interfering with the rights of self-government of the Choctaw and Chichasaw Nations of Indians."—*Treaty 1855, June 22, Art. 7.*

"Thanks to an allwise God, the blanket has been replaced by decent apparel; the tomahawk has been exchanged for the useful ax; the scalping-knife for the ploughshare, and the dismal tone of the warrior's whoop has mellowed into the sacred songs of Zion."—*J. L. Garvin, in his message as Chief of the Choctaw Nation.*

An Indian Chief said to the Commissioner: "If you white men had a country which was very valuable which had always belonged to you and which the Great Father had promised should be yours forever, and men of another race came to take it away by force, what would your people do? Would they fight?"—*Indian Missionary.*

FORT KEOGH, MON., Feb. 6.—The following dispatch has been received from Lewiston, Montana; "On January 30, at Gabriel Dumont's ranche, five miles from here, six Cree Indians arrived from the Northwest to hold a council with Gabriel Dumont, who was one of Riel's lieutenants. They report about thirty lodges of their tribes near Fort Assiniboine. There is trouble ahead, and another rebellion in the early spring is looked for. They claim to have been driven out. Stockmen are on the lookout, fearing the Crees will run off their horses.