

in the future. In order to strengthen the case of the society to assistance of this kind, I received from Dr. Dawson, and also from another source, a memorandum of what was done with reference to the societies in England and the colonies. I will read this memorandum; it is as follows:—

In England the Royal Society has free quarters for its meetings, library and offices in Burlington House, and receives an annual parliamentary grant for researches and publications of £5,000.

In the United States the National Academy is to have its publications paid for by the Government, but I do not know to what precise amount. The Smithsonian Institution receives large public aids. In its report for 1880, I find grants by Congress to the amount of \$164,000—for accumulation and preservation of collections, \$47,500; for buildings, cases, &c., \$88,500; and for researches and publications, \$28,000. This is in addition to the income of the institution from its own investments, and the very large sums spent in Geological Surveys.

The Institute of France is maintained by the public treasury, and pensions or salaries are given to its members, but I have not been able to ascertain the amount.

The old Province of Canada gave subsidies, ranging from \$1,000 per annum to smaller sums, to several scientific and literary societies, and, I believe, these are continued by the Local Legislatures. They cannot, however, provide for the work which a Dominion Society might accomplish.

I am informed that money aids are given to Scientific Societies in Australia, but cannot learn the amounts.

It may be stated as the result of general experience that a National Scientific and Literary Society cannot be really successful and useful without public aid; and in the institution of such a society in a country so widely scattered and with so little of scientific and literary life, this would seem to be peculiarly necessary.

GRANTS MADE IN ENGLAND AND CANADA TO LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

England—

In the year ending 31st March, 1882, the Imperial Parliament voted £17,600 sterling in aid of "Learned Societies and Scientific Investigation," being an increase of £550 over a similar vote in the previous Session of Parliament.

Of this amount, there was allotted to the Royal Society, "to defray the expenses of Scientific Investigations," £1,000. This has been for many years an annual grant.

Similar societies in Edinburgh and in Dublin, as also the Meteorological and the Geographical Societies and Academies of Music, including the Academy recently founded, have been assisted out of the main grant above stated.

Canada—

Previous to 1867, grants were annually made by the Legislature to Literary and Scientific Associations in Upper and Lower Canada.

Since Confederation, the Legislatures of Ontario and Quebec have continued to assist societies in those Provinces. For instance, the Legislature of Ontario makes annually the following grants:—

Mechanics' Institutes	\$26,200
Ontario School of Artists	500
Ontario School of Art and Design	1,100
London do do	1,000
Canadian Institute	750
Institut Canadien, Ottawa	500
Ottawa Literary and Scientific Society	300

The Legislature of Quebec makes the following annual grants:—

Natural History Society	\$ 700
Montreal Historical Society	350
Numismatic and Antiquarian Society	100
Quebec Literary and Historical Society	750
Geographical Society	300
Académie de Musique	100
Towards publication of "Le Naturaliste Canadien."	400
St. Patrick's Literary Institute	300

These are the evidences of what has been done elsewhere; and I really cannot believe, that we can in any way more promote scientific study and encourage and develop physical and natural science in all its forms, than by encouraging this society, and by giving it this support. Of course everyone knows, that philosophical transactions are not like popular novels; they are not generally interesting, and the publication of their transactions would not yield sufficient to pay for the cost of it. This is not done in older countries, and certainly it would not be so here; for these reasons, the Government take the responsibility of asking Parliament to give this vote.

Mr. ROSS (Middlesex). Is it intended to have these publications printed by the Parliamentary Printer?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. Oh, no. They will print them and do as they please in this respect. The papers

will be philosophical and very technical, and therefore, they will be issued, I take it, under the supervision of Dr. Dawson or Dr. Sterry Hunt, or of men of that kind, most likely at Montreal; but all we will do, will be to give the vote.

Mr. ROSS. There is no reason I can see why Parliament, which votes the money, should not say that the papers should be printed like parliamentary documents, and by this means a larger edition could be obtained for the same sum of money. Besides there would be the prospect of distributing them among the members of the House like other documents. These papers would be very valuable judging by the indications I have seen of those which are likely to be read. It would be very well, I think excellent, to cause a certain number to be published, and the hon. gentleman should see if they are not printed by the Parliamentary Printers—which, I think, should be done—that, at least, a certain distribution is made among the members of the House. In fact I see no reason why we, who give the money, should not say that these papers should be printed by the Parliamentary Printers, who are quite competent to do the work, which is nothing peculiar but what is done in any printing office.

Mr. BLAKE. Perhaps the hon. gentleman will state the number of volumes to be printed and distributed, and how far the vote covers the cost of printing, and how far, of superintendence, &c.?

Sir JOHN A. MACDONALD. I am not able to do that. The statement made by the deputation, the committee of the society, that communicated with myself and the members of the Government, was, that it would take almost this sum to enable them to bring out their transactions for each year. I take it, as with any other society, that we must trust to them to use the money economically and well; and of course, they will publish the transactions as far as the money will go. We must leave that to them, and I do not see how we can avoid it.

Mr. BLAKE. I am sorry that the proposal is brought before us in so vague a form, and no information is furnished, so that the Committee may know for what object the money is required. For my own part, the statement which the hon. gentleman has made as to the grant formerly given, and now continued, is a sufficient indication of the difficult path on which it is now proposed we shall start. It is true there were grants for various literary institutions by the old Province of Canada, which was a legislative union, and it is true that these grants, to a larger or smaller extent, have been continued and developed, in some instances, by each of the two Provinces. This is a sort of system of higher education; it belongs to the literary and educational element; but if, to the Provincial assistance, there is now to be superadded a Dominion grant, I fear the true interests of these institutions will suffer. I must say that I have more confidence in the real vitality of an institution of this kind which sought for its support by subscription from those all over the Dominion who feel interested in its object, and was supported mainly in that way, than an institution which begins by proposing that the public shall become its dry nurse. The Canadian Institute of the old time, which is still subsisting, still enjoys a small grant from the Government, and they have been able to carry on for many years the publication of their transactions in a more limited area than is proposed for this society, because they had a constituency who were willing to subscribe for the purpose of getting their transactions published. If you are going to tell the public at first that they are not going to subscribe enough, but you will take it out of their pockets by taxation, I say that you will interfere with the interests, you will not advance the true progress of the society, which must depend for its real