

Reasons for a New Art Gallery

A Report from

The Ontario Society of Artists

TO THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION:



TWENTY years ago when the Industrial Exhibition Association was formed and the buildings erected, the Gallery intended for Art purposes was a great advance on anything of the kind before existing in the Dominion, and with the exception of the Art Association Building in Montreal and the old rooms of the Ontario Society of Artists at 14 King St. West, the only building constructed with sky-lights, especially for art purposes.

The Provincial Exhibition had art exhibits, but no particular rooms or galleries, part of the Main Building being used for the purpose, and the light was generally very bad.

At the time of the formation of the Association, Art Schools had only been established in Canada about three or four years, and the result of their work had not begun to be felt, and it was not then the common thing for the citizens of Toronto to spend their summer holidays wandering through the Art Galleries of Europe as it is for many of them now, and even those who visited the principal cities of the United States only saw the beginning of the fine collection of paintings and the Art Galleries they now possess.

The World's Exposition in Chicago was a great stimulus to Art in America, and a vast number of our people for the first time realized what an Art Exhibition could be.

Such are the factors that have been at work since the opening of the Exhibition in 1879. There the fine art exhibit has been managed in various ways. In the first place on the old plan of granting money prizes for the best landscape, portrait, marine, flowers, etc., after the fashion of the old