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It would have been a satisfaction to receive you at our own rooms, but unfortunately the dimensions are too modest to allow of that, and the Art Association, which has many times in the past furthered our aims by its friendly consideration, has once more solved our difficulty, and we are able to welcome you in these beautiful galleries, a pleasure which we gratefully acknowledge.

The Local Council has suggested that I should say a few words about the foundation of the movement to revive and promote Canadian handicrafts, as this may be of interest to you.

I must go back to the year 1894, when I was president of the then newly established Montreal Branch of the Women's Art Association of Canada, a society founded some time before in Toronto.

During my presidency we came to the conclusion that in Toronto, there being then no art society, there was ample room for such a body as the Women's Art Association, which certainly deserves commendation for the excellent work accomplished during many years.

In Montreal, however, where an established Art Association was already making good progress in training the artistic taste of the town, holding classes and giving frequent exhibitions—which policy is partly responsible for the many fine private collections owned here—we soon felt that our work could only overlap that already being well done, and that there was not the same *raison d'être* for our existence as in the Queen City. There was, however,