

members, to join the Association, and not only to join but to attend the meetings?

The intention of this article is *not* to answer this question, nor to seemingly dictate as to what shall, or shall not be done by the Convention, but simply to make a few suggestions which have occurred to us, and leave the answering of the questions and the consideration of the subject to the members of the Convention, and, that much larger body, the Photographers of Canada who at present are not members.

Is it *necessary* to have prizes?

Is it right or just, in fact, to place one, of two or three photographers from a certain town above these others because there are not enough medals to go round, or because the prize-man's exhibit is executed upon X's paper for which a prize is offered, the other two being unfortunate enough to exhibit on paper or plates of another make. Is it justice to place an inferior workman over his superiors and permit him to take a valuable prize because he uses X's paper?

Again, say what you will, what chance does the photographer from a small town, whose sitters are principally good people whose lives are passed in the everyday toil of farm life, who do not want nor will not pay for fancy work, but who only too often demand tints at four for a quarter?

This man, even though he loves his art and does conscientious work, what chance does *he* stand as a prize winner against his brother photographer of the large city with his numerous appliances, and expensive accessories--which through the magnitude of his business he can well afford, not to mention his highly paid assistants, and his well dressed patrons used from there cradle to courtly society, and taught graceful

posing and Delsarte with their alphabet.

Against the modest display of the one, is put the elegantly framed and expensively gotten up exhibit of the other, and the result is that the other, who of necessity has with his own hands performed his work in the face of many disadvantages, is discouraged at the thought of ever achieving such greatness. The bitter thought that fate has not given him the chance, even though she has the talent, to become an equal of his brother artist, often blinds his eyes to the good that might come to him through careful study of this big man's work. The iron has entered his soul, and instead of being benefited and encouraged by what he sees, the curse of the tempting prize list which he feels is beyond his reach, has done its work, and he goes home worse by far for his visit to his Convention, perhaps to have the "green eyed monster" aroused within him by the sight of his opponents medal won in a class given by a manufacturer, and for which perhaps but one or two competed.

While the change made in the arrangement of the prize list this year, by the promoters of the convention may be a step in the right direction, it is not to our thinking, the proper way to meet the emergency. As long as the prize list remains *the* feature of the Convention, so long will discord and hard feeling exist, and just so long will many true artists stand aloof.

We say without fear of contradiction that of the honorable body of men who comprise the P. A. C., the large majority would undoubtedly be glad to see the prize list abolished and something in harmony with a profession as high standing as that of Photography, substituted.