

contented with that position. Were we to rest satisfied with matters as they now are, we should find neighboring towns getting ahead of us, and if we are to keep pace with art in other centres we also must make such advances as are within our reach. There is, however, an obstacle in our way, and that is the want of sufficient accommodation, for you know if the Council of the Association decided to have a loan exhibition, or any other exhibition than with simply permanent pictures of the Association, the latter would have to be relegated for the time to the cellar, so that people visiting these rooms would not be able to make comparisons between the pictures that were loaned to us and those we now possess. There is no help for it, therefore, but to acquire more space. Foreseeing this eventuality, the Association some years ago purchased an adjoining property known, I believe, as the Wilson property. That cost a little over \$20,000, and happily at this moment the whole of that sum has been paid, with the exception of \$5,000 of mortgage. But while the property is there you cannot use it for the purposes of the Association until you build on it an addition to this hall. That will necessitate an expenditure of \$40,000 at the least, and it would not be safe for the Association to attempt to erect any such building until they have in hand at least one-half of that amount, or from twenty to twenty-five thousand. The Council having looked into the matter feel that with that amount on hand they would be justified in erecting the new building. Having erected it, the rooms used for art classes would be available for business premises. Already a very handsome amount—some \$2,000 or more—has been offered as rent for this purpose, and with the rent accruing from these shops or stores, they would be able to pay the interest on what amount it might be necessary to have on the other property as a mortgage. Now the only way to get this money is, I presume, that the members should determine that each, according as he considers he ought to give, will subscribe to make up this twenty or twenty-five thousand dollars, and the Council would recommend that this should be proceeded with, with as little delay as possible, so that a commencement may be made in getting this further accommodation, which is really absolutely necessary, if we are to make that advance which we owe to the Association and to the city of Montreal.