

Council on Education. Its offices, schools, and the Museum of Art were at Marlborough House, now they are at South Kensington. Moreover, the department has become charged with the general superintendence of a museum embracing many other objects besides those of art, and several collections which are the property of private bodies.

Some who but recently have paid attention to the subject, have thought that the science and art department is a new creation of the Government, and have expressed surprise at the important item which its expenses make in the parliamentary estimates of the year. The science and art department is rather a consolidation of institutions, most of which have been long established, than the creation of any new ones. The oldest institution connected with the department is the Royal Dublin Society, which as early as 1800 received an annual public grant of £15,500. The School of Mines, Geological Museum in Jermyn Street, and Geological Survey were in process of organization from 1837 to 1851, and were placed under the Chief Commissioner of Public Works. The Industrial Museum of Ireland owes its origin to Sir Robert Peel in 1845, and was also subject to the Chief Commissioner of Works, whilst the School of Design, which is the parent of the present schools of art located in all parts of the United Kingdom, and supported mainly by local authority and action, was founded in 1837 by Mr. Poulett Thompson, afterwards Lord Sydenham, and were subject to the authority of the Board of Trade.

All these institutions had in view the promotion of scientific and artistic knowledge of an industrial tendency at the expense of the State, but they acted in different ways, independently of each other, and were subject to different kinds of ministerial responsibility.

After the Exhibition of 1851, public opinion unanimously demanded that the State should give more systematic assistance to the scientific and artistic education of the people than it had hitherto done; and it was an obvious process, and in accordance with the working of institutions in this country, rather to improve and consolidate what existed already than to create a new institution.

Accordingly in 1852, whilst Mr. Cardwell was president of the Board of Trade, the Royal Dublin Society, Mining Museum and School in Jermyn Street, the industrial museums of Ireland and Scotland, with the department of practical art, were united to form the department of science and art under a single parliamentary authority, and were required to publish an annual statement of the results of their working.

One effect of this consolidation, signally beneficial, has been to call increased public attention to them, and generally to lead the public more largely to demand the assistance offered by them than when they were insulated. In the year 1851, before any consolidation took place, the Parliamentary votes on behalf of these institutions exceeded £40,000. Whilst for the last year, when the action has been greatly extended, numerous new duties undertaken, and the numbers of persons