

PRINTING THE MINUTES.

Proposed by W. R. McNaught, seconded by James Kendry,

That the Secretary be instructed to have the proceedings of this meeting printed in pamphlet form for distribution amongst the members and others.

PAPERS READ.

The reading of the following papers by gentlemen who had kindly given the time for the preparation, in their interest of the Association, was then proceeded with:—

ART AS APPLIED TO INDUSTRIAL PURSUITS.

BY P. W. ELLIS, TORONTO.

THE advancement of the older countries of the world in the application of art to industrial pursuits demands our attention and admiration, and teaches us that if Canadian manufacturers would keep fully abreast with the times, and produce handiwork of corresponding merit, they should follow in their footsteps in this respect, and adopt similar methods. We have much to learn regarding artistic arrangement and tasteful composition in the details of our productions. We know that "a thing of beauty is a joy forever;" but as manufacturers always striving to produce articles pleasing to the eye and taste, that there is always a craving for variety and a demand for novelties; and it is this "whim, if it may be so called, of the public for whom we cater, and the generally correct appreciation of artistic designs on the part of the public, that is a constant spur to exertion to these requirements, and that stimulates artists to produce them.

This demand for artistic novelties must be met, and to successfully meet it it requires that artistic taste shall be nurtured and cultivated, not in a careless and hap-hazard manner, but systematically, and with the greatest care and vigilance. The manufacturer must not only rely upon what others have accomplished in this general direction. If the kaleidoscope was not revolved one would soon weary of observing the beauty and harmony of its blended colors; for the desire is for new arrangements and poses, new blendings and—change. And this is true of all mechanical productions; for the fashion of to-day is antiquated to-morrow, and each succeeding day and season demands novelties that had never before existed. We have the authority of Solomon that "there is nothing new under the sun"; but as I have said, while there may be no new pieces of colored glass or trinkets placed in the kaleidoscope, each revolution of it produces new combinations and designs—new creations—and it is these that please.

The art of painting and sculpture; the application of the laws of heat to the industry of the world and the comfort and convenience of mankind; the knowledge of the effects of eating and drinking, and of exercise and repose; the inspiration of music; the pleasures of the drama have in all ages of the world engaged public attention, and are all worthy of the thought bestowed upon them; and the arts and sciences as applied to industrial pursuits are worthy of quite as much attention from us. We experience unalloyed pleasure in viewing the beautiful landscape, the glowing sunset; the flowers of the field and listening to the song of the bird; and in these enjoyments we know there can be no monopoly, and that these

pleasures are free for all. But there are other pleasures of equal value—those derived from observing the artistic productions of the human brain and hand, but these can only come through long and patient study and close application.

It is the height of art to conceal art; and while we know that even among ourselves and our workmen much has already been done in this direction, there is room and demand for great advancement. To accomplish this advancement the student must of necessity have a groundwork of artistic knowledge upon which he can build, and which will be a nucleus to which he can add whatever he may subsequently gain by both study and practice. Graceful proportions and agreeable effects require knowledge of the laws of harmony and proportion; and this knowledge must of necessity be cultivated, the acquirement coming with much greater readiness and satisfaction, of course, where a natural talent for it exists. The barriers which separate knowledge and refinement from ignorance and vulgarity must be clearly set forth to those who would cultivate their artistic tastes with a view to employing them in industrial pursuits. Develop and quicken the intellectual faculties for acquiring knowledge in this direction and it will surprise many to see what favorable results will follow. We need artistically educated workmen in our factories, who, with their cultivated tastes, strong arms and nimble fingers, can design and create new objects of beauty and utility, for which there is always a large and steady demand. With such knowledge they would command for themselves the most remunerative wages, and their productions would always prove gratifying investments to their employers. Such knowledge can best be obtained in industrial art schools; and it would certainly be to the interest of manufacturers to see many such schools in existence, where drawing, sketching, modelling, designing and all the other requisites to a correct development of artistic taste are taught, and where the pupils may learn what is being done and what has already been done in other lands in this direction.

It is highly desirable that this Association lend its influence in having the Government establish such schools in all the larger industrial centers, and I venture the assertion that every member of our Association would be to greater or less extent benefited thereby. It would be a National Policy of a new and most valuable sort; would promote Canadian industry; Canadian artistic skill and ingenuity; preserve Canadian individuality and Canadian self-reliance.

CONVICT LABOR IN CANADA, AND HOW IT AFFECTS CANADIAN MANUFACTURERS.

BY J. J. CASSIDY, OF THE "CANADIAN MANUFACTURER."

THERE are five penitentiaries in Canada supported by the Dominion Government. Besides these, there are many other penal institutions, such as the Central Prison, in Toronto, and reformatories and jails in about every county. Of these latter I take no account, but confine my remarks to facts and deductions concerning the penitentiaries alluded to, and will endeavor to show how the employment of the convicts confined in them affects the manufacturing industries of the country. The facts that I may mention in connection with these penitentiaries are obtained from the reports to the Minister of Justice from Mr. James D. Moylan, Inspector of Penitentiaries.