

*ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE,
SESSION 1886-87, BEING PART OF APPENDIX L OF THE REPORT
OF THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION OF 1887. SEE PAGE 235 OF
THAT REPORT.*

The Council of the Canadian Institute has the honor to lay before the members its thirty-eighth Annual Report.

During the past session twenty-six meetings, including the annual conversazione, have been held, at which forty-nine papers have been read, in addition to twenty-three read at section meetings. This number is largely in excess of that of any previous year in the history of the Institute. The character of these communications is fully equal to the standard of previous years, and the range of subjects (as shown in Appendix VI.) is unprecedentedly large. The average attendance at the regular weekly meetings also shows a considerable and steady increase.

The distinguishing feature of the year has been the successful establishment of no less than four new sections, in addition to the Biological section, incorporated at the end of last session, viz.: (1) A Photographic section, (2) an Architectural section, (3) a Philological section and (4) a Geological and Mining section. The creation of these sections has extended the benefits of the Institute to new classes of the citizens, and has been the chief cause of the large increase of membership. Their annual reports, which are appended, show a gratifying spirit of activity in every branch of the Institute.

A further evidence of this increased activity is seen in the number of memorials presented to the Provincial Government, with successful results in many cases, as follows: In February last the Committee of Ways and Means waited on the Minister of Education and urged him to increase the annual grant to the Institute from \$750 to \$1,500, for general purposes, and to enable the Council to give courses of public lectures on scientific subjects, especially in connection with industrial pursuits. While gratefully acknowledging the increase of the grant to \$1,000 for general purposes, the Council regrets that the Government did not see fit to comply with the latter part of the application.

In the same month the Archaeological Committee urged the Minister to make a yearly grant of \$1,500 for Archaeological research in Ontario, and the passing of an Act for the protection of Archeological remains founded upon Sir John Lubbock's "Ancient Monuments Act of 1812." The Council again thankfully acknowledges the liberal grant of \$1,000 for this purpose, but regrets that the heavy work falling upon the Minister this session in connection with educational matters should have made it impossible for him to bring in an Ancient Monuments bill, which would have greatly enhanced the value of the Act. It is hoped, however, that such an Act may become law in the next session of the Legislature.

In March a deputation waited on the Commissioner of Crown Lands to urge the establishment of a large park reserve in the district of Nipissing, for the protection of wild animals and of timber, and were assured of the Minister's sympathy. An Act for the purpose will, it is hoped, be the result of this application in the near future.

In April a Committee urged upon the same Minister the propriety of some improved means of collecting information on matters connected with the mining interests of the Province, and received assurances of co-operation.

Another pleasing feature of this year's work is the partial completion of the Museum of Natural History and Archeology in the third story of our building, which will, it is confidently expected, enable the Council, for some time at least, to properly accommodate