

I think that that expression adequately sets forth the achievements that our Canadian artists on canvas have made towards unifying this country and, as I said presenting it as an entity more adequately than has been done through any other form of artistic endeavour. We are making progress in other arts, such as music, literature and architecture, but I think that the gifts of our Canadian painters, more clearly than any other agency, have given us a glimpse of what we think of Canada when we try to observe it as a whole.

A good deal has been said about the services of the Art Gallery in establishing local facilities and sending travelling exhibits of pictures to the rest of Canada. These services have been performed conscientiously and well, within the limits of the facilities under which the officials of the gallery have had to work. All I want to say is that a great deal of the interest which is manifested in Canada today is due to the devoted efforts of our pioneer artists themselves and the vast group,—now almost numberless, and located in almost every centre of any size, to expressing in paint and on canvass the aspirations of Canada. Those artists deserve our thanks and acknowledgments. In passing this bill to provide the Art Gallery here, in compliance with the recommendations of the Massey Report, with greater facilities for carrying this message from the artists of Canada to our people as a whole and to countries abroad, we are not only complimenting ourselves but rendering a service to the country as a whole now and for the future.

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Is there any proposal to build an adequate art gallery at the National Capital?

Hon. Mr. Lambert: I meant to refer to that. There is in the bill no reference to the new quarters which, I know my honourable friend will agree, are badly needed if they are to be commensurate with the representative character of our artistic activities. But there is a plan for a new gallery. The Greber plan model, as anyone who has looked at it will know, has marked on it a place for a new gallery. It remains for the directors of the gallery and the Federal District Commission to agree upon the desirability of that site. The site which is marked in the Greber plan is immediately on the far side of the new bridge. Elsewhere a suggestion has been made that the site should be at the foot of Elgin street, in territory which would have to be cleared. That question has yet to be decided, and therefore no reference to it is made in the bill; but from what I know, I believe that before very long steps will be taken to establish new housing for the Art Gallery.

Hon. Arthur W. Roebuck: May I congratulate the honourable senator from Ottawa (Hon. Mr. Lambert) on his presentation of this bill. I do not know how far the bill will go in carrying us forward, but certainly it can do no harm. I would like to express my agreement with the statement of my honourable friend about the importance of the subject and the marvellous grip which painting has taken upon the Canadian people, inducing them not only to admire the works of others but to actually do something themselves. This, I think has advantages. I was speaking last Saturday to a teacher in the Ottawa Technical School, and he told me that in Ottawa the interest in painting is so great that no less than two hundred and fifty students are attending night classes to learn to paint, and he rather feared that the time would come when the wall space of the city would be exhausted.

Hon. Mr. Lambert: Are senatorial candidates included?

Hon. Mr. Roebuck: Oh, yes. Painting is a lovely occupation; it is highly cultural and provides great pleasure and adventure. As a sport there is scarcely anything that exceeds it in attractiveness, and anything we can do to improve the culture of our country in this field is our duty.

I am glad to see this bill; I think it has certain virtues; and I am quite sure that it will pass.

Hon. Mr. Haig: I do not intend to continue the discussion, but I was hoping that the distinguished senator from Thunder Bay (Hon. Mr. Paterson) would say something. My city is under great obligation to him for his encouragement to the Art Gallery and to art work in Winnipeg.

Some Hon. Senators: Hear, hear.

Hon. Norman M. Paterson: I had no intention of speaking on this bill, though I am vitally interested in it, having worked very closely in certain instances with Mr. McCurrie, and having donated at least one or two works of art here. Some years ago, after visiting the continental galleries and spending a winter in Bournemouth, I became very much interested in pictures. Really, as a hobby it is worse than fishing. When a man comes along with pictures, even though your walls are crowded with them, you start stacking them in the cellar; you cannot resist buying. It is an awful disease.

I want to pay tribute to our National Gallery. After visiting the Tate Gallery, the National Gallery and the Kensington Art Gallery in London, I can say that we have