

Museum and Natural History Museum, Montreal; the Peabody, Harvard and Agassiz Museums at Boston and Cambridge; the Natural History and Art Museums of New York; the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, the Smithsonian Institution at Washington; the National Museum at Washington; the Polytechnic Museum, Louisville, Kentucky; the State Geological Museum, Indianapolis; the Art Museum, Cincinnati; the Museum of the Buffalo Natural History Society, and the Museum of the Buffalo Historical Society.

Your Committee are satisfied that a city of the size and importance of Toronto should have a Museum, from the fact that it has been found advisable to institute Museums in all cities of the same and larger growth in the United States, and that similar Museums are to be found in every city and town in the old world. Your Committee would emphasise the value of a collection of historical relics appertaining to this Province, and they would especially urge this, as owing to the removal from the country and loss by fire, a number of such relics is rapidly decreasing. One experienced curator said:

"It would seem as if it were almost the duty of a provincial museum to preserve and exhibit such historical relics and documents relating to the province in which it is situated as fall into its hands. These objects are of great interest to the general public and their meaning and import can be understood by everyone. The only danger in such collections is that they degenerate into mere unassorted masses of curiosities which have little historical value.

"As regards Indian relics they belong naturally to what would be called a department or section of ethnography, and should go into any scheme in which the illustration of the resources of a province are contemplated. They have very great interest for the general public, and must be included among the most popular objects of any museum, in view of the fact that the advances of civilization are very rapidly obliterating the records of aboriginal life on this continent. It is extremely important that all those objects which come under the general name of Indian relics should be carefully preserved."