

LORD LANSDOWNE'S ADDRESS

Mr. President, Canon Norman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—

I am glad to have once again the pleasure of meeting the members of the Royal Canadian Academy upon the occasion of its annual exhibition. The position of the Academy is, I believe, becoming every year better assured, while the amount of public recognition which it commands certainly shows no signs of diminishing. [Applause.]

In taking a sanguine view of the future of the institution and of Canadian Art, I do not wish to underrate the extent of the difficulties which necessarily stand in your way during the first few years of your existence. I believe, however, that with every stride which the Canadian people takes in the development of its material resources, it will take a step, if not a very long one, in the direction of the development of the national taste for the Fine Arts. Canada is a country full of bright aspirations and hopes, and there is one aspiration which will, I trust, always be present to the national mind, namely: that we shall not fall behind the other great civilized communities of the world in respect of the place accorded in the public estimation to artistic culture of all kinds, and to this form of culture in particular. At any rate we may, I think, say that those who believe in the destiny of the Dominion are doing their duty in endeavoring to build up the foundations of a Canadian school of painting, the influence of which may some day be felt, not only within our own country, but beyond its limits. [Applause.]

There are many circumstances which make it reasonable to conclude that the effort will be ultimately successful. Of this, at any rate, there is no doubt, that in the city of Montreal a taste for art in all its shapes, and for the painters' art especially, exists already. I have not forgotten the excellent loan collection which I had the opportunity of visiting when I