

should he ever care to have it in a public institution. The list of Mr. Casselman's books and pamphlets on the War of 1812 is without question the most complete in any private library, and but two or three public institutions can boast of as good material. In our own Province, with the possible exception of the Archives at Ottawa, it has no rival. What is to become of these collections? Are we to sit quietly by and see them drift into other organizations more fortunate in being able to house them? This is a very serious situation. In some cases this material will be forever lost if we do not do our duty, and it is our duty—one that we assumed when we accepted membership in the Society and more particularly so when we accepted office. We had absolutely no right to form a society and name it the Ontario Historical Society and adopt as a principal aim a constitution with the paragraph mentioned in the opening of this paper, if we did not intend to do the work such an organization should do.

In the 1905 Annual Report of the American Historical Association, Prof. George Bryce of Winnipeg, under the heading "Recent Movements in Historic Study in Canada", gives interesting information, but the Ontario Historical Society is not mentioned—there was nothing to tell. Perhaps I cannot do better in closing this part of the argument than to quote a paragraph of a letter I received recently from the Hon. James Bryce, British Ambassador at Washington. Dr. Bryce says: "I may add that I am particularly glad to know that Historical Societies such as yours are being formed in Canada. There is nothing more to be desired than that the study of history should be cultivated all through a country growing and prospering as Canada is. In the generations to come, the events of our own time will be the subjects of the liveliest interest, and it is very desirable that all that can be done to preserve full records should be done. I hope there are many other societies such as yours, giving their attention to both local and general Canadian history."

Another argument, and one worthy of our careful attention, is the need of providing our members with a place to call home. This Society, at the present time, does practically nothing to hold its members and absolutely nothing to attract new members. The result has been that we have simply drifted along from year to year, held together only by the influence of