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# FOREWORD

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THE group of seven artists whose pictures are here exhibited have for several years held a like vision concerning Art in Canada. They are all imbued with the idea that an Art must grow and flower in the land before the country will be a real home for its people.

§ That this Art will differ from the Art of the past, and from the present day Art, of any people; superseding nothing, only adding to what has been done. Also it seems inevitable when something vital and distinctive arises it will be met—

(1) by ridicule, abuse or indifference.

(2) The so-called Art lovers, having a deeply rooted idea that Art is a matter of picture buying through the medium of the auctioneer or dealer, will refuse to recognize anything that does not come up to the commercialized, imported standard of the picture-sale room.

They prefer to enrich the salesman than accept the productions by artists native to the land, whose work is more distinctive, original, and vital, and of greater value to the country.

(3) The more sophisticated will meet it with: "If you have no traditions, no background, no Art is possible." How then do traditions arise? Or they will say that anything

produced will shortly be superseded—which is to say that it has never been, never will be worth anything. They will say anything that will patting their own backs and their Art and country.

Finally: A very small group of individuals, realizing that the future of a country depends upon its Words, its Deeds, and its Art, holding that Art is an essential part of existence they will welcome any form of Art expression that interprets the spirit of the

§ The artists here represent the hope of the future, the promise of a new tence of being the only ones to produce significant work. But they do not hold that their work is significant in itself, but in value to the country. The Irish writer, A. E. Russell, the Irish writer, can ever hope to rise beyond the level where there is not unbounded hope, where its humanity can do." And they do not believe they can equate the stature of any humanity with this world, then they had better become servants to some su-

§ A word as you view the pictures will invite adverse criticism. The greatest evil they have to combat is that they would ask you—do you contain only what you already know? they argue, that you should look at the pictures that show you what you can see for yourselves.