

they were founded. They had not, and were not expected to have, any interest for the common people. But a central museum, where material regarding the country itself may be collected and classified and the resultant facts and discoveries published among the people; where lectures and special exhibitions may be held and works of a similar educational value may be carried on, is a necessity to every country with the least claim to culture.

Such is the Royal Victoria Memorial Museum in Ottawa under the control of the Geological Survey of Canada. The members of this branch of the public service are all lovers of their particular branch of work and their ardor tends to make a success of any work which they undertake. Certainly if unremitting toil and enthusiastic labour can build up a national museum of which Canada may be proud these men will do it. Their work is in two main groups. The first consists in activities for the diffusion of knowledge by means of exhibits, lectures and publications. This work will be done by the museum itself, a large well-lighted sandstone building. Carven moose heads over the entrance testify its character. On entering the timid visitor is apt to be startled by the grotesque appearances of two totem poles whose weird images stare at each other across the rotunda. There is a large lecture hall and plenty of floor space for exhibits.

The second group includes activities for obtaining and increasing such knowledge, by exploration research and systematization. This work is done by what are termed field-parties. These are men who by their survey, of some part of the country to which they are sent in the interests of some science increase the museum's supply of material to work upon, or specimens to exhibit. Thus Mr. V. Stefansson who is much in the public eye at present will carry on field work in the north for the next three years.

For convenience in working the museum staff is in four divisions. The first division takes up geology, and mineralogy, the second, paleontology, the third anthropology, and the fourth Biology.

The work of the geological division consists in studying the geological formations and mineral deposits in Canada. They have a large collection of scientifically arranged Canadian minerals. About fifty collections of minerals are presented each year to High Schools and Colleges throughout the country. This work entails the gathering and crushing of fourteen or fifteen tons of ore.

The second division, paleontology has a great field to work on in Canada. They are especially interested in the fossils of this country although the collection contains a few foreign specimens.