

A Board of Arbitration to be established for the settlement of difficulties arising between members in the practice of their professions.

The subscription of members to be one pound per annum.

The subscription of graduates to be ten shillings per annum.

Corresponding and Honorary Members, and Members joining the Institute after September 22nd, to be admitted by ballot.

Graduates to be admitted on recommendation of the Council.

From this it will be seen that the proposed Society, although now greatly modified, was at first strictly of a professional character. The prospectus was transmitted to nearly 500 persons throughout the Province, accompanied by a suitable circular in reply to which from twelve to fifteen letters only were received. The promoters were disheartened, the monthly meetings were thinly attended, although notices of such meetings were regularly sent to all concerned, the sanguine expectations of many of the members were damped, and by some the Society was entirely abandoned at a time when their assistance was most needed. At last the attendance dwindled down to two persons, and then the prospects of the young Institute were gloomy indeed. At this small meeting various schemes were talked over as to the ultimate chances of success, and it was then considered that by opening out the Society to those whose pursuits and studies were of a kindred character, and by holding regular weekly meetings for the reading and discussing of papers, the Society would gradually take a practical and proper footing. The weekly meetings have been held regularly since that time during the winter months, and the attendance has occasionally been good although often dispiriting. Several interesting communications of professional and general interest have been read and some of them have excited spirited discussion. Many of the meetings have been occupied by discussions connected with proposed changes (since confirmed) in the "constitution" and "regulations" of the Society; at last on April 12th, 1851, it was resolved that the proper steps be taken for obtaining such a Charter as the Society now enjoys, for promoting intercourse and knowledge among men throughout Canada. By this step, the hitherto strictly professional association was changed to one of a general character and the way paved for the Canadian Institute as it now exists.

On May 10th last year, (1851), the first *Conversazione* was held. The Royal Charter of Incorporation was granted on November 4th, 1851, and by it W. E. Logan, Director of the Geographical Survey, was decreed first President. The remaining Officers and Members of the Council required by the Charter were elected on the March 27th, last; they accepted office on the following week at a *conversazione*. Prior to the election of officers, the weekly meetings were occupied in the usual manner and in preparing and maturing a proper code of laws in harmony with the requirements of the Charter for the future government of the Institute.

Such is a brief history of the Canadian Institute, up to the acceptance of the Royal Charter. By the unceasing perseverance of its founders it has already taken root. By the Charter of Incorporation its establishment and character has been permanently confirmed, by each increase of numbers it receives a new impulse, by the zeal and unity of purpose of its promoters, the practical efforts of its members, and the fostering hand of an enlightened legislature, the future prospects of the Society are, we trust, many days of usefulness and uninterrupted prosperity.