

tunity of exercising their talents on a larger scale than heretofore and bring our art and its influence into closer touch with the daily life of the people.

The Annual Exhibition of 1897 was held with about the usual loss. This being the fate of all modern Art Exhibitions, which depend on the purely artistic character of the exhibition to attract support, it was to be expected; but, considering the economical manner with which our exhibitions are conducted, the showing in attendance was not good, and indicates that the unfavorable situation and unattractiveness of our Galleries contributes to this failure to secure public attention.

Two pictures, of the value of \$100 each, one by Mr. Manly and one by Mrs. Reid, were selected for the provincial collection in accordance with the terms of the Government grant to the Society.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition Art Department was under the auspices of the Ontario Society of Artists, as has been the case for some years past. A special effort was made to elevate the exhibit to a higher plane, and without the detracting of special separated exhibits. The Gallery was redecorated under the direction of the Society, and the plan adopted of hanging pictures with spaces between, which very much improved the appearance. Much remains, however, to be done in this direction. There were 306 exhibits, some of which were loans especially procured, and the thanks of the Society are due to Messrs. E. F. B. Johnston, W. R. Johnston, G. A. Case, J. G. Kent, J. D. Wright, and also to Mrs. Schreiber, for their kindness in loaning works from their collections. Besides these loans some English and French pictures were procured from Mr. Hicks, of Montreal. This exhibition undoubtedly constitutes one of the most valuable functions of the Society, as it reaches a great mass of the people from all parts of the province. It is hoped that a more suitable Gallery may be built for the Art Department in the near future.

The exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy has been held this year in Toronto, the Gallery of the Ontario Society having been used for the purpose. The majority of the exhibitors were our own members.