

is also proposed to make similar applications to all the Mechanics' Institutes throughout the Province.

The want of information respecting the water levels of Lake Ontario, which are variable to such an extent as seriously to affect the interests of navigation and manufacture, and greatly to embarrass the operations of engineers who, as yet, have had no standard lake-level upon which to establish their investigations, induced the Council to make enquiry of the Commissioners of Public Works as to any existing records of the levels of past years, and to suggest the propriety of establishing a future reliable system of observation and registration at various points on the lake shore. The Commissioners, however, whilst they acknowledged the importance of the proposed investigation, and referred to some special observations which had been made in connection with the construction of the Provincial canals, were not prepared to recommend the Government to take any action in the matter further than to place the services of light-house keepers in its employment at the disposal of the Institute in the pursuit of such enquiry. Such assistance would very greatly facilitate the attainment of the object in view, and the Council submit for your approval the expediency of arranging during the ensuing winter, a regular system of observation, believing that it would be productive of results very valuable to the public, and thereby justifying the expenditure of a portion of the public grant.

The Council also distributed circulars throughout the Province, requesting information respecting two subjects, the one interesting on account of its connection with the former history of the country, and the other of great value from its economic importance. The circulars respecting Indian Remains and Canadian Limestones, printed in full in the second number of the *Journal*, have been widely disseminated, and the Council are happy to state that favourable results are beginning to arise from the course adopted.

It affords the highest satisfaction to the Council to be enabled to announce that there is every probability of the early co-operation of the Society of Arts of London with the Institute in the pursuit of their mutual objects. By a correspondence which has been opened with the Institute by that Society, (under the authority of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for the Colonies, and by recommendation of His Excellency the Governor General) the Council have reason to hope that the foundation has been laid for reciprocal services of a nature which will tend "to advance the knowledge of the resources and capabilities of this Province in England, and will ensure to its inhabitants such information as the Society of Arts are enabled to furnish on subjects connected with Arts, Manufactures and Commerce." The Council being impressed with the conviction that such a co-operation will result most advantageously to the Institute, strongly recommend that it be diligently pursued; and would further suggest that so soon as the Institute shall have been brought into full and efficient action, correspondence having a like bearing, be opened with other kindred Societies in Great Britain and the United States; whose liberality in extending advice and aid to less advanced Institutions, has already been amply illustrated.

The Council have already received assurance of assistance and co-operation from the Smithsonian Institute at Washington, a copy of whose valuable transactions will also be presented to the Library of the Society.

The Council have great pleasure in announcing that the Provincial Government has not only made the liberal grant of £250 to the Institute, for the current Parliamentary year, but has also sanctioned its occupation of spacious and convenient apartments in the Old Government House, and thus afforded it every facility and accommodation for an immediate commencement of a Museum and Library.

In reference to the first of these objects, there is reason to believe that a plan is in contemplation by the Government for the formation of a general museum, which, however, in the opinion of the Council, by no means supersedes the necessity of forming a more private and special collection connected with the Institute. Such a museum need not be of so extended and various a nature as that contemplated by the Government, and might, perhaps, with propriety be confined to the products of the Province, and the illustration of those Arts and Sciences which are more especially the objects of the Institution. A private collection of this kind, freely at the use of the members, will naturally be more acceptable and more easily available than any large Public Museum.

In furtherance of this view, the Council would recommend:

1stly. That immediate formal application be made to the Government, for any Geological and Mineralogical specimens belonging to the Survey, of which they may possess duplicates.

2ndly. That circulars be sent to all members of the Institute, requesting their co-operation in the formation of a museum, by the donation of such specimens as they may be able to procure.

3rdly. That special application be made to Engineers and Surveyors, engaged on Railroads or mining operations for specimens obtained in cuttings or excavations, over which they may have superintendence, special attention being paid to Geological sections.

4thly. That such collection shall for the present comprehend all objects connected with Architecture and Engineering, Natural History and Botany, Mineralogy and Geology, Indian Antiquities, and Arts and Manufactures.

5thly. That a Museum Committee be appointed to act in conjunction with the Curator.

With reference to the Library the Council recommend that a liberal appropriation be made by their successors in office, towards the formation of such a Library of reference as will facilitate, assist and encourage the special pursuits of all classes of the members of the Institute. That standard works on practical Engineering, Architecture, Manufactures, Transactions of learned