

Department and distributed throughout the Province. Such work as this should interest all our members ; they should inform themselves upon it thoroughly, so that their influence may be felt in the best possible way. There will no doubt be much variety of opinion as to the best way such activity should be directed, but no one will deny that even should there be some misplaced effort, that it is sure to improve, and bring good results.

The Toronto Guild of Civic Art is wielding a quiet but powerful influence which proves the value of municipal art bodies. The presentation to the City in May last of the mural decorations painted by your President was made an occasion of distinction, and some of the remarks made in the speeches go to show that very soon the Fine Arts bid fair to be regarded as an important factor in our municipal affairs. Steps are now being taken to have these decorations in the City Hall continued, and also to define a scheme of decorative panels for the Parliament Buildings, and to induce the Government to undertake the process of carrying it out.

During the Early Part of the year a special meeting was held to consider the claims of native art to a measure of protection from an unfair competition with imported works of indifferent merit, and it was resolved to ask the Dominion Government to place a specific duty on all imported works of art not the work of Canadian artists, the duty to be of such an amount as would not prevent the bringing in of works of merit and importance, and serve to exclude those which would not be an acquisition to the art possessions of our country. The Society united in a petition emanating from the Montreal Art Association and the Royal Canadian Academy asking the Government to prevent the holding of art lotteries by abolishing the law allowing art unions ; a deputation made up of representatives of the Societies waited on the Government at Ottawa, and presented their views on the two foregoing questions, and also endeavored to obtain space for Canadian Art at the Paris Exposition of 1900.

No success can be reported to the present time, beyond the fact that the President, and the first President of the R. C. A. have each been invited to contribute one work to the British Section of the Art Department of the Exposition.