

Archives) and the existence of a Society; an ideal condition supposes both, each in successful operation.

And why should not we in Ontario have a successful and active historical society? We are favored by having a very stirring history to write and study, far surpassing in interest that of the average American State. To bring to memory the many other historic characters who were prominent in the discovery, defense, settlement and development of Ontario we need to mention only, as pioneers, Champlain, Hennepin, La-hontan, Frontenac and La Salle; of the group which followed, Simcoe, Brock and Tecumseh; and of those who made history during the construction period of the nineteenth century, Mackenzie, Ryerson, Macdonald, Wilson, Grant, Mowat and Brown. Notwithstanding many gaps, which could be filled with hard work, we have now several thousand pamphlets, papers, pictures, maps and volumes that would, if properly arranged, make a splendid showing in a new building. The building seems to me to be an absolute necessity if no other demand for it should exist than the one mentioned above.

Another equally important reason why we should build at once is the desirability of having a place to collect and exhibit material of present day history. If we did not have a single scrap on hand to start with, in consideration of "recognition of what one generation owes to another as they pass on in their endless train", we should provide a building and begin a collection of everything that could possibly be useful for the future historian. One of our prominent collectors wrote that we would not now be able to collect anything in the picture line that he had not in his collection. Had the Ontario Historical Society built a fire-proof building five or ten years ago and been in a position properly to care for a valuable collection of historical pictures, it is my opinion that the gentleman who wrote those words would have been pleased to give his collection to our Society. There are many similar cases and we are the losers.

There are, scattered over this Province, many collectors of historical material who have spent their lives in that most interesting work who should be provided with a place in which to deposit their treasures. I do not know Mr. A. C. Casselman's views on the subject, but an historical building would certainly give him a place properly to house his magnificent collection