

The usual Annual Report to the Royal Society of Canada was duly prepared and forwarded.

I would be ungrateful if, in referring to the Society's operations during the year, I failed to make special mention of the services of my associates in the Council, particularly of our distinguished and energetic Secretary, Mr. David Boyle, and the members of the Editorial Committee, of which Mr. C. C. James is the efficient Chairman. It was with great regret, I am sure, that the Society yielded a year ago to the request of your esteemed fellow citizen, our then Treasurer, Mr. B. E. Charlton, to be relieved from the duties of his office, on account of the unsatisfactory condition of his health. We were fortunate, however, in securing an excellent successor in Mr. Yeigh, who has performed his duties with characteristic thoroughness.

Among the amendments to the Municipal Act passed during the last session, one is of special interest to all our societies. It provides that by-laws may be passed by the councils of counties, cities, and towns, for making grants in aid of any historical society, and for creating a debt therefor, and for the issue of debentures for the amount of such debt; and such grants may be made from time to time, and may be either by one payment, or by an annual payment for a limited number of years, and upon such terms and considerations as may be agreed upon. This is a very important provision, for which the best thanks of historical students are due to the Ontario Parliament, and to the Government. A public sentiment favorable to such grants should be aroused in every county, city and town in which a local historical society is established. The County Councils of Wentworth, Elgin, Welland and Kent have already contributed in past years to the cost of printing county histories, and, now that their powers are so clearly defined, there is every reason to hope that other councils will follow their example. The provision should also be made available for the preservation of historic sites and the erection of monuments and tablets in commemoration of important events.

It is proper that your attention should be invited to the pamphlet recently issued by one of our honorary members, Dr. John George Hodgins. The writer was for very many years the trusted lieutenant and co-worker of Egerton Ryerson, the founder of our school system. After the latter's retirement from the Superintendency of Schools, Dr. Hodgins was for a considerable period Deputy Minister of Education, and he has during several years held the position of official historiographer of the province. His years, official position