

Art Association of Montreal.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1897.

The past year may be said to have marked another stage in the progress of the Association, inasmuch as the Council, after a period of only seven years, finds itself again face to face with the question of more accommodation.

The steady growth of the Association, in every way, has this year become so pronounced as to leave no doubt of its usefulness and popularity, and to encourage its friends and patrons to further exertions.

The membership has increased from 475 in 1890 to 750 to-day, and there is every reason to believe it will continue in like proportion, but any further increase at once necessitates some provision for greater accommodation. The space available for class work is entirely too restricted, and the Galleries are quite inadequate for exhibitions and lectures for even the present membership.

The financial results of the year, as shown by the Treasurer's statements, are satisfactory, there being a surplus of revenue over expenditure; but the usefulness of the Association is still restricted by the very heavy interest charge, which absorbs too great a proportion of the revenue. Were it freed from this incumbrance, a sum of about \$1600 would be at the disposal of the Council, which would materially increase the active work of the Association. To effect this, a sum of \$35,000 would require to be raised and applied to the payment of the existing mortgages.