

His Excellency the Governor-General, coming from a country where the industrial and economic value of art is as well understood as its influence upon the higher mental culture of the people, was prepared from the first to do what was possible in organizing and developing our resources in this as in other directions. Shortly after his arrival in Canada, at the Art Association in Montreal he alluded to the formation of a Canadian Academy as something to be looked forward to in the future, while in conversation and correspondence with the artists he discussed its present practicability.

The artists of Canada were and are aware, probably better than anyone outside of their ranks, how little consideration they are entitled to in the world of art, and no one can know as well as they do how much they have done, working under the greatest possible disadvantages.

In discussing the subject as placed before them by His Excellency, they felt that, while for them to form an academy, or to assume any title of academician or associate, would have been out of the question, to refuse co-operation in a project designed to advance the interests of the whole country, and which lay within the bounds of their special knowledge, would have been unpatriotic in the extreme. They joined heartily in the movement, accepting at His Excellency's hands not only an honor but a trust and a weighty responsibility. The objects of the Academy as set forth in the constitution must commend themselves to all loyally interested in the progress of Canada. The carrying out of those objects cannot be attained without much united effort, and must entail upon those who undertake it, labor, thought, and a not inconsiderable sacrifice of time and its equivalent. We hope that in time the title of an Academician of the Canadian Academy may be valued as the recognition of a great and undoubted position in Art. At present it only means that the academicians are those whom His Excellency has honored by inviting them to join him in one part of his great work—the welding together and advancing in intellectual and material progress of those provinces which form the Dominion of Canada.

The opening Exhibition of the Academy at Ottawa, which is to be held in the months of February and March, will be the first opportunity there has ever been of comparing the work of artists from distant parts of the country; and in default of such comparison, it has been no easy task to decide who should and who should not be invited to become members of the Academy. I am aware, however, that His Excellency, in undertaking the difficult task of nominating the first list as members, has sought every means of informing himself of the names and standing of all who have done any good original art work throughout the country. It is not unlikely, under the circumstances, that some may have been admitted at too low a standard, and that others of unobtrusive merit may have been overlooked. In all such cases His Excellency is entitled to the most generous forbearance. All who can do good work are invited to send it to the Exhibition, where it will speak for itself. The academician list is only so far filled up as to form a working body, and the vacant seats are to be filled up by election from among the associates as worthy candidates present themselves. The list of associates not being limited, there is room upon it for any good men who may have been overlooked, who come into the country from abroad, or who may rise from among the students. Before long we may fairly hope to place the standard of