

Ontario Society of Artists

❁ 1898 ❁

The President's Twenty-sixth Annual Report



THE period of business depression (which fortunately now appears to be at an end) has been one of especial strain, not only upon the members of the Ontario Society of Artists, but upon artists almost everywhere.

Canadian art lovers whose tastes impel them to acquire works of art have been forced to forego the pleasure of buying except in a very small way, and many of those who had acquired collections of pictures have been obliged to place them on the market by means of auction sales, which, including sales made by local artists and sales of imported works, has had the effect of reducing the prices received to a minimum, and rendered the private disposal of pictures almost an impossibility. It has been, in short, a greatly increased output met by a much diminished fund for purchase.

The effect of such conditions on the artist must always be a retarding one, and that this has been the effect on our artists must be acknowledged, but it is a matter for congratulation that the work of our Society during the past year shows that its members are not discouraged, and, although making a up-hill fight, there is a strong effort being made to raise the standard of the work.

That there are signs of increased public appreciation of native art is evidenced by the fact that the Education Department of Ontario has found it desirable to make an agreement