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## CANADA'S RECORDS.

Fire Has Been a Relentless Enemy of the Archives.

Miss Agnes Lant, in a recent article in The Globe advocating the establishment of a national library for Canada, called attention to the imperfect condition of our national records. She ventured to say that there are more materials for every part of Canadian history (including Quebec) to be found in the libraries and archives of the United States than there are to be found in Canada itself; and, although perhaps Miss Lant in what she said did not do sufficient justice to the splendid work being carried on at present by the Archives Department at Ottawa, no one who is familiar with her statement. If an inventory were taken of the original materials that exist for Canadian history, most people would be shocked to find what treasures had been made on them by time and neglect. Gaps exist which may never be bridged over, and truth is in many cases drowned at the bottom of the well.

In the first place, Canadian history has suffered very severely from fire. It is now almost certain that the official records of the colony of New France up to 1663, the Registers de l'Amirauté (Registers of the Old Council), which would have thrown a flood of light on the early history of Canada had they been preserved, were destroyed in the fire which consumed the Intendant's palace at Quebec in 1713. At least, the most diligent search by various Canadian scholars and antiquarians has failed to reveal any sign of their preservation. In 1849 another severe loss was sustained by Canadian history when the Parliament buildings at Montreal were burnt to the ground by the mob that turned-egg Lord Elgin. The Legislative Library, all of which went up in smoke, contained many rare and some unique editions of Canadiana, and a mass of documents relating to the French regime which had been collected by the learned librarian, M. Faribault. A considerable part of this collection can never be replaced. Five years later, in 1854, when the Legislature had removed to Quebec, there was another conflagration in the Parliament Buildings, and the Legislative library was burned a second time. The loss on this occasion, however, was naturally not so great as it had been in 1849. In 1892 the library of the University of Toronto was burned; and last year the library of the Provincial Legislature of Ontario suffered the same fate in the fire which destroyed the west end of the Parliament Buildings. In both these cases there were rare and valuable editions of books on Canadian history that perished. The Archives of the MSS. is true, survived, but it would have been no very great loss if they had perished, too.

A good example of the vicissitudes through which many Canadiana have gone is to be found in the history of The Jesuits' Journal (1645-1688). The MSS. was preserved by the Jesuit Fathers until after the Conquest, but on the abolition of the order by the Pope in 1773 it disappeared. It was found in 1848 by Mr. Cochrane, private secretary to the governor, Sir John Cope Sherbrooke. Mr. Cochrane found it, together with some waste paper, carelessly placed at the bottom of a cupboard (in which building does not appear), and evidently designed, sooner or later, to furnish matter to light the stove. The MSS. was seen by M. Jacques Viger, an early Canadian antiquarian, who very carefully copied it; and in 1871 an edition of The Journal was printed by the Abbé Laverdière and Casgrain from M. Viger's copy. Nearly all the edition, however, was destroyed by a fire in the premises of the publisher at Ottawa, and a copy of The Journal is therefore to-day exceedingly rare.

The Archives Department at Ottawa, which deserves the gratitude of every scholar and every Canadian, has done a great deal to retrieve our losses. But doubtless there are still discoveries that remain to be made. In the most unlikely corners will be found lost and forgotten manuscripts which will throw new light on our past.

## The City Beautiful.

Several Canadian cities are realizing to some extent the need to make themselves beautiful. Among these, St. John, N.B., and Lethbridge, Alta., recently gave evidence of that. In Lethbridge many people turned out, a few nights ago, to hear an address on "The City Beautiful," and they were advised to "get a good landscape gardener to plan things."

In St. John The Daily Telegraph recently gave a long editorial in which it said that a requisite of civic well-being is "a condition of things which will ensure that the maximum of beauty be introduced into the life of our city."

"In the rush of modern life," continues the editorial, "its amenities, especially in new countries, are too easily forgotten. Our homes become merely refuges from our work, and our phases of work represent the irreducible minimum of everyday which is not directly of value in the making of fortunes."

## Love's Labor Lost.

The best laid schemes of practical jokers don't always work satisfactorily.

A man on the ground floor of a building office building in Toronto has, towards street organs, a hatred that rises to the dignity of a passion. Knowing that, a smart young man, paid several street organsists to play in front of the office of the other man. The treatment was kept going pretty much all of one week, and early in the following week the young man went into the other's office.

The joker knew the persecuted man's daughter, who is employed in her father's office. Having explained what he had done, he said with a broad smile, "How did your father enjoy the music?" "Father was home sick all last week," answered the lady, and the young man now wastes his spare money in other ways.—Canadian Courier.

## CANADA'S MUSEUM.

New Institution at Ottawa Will Be a Credit to the Nation.

With the completion of the Victoria Memorial Museum, Ottawa will have added another jewel to her crown of handsome public buildings, and the long-dormant National Art Gallery will be a reality.

On Dec. 28, 1904, a contract was entered into for its erection. The original figure was \$950,000, but on March 24, in the House of Commons, about \$1,200,000, including several large extras, was reported to have been spent so far. The work of erection began in the spring of 1905, and the building is pretty well finished.

There was no public ceremony or laying of a corner-stone. The museum was in the hands of a contractor—Mr. George Goodwin. It has not been formally made over to the Government yet as a matter of fact—and both policy and precedent, except in rare cases, prohibit any public demonstration under these circumstances.

Mr. D. Ewart, chief architect for the Department of Public Works, designed the building, which is Gothic in style. Some time was spent by Mr. Ewart in England, visiting various public buildings, before he made up his mind as to the Victoria Memorial Museum.

It is built of dark grey stone, some of which came from Wallace, Nova Scotia, and the rest from Nepean, about twenty miles from Ottawa. Instead of being "pointed" with grey or yellow mortar—like the Archives, for instance—a terra cotta shade is used, which brings out the iron in the stone and gives a warm reddish-yellow glow to the entire surface.

To appreciate the carving over the doors and windows it should be seen. Various Canadian animals are represented, very few of which are duplicated on the slabs. The chief clerk of the works explained that a man never worked long at one window—he grew "stale" on it, and moved to another subject. When he received a fresh inspiration, he went back to the first, and so on. The eastern side and back of the building are not carved at all, and it is understood that this work will not be taken up immediately.

Doors of gleaming oak with brass trimmings make the beholder proud of Canadian wood as well as stone, and his pride increases upon seeing the Missisquoi marble which is used in the interior.

Entering the museum from the front, you walk up a short flight of stone steps into a large rotunda, much stained glass in both doors softening the bright light. Just opposite the door is a broad staircase, dividing, a few steps from the floor, and leading to the two wings of the building. Behind this staircase is the amphitheatre.

The eastern wing on the ground floor is already filled with specimens, ranging from the skeleton of a musk-ox to a tiny nugget of gold. The western portion, on the opposite side of the rotunda, will also contain curiosities. The Geological Library will be over the amphitheatre the whole of the western wing given over to the Geological Department. The two floors of the eastern part of the room already mentioned will be devoted to statuary, and the top floor will contain paintings.

Mr. Eric Brown has been appointed curator of the art gallery the official opening of which was set for April 20th, but which has been postponed till the autumn. At that time, the collection of paintings is of great value, no pains or expense have been spared to make the gallery safe in every respect, even to the plaster, which is of an asbestos variety.—Canadian Courier.

## A Hard Fighter.

Mr. John King, K.C., leading counsel for Michael Fraser, the rich Midland octogenarian, who married a young bride, and has been in litigation since, is a native of Toronto, but Mr. King's father was born in Fraserburg, Aberdeenshire, Scotland. The coincidence between Fraser and Fraserburg may have no significance, but there can be no doubt that Mr. King is putting up a strenuous fight for the Midland Fraser. Mr. King comes from a fighting stock. His father was a subaltern officer in the Royal Horse Artillery, served in Canada, and died in Quebec.

Mr. King was a brilliant student, B.A. in 1864, M.A. in 1865, and prize man in University College and the University. As an undergraduate he joined the University Rifle Corps at the time of the Trent affair, and has the medal for active military service during the frontier disturbances culminating in the Fenian Raid of 1868.

Mr. King was called to the Bar in 1869, practiced law in Berlin until 1893, when he came to Toronto, and is a member of the firm of King and Sinclair. He is a K.C., both by Dominion and Provincial appointment, is an authority on libel law, and is a lecturer in the Law School.

Mr. King edited The Berlin Telegraph in 1864-1865, has written many general articles, and is the author of legal treatises, more particularly on slander, defamation, and libel law. He is an honorary member of the Canadian Press Association.

Mr. King married the youngest daughter of William Lyon Mackenzie. Of this union there are two sons and two daughters. The sons are Hon. William Lyon Mackenzie King and Dr. Macdougall King of Ottawa.

In his day Mr. King has refused Government appointments, including a county judgeship.—Star Weekly.

## Making It Easy.

"Gee!" says the first little boy. "I hate to go home. My mamma always wants to give me a bath every evening."

"So does mine," says the second little boy. "But I don't mind it. My papa is a doctor, and she always gets him to chloroform me, so I never know a thing about it until it is all over."—Canada Monthly.

## Putting Him Right.

Hungry Higgins—Say, Tatters, ain't youse one uv dem fellers wot don't berieve in doin' two tings ter wunst? Tired Tatters—Two tings? Why, I'm one uv dem chaps wot don't berieve in doin' one t'ing at wunst.

## THE CENSUS MAN

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