

Just as the war in Europe forced a large part of the traveling American public to become more familiar with its own fair land, so has the world conflict been largely instrumental in causing the manufacturer of artistic commodities to look about him here at home for suggestions as to new designs. Notable success in this use of Museum material by industries has recently been made by the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

Now comes the Museum of The Geological Survey of Canada, at Ottawa, with a programme for developing distinctive Canadian designs and placing in the hands of Canadian manufacturers native designs for introduction into their products.

The wealth of material in our American museums, which has not been drawn upon to suggest designs for fabrics, ceramics, jewelry, costumes, etc., is just beginning to be appreciated by a few enterprising manufacturers.

---

We learn from Nature that the late Lord Justice Stirling's herbarium, consisting chiefly of about 6,000 varieties of mosses and liverworts from many parts of the world, has been presented by Lady Stirling to the Tunbridge Wells Natural History Society.

---

THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM AND THE HALIFAX DISASTER.—Mr. Harry Piers, Curator of the Provincial Museum at Halifax, has replied to an inquiry regarding the relation of the explosion to the Museum. The specimens and labels apparently came through fairly well, better than was expected, considering the unbelievably terrific and astonishingly loud explosion which demolished the Richmond section of Halifax, although windows were blown in, glass of cases smashed, a water pipe burst, and snow stormed into one end of the building. Mr. Piers calls attention to the good results of always using water-proof ink for labels.

The cases were boarded over soon after the explosion in order to use them as tables for Red Cross and other relief supplies, so that a very long or careful examination of the damage has not been made. The publications are in a considerable mess, but probably have not suffered greatly. At the time of writing Mr. Piers had been too busy on relief work to examine into details of the Museum.

Mr. Pier's immediate family escaped injury from window glass which shot across the breakfast room as if from a gun less than half a minute after they had left the table. Hardly a window was left in the house and plaster came down, although the house was two miles from the explosion. His mother's family, living at the head of the North West arm, escaped with numerous small cuts from glass, none of them serious.

HARLAN I. SMITH.