

In pursuance of this request of His Excellency, a list of members was proposed for His Excellency's consideration. This list, small at first, was, after much enquiry and consideration with artists and others interested in the subject, considerably enlarged, and finally received His Excellency's approval.

His Excellency then directed that the constitution, mainly founded upon that of the Royal Academy of Arts, should be printed and sent to those whom he had nominated as the first members of the Academy. With a very few exceptions, all those nominated accepted the offered position, and undertook the responsibilities which thus devolved upon them.

His Excellency appointed the following gentlemen as officers of the Academy at its outset, after which the constitution provides that they are to be elected by the Academicians :

L. R. O'BRIEN, *President.*

M. MATTHEWS, *Secretary.*

N. BOURASSA, *Vice-President.*

JAMES SMITH, *Treasurer.*

The following letter of the President, having been approved by His Excellency, was addressed to the press in answer to numerous enquiries as to the proposed working and objects of the new society :

*To the Editor of the "Montreal Herald" :*

DEAR SIR,—In the very kindly feeling with which the press and the public have received the project for the formation of a Canadian Academy of Arts, a good deal has been taken for granted, and there has been some natural misapprehension of its character at the outset of its career.

The term "Academy" at once suggests the "Royal Academy" of England and the "Academies" of other countries, while the title of "Academician" as obviously appears to invite comparison with the members of those academies ;—institutions which have grown up under the fostering care of powerful governments through many generations of wealth and culture, and whose members are the ablest representative artists of the world. Here, it is needless to say, we have no such conditions and no such material, but it is not less evident that we have great need of the culture, education and skill that these academies represent ; and that we have need of such encouragement and sympathy being accorded to our artists as will induce the ablest of them to remain in Canada, and also help to develop such latent talent as may exist by using it in the various branches of art.