

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE—
SESSION, 1887-88.

The Council of the Canadian Institute has the honour to lay before the members its Thirty-Ninth Annual Report:

Early in the past Session the President, Mr. W. H. Vander Smissen, to whose exertions so much of the increased activity and prosperity of the Institute were due, was unfortunately obliged, through the pressure of other duties, to resign, and the Vice-President being at the time absent in Europe, Mr. Charles Carpmæl was elected to fill the vacant position. Twenty-six meetings, including the annual conversazione, have been held during the past session, at which thirty-nine papers have been read, in addition to fifty read at Section meetings. The aggregate number of papers read thus exceeds by seventeen that of the preceding year, when there were but seventy-two, and this number was again largely in excess of that of any previous year in the history of the Institute. The character of these communications has been fully equal to the standard of previous years, and the range of subjects (as shown in the appendix) has been unusually large. The average attendance at the regular weekly meetings has also shown an increase. It is also satisfactory to notice that there has been a considerable increase in the number of members who have made use of the reading-room. On the occasion of the annual conversazione, the Museum of Natural History and Archæology was opened, and there was an excellent exhibition of photographs by the Photographic Section. There was a large attendance of members and their friends. The Archæological collection is already extensive, and has been admirably arranged by the Curator, to whom the Institute is greatly indebted for his exertions, both in collecting specimens and in carefully classifying them. The Archæological Report, which has been bound up with the Annual Report of the Institute for the year 1886-87, is already in the hands of the members, and contains an account of what has been done by the Institute down to December last, in this field. Our exertions to add to our collection continue unabated, and the Council has thankfully to acknowledge the grant of \$1,000 by the Ontario Government, which will enable us to devote a considerable sum, as in the past year, to this purpose. The number of books and pamphlets received during the year, is shown in Appendix III, to have continued to increase, and to have been considerably more than eight times as large as it was five years ago. A pamphlet has been prepared by Mr. Sandford Fleming, on the subject of "Time Reckoning," and issued by the Institute for the purpose of introducing the subject, in the educational institutions throughout the Dominion. In this pamphlet the principles of time-reckoning are set forth, with special reference to the recommendations of the Washington conference on the subject. A deputation of the Council of the Institute has waited upon the Minister of Education of the Province of Ontario, and acting on the recommendation of this deputation, the Minister has requested to be furnished with five hundred copies of the pamphlet, for distribution to the head masters of the various high schools and collegiate institutes in the Province. The Council has also sent copies of the pamphlet to the Ministers of Education in the other Provinces. It will be remembered that it was a paper by Mr. Sandford Fleming, read before this Institute, copies of which were forwarded with a memorial from the Institute to the Marquess of Lorne, then Governor-General of the Dominion of Canada, and through him to the British Government, and to various foreign scientific institutions, which first called prominent attention throughout the world to this subject. The views then advanced by Mr. Sandford Fleming, were very generally accepted by scientific men in all civilized nations, the subject was discussed at various congresses, and in October, 1884, a conference was held at Washington on the invitation of the President of the United States, at which twenty-five nations were represented, and the proposed reforms were by it recommended for adoption by all