

CANADIAN MUSEUM SURVEY IS PLANNED

Leading British Experts Will Conduct Investigation

A complete survey of Canadian museums from the Atlantic to the Pacific is about to be made by Sir Henry Meyers, president of the British Museums Association, and Sydney Frank Markham, member of the British Parliament for Rochester, and secretary of the association of which Sir Henry is president. Except to confirm that such a survey would be made, E. Lionel Judah, curator of Redpath Museum at McGill, could give no information with regard to this survey, as to how detailed or complete it was going to be. The general survey is being financed by the Carnegie Foundation.

The arrival of the two distinguished museum authorities on the Duchess of Bedford in Montreal tonight has given a filip to the project.

AT MCGILL

It is also learned from McGill authorities that the British Museum Association in addition to this move is going to make a detailed survey of McGill University museums, the Montreal Art Association, and the Chateau de Ramezay. The local survey, here in Montreal, is being financed by the three interested parties and will be done at the end of August and for some time in September; it is being undertaken by Dr. E. E. Lowe, who in 1928 made a survey of American museums for the Carnegie United Kingdom Trustees, or Dr. Fox, director of the National Museum of Wales, Cardiff.

When he was here last spring, Mr. Markham said he had seen some of the best museums in the world and some of the worst in Canada. He added that McGill's museum was in the former category.

It is understood that Mr. Markham's criticism of Canadian museums is that there is often little co-ordination between Federal and Provincial authorities, no collaboration between private museums and public ones.

CRITICISM HEARD.

There has also been criticism by others who come to this country from the Old Land, that Canadian museums did not always present their material most effectively. More than that, attendants with a scant knowledge of the precious materials they worked among showed an ignorance of them that was painfully obvious.

Museum visitors have stated that when a museum attendant was asked for information about a certain object, the employe scanned the card, and repeated, parrot-like, its words. He, or she was unable to amplify the original writing, or to explain where the article came from, how it was placed there, who was the donor, or to give any additional information about the exhibit.

TEACH CHILDREN.

Such matters as these will come within the scope of the coast to coast survey. Mr. Markham stated when he was here March 9 of this year that he believed museums taught children history, a reverence for the past, and were a strong force for inculcating love of country in the child. The student who read history might not visualize things, but a visit to a museum would fix tangibly and forever, some things that the ocular senses would never imprint on the mind of a child.

Mr. Markham also can claim, among other honors the distinction of having been secretary to Sir Sydney Lee, biographer of King Edward VII.