

ARCHÆOLOGICAL REPORT.

BY DAVID BOYLE.

To the President and Members of the Canadian Institute :—

GENTLEMEN,—In presenting you with the fourth annual archæological report, it is my extremely pleasant duty to inform you that the year just ended has proved in many ways the most encouraging of any since the inception of our project. Many places have been visited and more or less carefully examined, and from these considerable numbers of specimens have been added to our collection. Almost everywhere, a large measure of public interest was manifested, and this, it may be said, was mainly owing to the circulation of our previous annual reports, and to the visits of interested persons to the Museum. As was anticipated, there is an increasing disposition on the part of private collectors to place their specimens on permanent exhibition in our cases, as is the practice in connection with the best museums in Europe and the United States. In this way alone, the number of specimens in the Provincial Museum has been increased by nearly fifteen hundred. Early in the season Mr. W. G. Long of Lansing, York county, placed his collection numbering six hundred in our care.* The value of these is enhanced from the fact that they are nearly all from places within a comparatively short distance north of the city—the townships of York, Vaughan, Markham and Whitchurch. This collection is marked by an unusually large number of articles manufactured from bone and horn.

Dr. Tweedale, jun., of St. Thomas, has also made the Institute custodian of the chief portion of the fine collection brought together by his father, the late Dr. Tweedale. Most of the Tweedale collection is from a part of the country, Elgin county, formerly occupied by the Attiwandarons, and will prove valuable for comparison with specimens of the same people's work from their westerly limits in the county of Kent to the extreme east of their Canadian occupancy in Lincoln and Welland.

Mr. George E. Laidlaw of "The Fort," Victoria Road, Victoria county, has deposited with us his very fine collection, illustrative of a people bordering east of the Hurons, if, indeed they were not a branch of the Hurons themselves. In another part of this report will be found Mr. Laidlaw's own description of the Balsam Lake locality and the specimens it has yielded. As he has made this neighborhood a pretty close and very intelligent study for many years, his observations must be read with much interest.

But what is of even more importance is the increase of our knowledge relative to the areas occupied by different tribes; the sources from which they procured the various materials employed in the fabrication of their tools and weapons; their articles of exchange; their burial customs; their routes of travel; the character of their village or town sites; the extent of their dwellings; their methods of fortification; the modification of their habits under European influence, and many hints from peculiarly formed or incomplete specimens, as to the methods employed in fashioning objects of stone, copper, bone and shell.

* This collection is now the property of the Provincial Museum.