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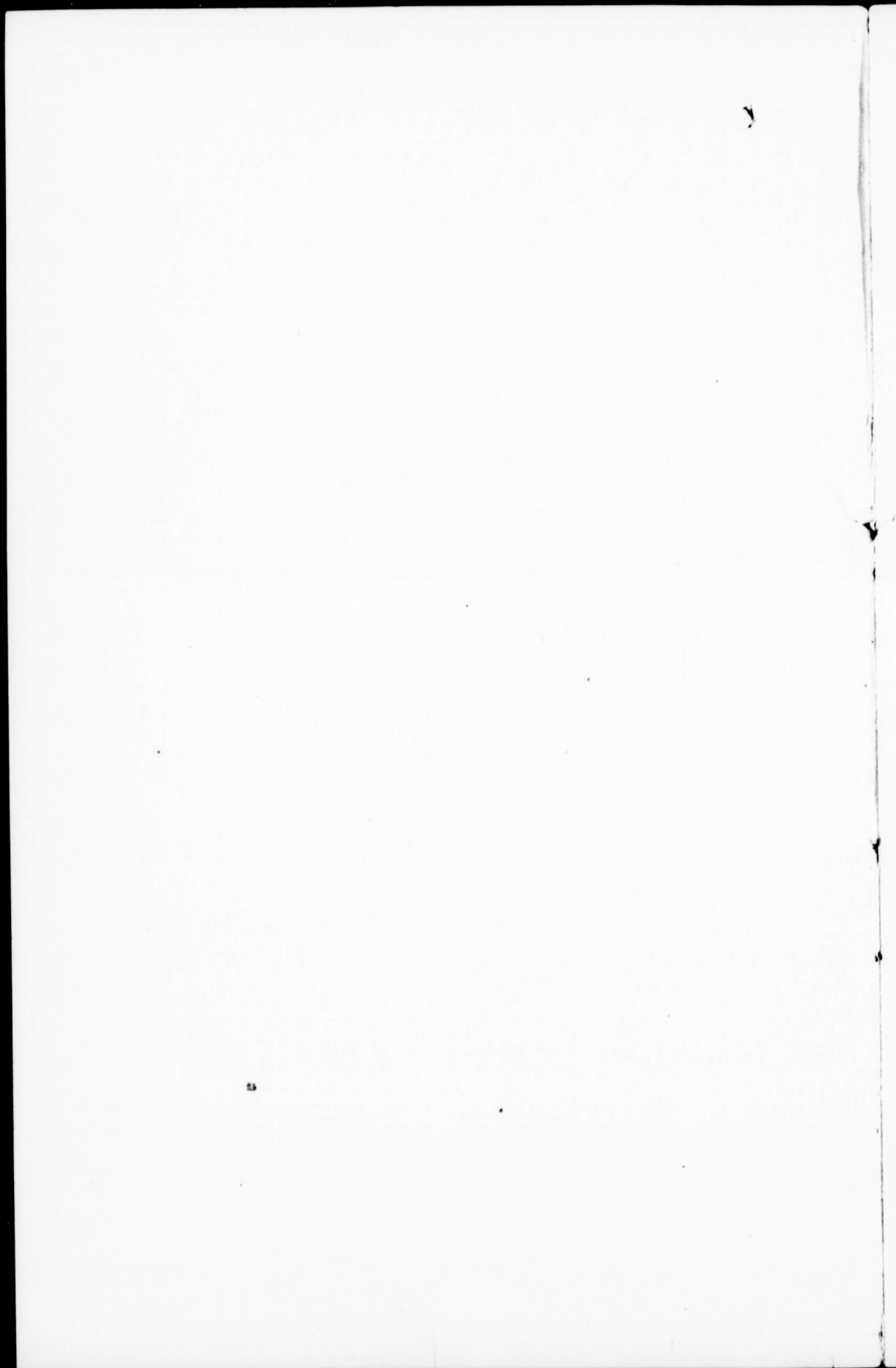


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Ontario Society of Artists



The President's Report
1894-95.



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Maxwell Johnston & Co., Printers, Toronto

Ontario Society of Artists.



Annual Report of the President.

1894-5.



WING doubtless to the prevailing dullness in all commercial affairs, the season now closed has not been encouraging.

Our duty to the public, the profession, and our Province at large, however, bids us hold on our course in honest endeavour, and to trust that while we fulfil the duty we owe as a public body, our wealthy compatriots will in time recognize that they also owe something for their birthright, and will acknowledge our efforts in a more substantial manner by acquiring our works, and that in so doing they will suffer no loss, but will eventually gain in satisfaction and even commercial profit.

Arts and Crafts Exhibition at Hamilton.

On closing the spring exhibition of 1894 (in connection with which no Art Union was held) a large proportion of the collection was forwarded to Hamilton, the several pictures having been selected by the President of the Arts and Crafts Association of that city to form the greater part of the exhibition there. Few sales were made, but the attendance was good, and great satisfaction expressed; a state of things well vouched for by a similar course being followed at the present time upon the closing of the exhibition of the Royal Canadian Academy just held in our galleries.

It is no more than due at this point to state our sense of the great care and tender handling our pictures received last year, no complaint being heard of any kind as to damage to either pictures or frames.

The Art Department of the Toronto Industrial Exhibition

In September last was, as usual, controlled by the Ontario Society of Artists. A good display was made by Canadian artists, and all the space well filled, including that allotted to the Art School students and amateurs. Indeed, so crowded were the walls that it was difficult to find room for all, and many fairly good works were returned to the artists on that account solely. Applications were made to the Board of Directors for increased accommodation in order to obviate these difficulties, it being found very useless and undesirable to hang pictures so near both to the ceiling and floor, as, in one case, they are out of sight, and in the other in great danger for receiving injury.

Cooper's "Morning of the Crucifixion."

Cooper's large picture, "The Morning of the Crucifixion," was made a special exhibit, for which an extra admission fee was charged, and proved so attractive that the Industrial Association realized a good sum, which went far towards defraying all expenses incurred in the Art Department.

Our distinguished member, Mr. G. A. Reid, who is now in New York, is endeavouring to obtain the loan of some famous works for the coming exhibition here, when we hope to be equally successful.

Though little was effected by way of sales, the warm interest shown by all classes of visitors in the Art Gallery rendered a very gratifying return for all the trouble incurred.

It would seem desirable that some of the other leading Exhibition Associations should provide accommodation and

assistance to the profession in a similar way to that followed in Toronto, as it would surely lead to great improvement, and probably the Ontario Society could undertake the conduct of some of these also. So far we have sent delegates only to the Western Fair at London.

Art Union Exhibition at Christmas.

During the Christmas holidays the society held an Art Union Exhibition for the first time in winter. The subscription list, though not large, was sufficient to aid materially in keeping alive public interest and decidedly assisted sales. The sum of five hundred dollars was distributed in prizes. This was derived merely from the admission tickets sold, no sketches, as on previous occasions, being distributed.

Here I would strongly urge an attempt to use both systems during the coming winter. That is, say the subscription be one dollar, for which four admissions are given and that the members have the option of choosing a sketch from the portfolio upon subscribing for a number of tickets pro rata. This seems the more advisable on account of the lack, otherwise, of any inducement to persons not resident in Toronto to subscribe at all beyond the mere hope of obtaining a prize, failing in which they would receive practically nothing for their money, whereas the sketch system meets this objection.

Royal Canadian Academy.

This Christmas exhibition took the place in part of the usual Annual Spring Collection, which was further displaced by the visit of the Royal Canadian Academy, whose notable meeting has lately occupied our galleries.

The society also lent a small collection to the committee of the University of Toronto for its annual conversazione.

Owen Sound Exhibition.

It is also at present contributing a collection of about one hundred pictures for a gathering in Owen Sound, and which is already reported on favourably.

The Ontario Society of Artists may fairly claim the principal credit for all the above named exhibitions as furnishing the greater share of material and facilities for holding them.

Public Art Gallery.

Feeling more strongly than any body or class can do the want of a really good art gallery in this city, which should be centrally situated and afford good accommodation for a permanent public collection of works of art, always open to the people, furnishing commodious facilities for Art School purposes, and well lighted walls for our exhibitions, the society initiated and set afoot in February last a movement to attempt the accomplishment of these objects by obtaining public subscriptions to purchase the plot of land now held by the Royal Canadian Academy on Wilton Avenue and erecting suitable buildings thereon.

It was, however, found difficult to arouse sufficient enthusiasm and liberality just now (probably owing to the hardness of the times) and action was postponed for the present without abandoning hope of better success at some future day.

Meanwhile the society has renewed its lease of the present galleries with Mr. J. E. Thompson, conditionally on a reduction of rent and his enlarging the openings of the skylights.

The present lack of a well lighted gallery is felt very bitterly by some of our artists, who even go so far as to attribute lack of public interest mainly to this cause. At all events, it is certainly not creditable for such a state of things to be in a metropolitan city like the capital of Ontario.

Central Ontario School of Art and Industrial Design.

The Central Ontario School of Art and Industrial Design, notwithstanding scarcity of funds, really makes a better showing than last year. Although the number of students was one hundred and five as against one hundred and thirteen last year the fees received are slightly in excess, and the work done markedly better in all branches, more particularly, perhaps, in ornamental design, some specimens being very beautiful and attractive.

It has been mooted by some artists that to teach painting is not the province of an Art School, and that it infringes the rights of private teachers, but it evidently forms a very important attraction to students, and leads them to join the school and attend all classes as well as being a material aid in meeting the expenses of the institution.

The Life Class was well appreciated and quite encouraging. The Artists' Life Class was open to some of the senior students, who proved very earnest and successful, thereby obtaining study otherwise quite unattainable for them, and very necessary; in fact, an essential element of their art education. The Royal Canadian Academy granted seventy-five dollars for payment of models, and a very marked improvement in the work done was visible.

A course of Art Lectures was given in the rooms by Miss H. Ford, which were well attended and highly appreciated.

Death of Messrs. D. Fowler and W. Reford.

We have again to mourn losses by death during the year.

This time it was that of Mr. Daniel Fowler, R. C. A., soon followed by Mr. Wm. Reford.

The first named was a charter member, and one of the mainstays of the annual exhibitions in the earlier years of the society. His works will be sadly missed in the future,

though, as he has not visited Toronto for many years, he was personally known to but few of us.

Mr. Reford was a warm friend of the society, and very enthusiastic. He was our only life member, and we all deeply deplore the sudden cutting off of his brief enjoyment of his privileges.

New Members.

Owing to the new regulation which restricts election of new members to the annual meeting, we have none to record at the time of writing, but the names of several candidates are before us and will be voted upon this evening.

Thanks to the Honorary President.

Our warmest acknowledgement is due to our Honorary President, the Honourable G. W. Allan, for his kindly attendance and substantial assistance to the Art School, also to Mr. R. Y. Ellis, the Vice-President of the Board, as well as those other gentlemen who have served on the Board during the year.

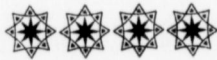
Our thanks are also due to those members of the city press who have taken such friendly interest in our work and assisted us in gaining the public attention.

The accounts for the year will be laid before you.

(Signed),

M. MATTHEWS,

President.



Secretary's Report



REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE FOR YEAR
ENDING APRIL 30TH, 1895.

REVENUE.

Balance on hand from last year, including assets and good debts.....		\$1,731 21
Government grant		500 00
INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.		
Exhibition Association.....	\$1,035 00	
Catalogues.....	84 65	
	\$1,119 65	
Less expenses.....	910 81	
	\$ 208 84	
Art Union, balance at credit May 1, 1894	351 21	
Less expended.....	6 00	
	345 21	
Art Union Prizes, balance May 1, 1894.	\$ 140 38	
Less expended.....	10 50	
	129 88	
Members fees.....	\$ 436 50	
Less remitted.....	20 00	
	416 50	
R. C. A. Life Class.....		78 34
Interest on deposit Home S. & L. Co..		48 92
Rent, Central Ontario School of Art... \$	200 00	
Item	15 00	
	215 00	
		\$3 673 90
1895. May 1. To balance.....		\$2,230 14

EXPENDITURE.

Annual Exhibition net, April	\$	43	95
Annual Exhibition and A. U. net, De- cember		106	48
Art Union, loss this year		33	20
Art Gallery, running expenses, net		181	93
Rent, J. E. Thompson		800	00
GENERAL EXPENSES :			
Secretary's salary	\$	200	00
Auditor's fee		35	00
Reports		24	00
Sundries		19	20
		278	20
Balance, including assets and good debts.		2,230	14
		\$3,673	90

Examined and found correct.

JAS. SMITH, Auditor.