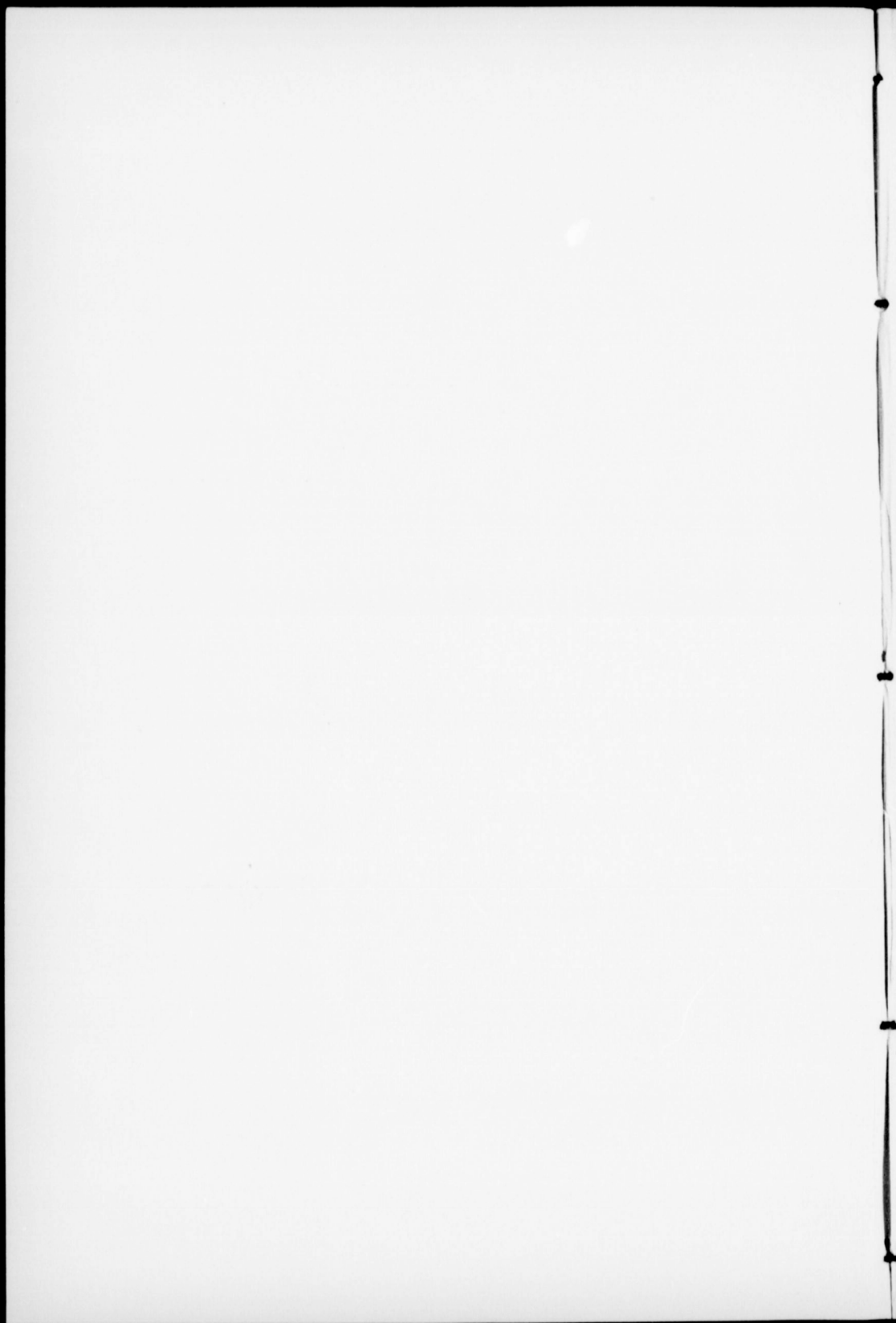


Ontario
Society of Artists



The President's Report
1893=94



Ontario
Society of Artists

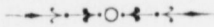


The President's Report
1893-94



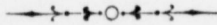
WEBBER-JOHNSTON PRINTING COMPANY, TORONTO

Ontario Society of Artists



THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1893-94



✦ **W**HEN we consider the events which have occurred in the art world of this continent during the year which, by our custom, closes to-night, it must be regarded as a season of note, and one in which progress might be looked for. The great collection of the world's art which at its beginning was gathered almost at our doors was, of course, the principle feature, and seemed to absorb the chief interest of members of our profession, as was but natural, taking into account our rather isolated position in ordinary times. That such an opportunity was not neglected, and that it has at least borne some fruit I think our present exhibition gives fair evidence in great improvements in the work of some of our members. We also may fairly congratulate ourselves on the award of two World's Fair medals to members in the persons of Mr. George Reid and Mr. F. C. V. Ede, while the bulk of the sales effected in the Canadian Gallery were of works by members of the Ontario Society of Artists.

It is, too, ground for the highest satisfaction, to recognize that Mr. Reid's great work "The Foreclosure of the Mortgage," was received with such marked distinction while in competition with the world, a fact which should go far towards lifting

the suspicion, if such there be, that not even our best Canadian work could be looked on with patience when in the company of pictures from older lands.

Our Mountain Landscape too received high praise from the most competent authority of foreign lands and was recognized as a new and original school. I do not allude to these indications of success in a boastful spirit, but think they at least justify the effort and expense incurred in making the exhibit at Chicago. Our works were also solicited for the Mid-winter Fair at San Francisco.

The Toronto Industrial Exhibition was conducted in the usual manner, the Fine Arts Department being undertaken by us with some little misgiving, knowing as we did, that so great a draft had been made on our resources. We did not, however, meet with any difficulty in placing before that rather formidable gathering, a collection which proved generally satisfactory and attractive, in fact, the five hundred pictures crowded the walls, and caused us to apply to the directorate for increased accommodation in order to avoid such close hanging as well as skying the exhibits. I would suggest still greater strictness of selection in the next exhibition, also greater caution in borrowing works for the loan collection, particularly as we suffered a pecuniary loss of one hundred and eighty-five dollars for damage to Mr. Myers's picture, and narrowly escaped an expensive law suit in the case.

A Sketch Exhibition was held during the Christmas holidays and was visited by a fair number of people, but it is the opinion of several of the members that a select winter exhibition of pictures would be appreciated much more by the public.

Messrs. James Griffiths and L. H. Wilkinson were again appointed delegates to represent us on the Board at the Western Fair.

Our Twenty-second Annual Exhibition now in progress presents some new features or at least, such as are novel to

our walls. A new mode of selection, namely the use of the ballot by the whole society, was tested and, on the whole appears to be an improvement on the old method of leaving both the power and onus in the hands and on the heads of the hanging Committee. It will be for the Society to determine in the future whether to adopt the new plan or any other. To our great regret the date of opening conflicted with that of the Art Association of Montreal, to which fact we may attribute a slight reduction in the number of works sent in, and this, combined with the greater severity of selection (it being by secret ballot) rather curtailed the catalogue, but by inference must have elevated the standard of quality in those which passed the ordeal. This seems to be generally admitted, while the odium of rejection is divided among all the members who voted, and may in a measure attach even to such as neglected to use their franchise and perform their duty.

The Opening was attended by a large and appreciative gathering of our friends and those interested in Art matters in Toronto, his Honor, the Lieutenant Governor, pronouncing a short address on the occasion. His Excellency, the Governor General, who has graciously consented to become a Patron of our Society, expressing his great regret at being unable to be present both on his own account and that of the Countess of Aberdeen. Considering the exceptionally fine weather prevailing we cannot flatter ourselves upon much increase in the numbers visiting the gallery. The extreme dullness of commerce this year may in a measure account for this. And another and perhaps more potent cause may be found in the fact of our having allowed the Art Union to rest. Its plan was one successfully presented during the first twenty years of the

Society's life, and doubtless assisted greatly in enlisting public interest. It will be for the members to consider the desirableness of reviving this in the same or some other form. It is also found to be very difficult to carry out the present custom now in use as regards the list of those persons to be invited to the opening of the Annual Exhibition.

The Central Ontario School of Art and Design has occupied the premises adjoining our gallery to the West, the same having been secured in order to increase their accommodation, also to enable us to afford the use of our galleries to the Royal Canadian Academy for their exhibition this spring, an application being received from the Secretary of that Institution to that effect. Through a sudden change in their arrangements we were disappointed of their proposed visit. This circumstance, combined with the loss sustained in the case of Mr. Myers, prevents the statement of this year's finance from being even more satisfactory. We have also to remember that a portion of the expenses of the current exhibition being incurred in April is necessarily included in this year's statement.

A number of debts of members due to the Society, and which, from various causes, it is impossible to collect, have had to be written off.

The Report of the Central Ontario School of Art will be presented to the Society, though, unfortunately, it has not been received so far as relates to work done since December last.

The Weekly Life Class has increased in number owing to the admission of students who are non-members of either the Ontario Society of Artists or the Royal Canadian Academy, but who satisfied our representatives of their qualifications.

The Society has to mourn the death of its first President and founder, the late W. H. Howland, to whose memory it is quite impossible for me to add the faintest lustre or in the slightest degree to express the sorrow of those of us who remember his kindly and generous enthusiasm in our cause in those early days of our organization.

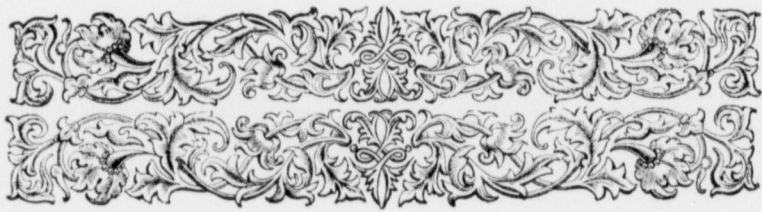
The New Members Elected this Year are Messrs. R. J. Licence, Painter, and R. J. Hovenden, Designer. Mr. Donald McNab also being elected, but has not yet qualified for full membership.

The Alterations to the Constitution made during the year have been few. At our last annual meeting it was announced that the office of Honorary President had been created, and the Honorable Geo. W. Allan whose unavoidable absence we so regret to-night, was unanimously elected to that office. This was followed by an alteration of Article 4, which regulates the duties of Vice-President.

Article 1 has also been amended so as to restrict the election of new members to the time of the Annual Meeting, and requires that they be proposed at least one month before that date, and that they exhibit work at the Annual Exhibition.

Our Thanks are due to the various committees who have served us during the year, also to the members of the Press of Toronto who have so kindly noticed our endeavours to sustain progress in Art work through a very discouraging year.

The Accounts for the past year with the Auditor's report are here laid before you.





Secretary's Report



Revenue and Expenditure

FOR

Year Ending April 30th, '94.

REVENUE

¹⁸⁹³	May 1, To balance	\$1,860 59
¹⁸⁹⁴	Apl. 30, " Government grant.....	\$500 00
	" " Members fees	391 00
	" " Art School, rent of rooms ..	200 00
	" " Interest.....	92 24
	" " Commission on Picture sales..	107 46
	INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.	
	" " Exhibition Ass'n..	\$1,000 00
	" " Amateur Dept.....	30 00
	" " Catalogues, etc....	125 45
		\$1,155 45
	Less expenditure.....	859 25
	Net	\$296 20
		\$296 20
		\$1,586 90
		\$3,447 49

EXPENDITURE

GENERAL EXPENSES :

¹⁸⁹⁴			
Apl. 30	By Rent, J. E. Thompson.....	\$850 00	
"	" Secretary's Salary.....	200 00	
"	" Printing, Stationery and Ad- vertising.....	20 00	
"	" Express charges, etc.....	11 05	
"	" Auditor's Fees.....	35 00	
"	" Sundries.....	56 83	
"	" Law expenses.....	185 00	
		<hr/>	\$1,357 88
"	" Entertainment expenses....		24 30
"	" Art Gallery expenses.....		165 58
"	" Annual Exhibition season '93		71 39
"	" " " " '94		97 13
	Balance.....		1,731 21
			<hr/>
			<u>\$3,447 49</u>

ASSETS

CASH ON DEPOSIT AND IN HAND:

Home Savings and Loan Co.	\$1,223 05
Dominion Bank.	356 65
On hand	8 07
	<u> </u>
	\$1,587 77
Members, for fees	594 05
Central Ontario School of Art	200 00
G. C. Downs	4 96
	<u> </u>
	<u>\$2,386 78</u>

LIABILITIES

Due to Members	\$ 163 98
Art Union	351 21
Art Union Prizes	140 38
Assets in Excess of Liabilities	1,731 21
	<u> </u>
	<u>\$2,386 78</u>

E. and O. E.

Audited and found correct

JAMES SMITH, Auditor.

Toronto, May 10th, 1894.