

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
ANNUAL MEETING
OF THE
Board of Arts and Manufactures
OF LOWER CANADA,

Held at Montreal, on the 2nd January, 1867.

MONTREAL:

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PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

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Held at Montreal, on the 2nd January, 1867.

The Annual Meeting of this Board was held in the Board Rooms, Mechanics' Hall, this day, at 3 o'clock, p.m., the President, Henry Bulmer, Esq., in the chair.

After reading Minutes of former meeting, and the transaction of other formal business, the Annual Report of the Sub-Committee was read by the Secretary, and on motion of J. Findlay, seconded by H. Lyman, was received and adopted.

The President appointed as Auditors of the Treasurer's Accounts, Messrs. Wm. Reid and Charles Alexander.

The Secretary reported returns of Delegates from the Art Association of Montreal, the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, and the Institut des Artisans Canadiens de Montréal, with required lists of Members, which were received. The list of *ex-officio* members and Delegates was also read.

Scrutineers of the ballot having been appointed, the election of Office-bearers for the ensuing year was proceeded with, and resulted as follows :—

President,.....HENRY BULMER.

Vice-PresidentGEO. A. DRUMMOND.

SecretaryA. A STEVENSON.

TreasurerN. B. CORSE.

Sub-Committee :—G. W. Weaver, David Brown, Alex. Murray, W. H. A. Davies, N. Valois, Dunbar Browne, J. B. Rolland, G. Frothingham, and F. B. Matthews.

REPORT.

The Sub-Committee of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Lower Canada have the honor to report, for the information of the Board,—

That upon their assumption of office they felt, as their predecessors had, the pressing necessity of adopting immediate action to secure the reduction and discharge of the liabilities incurred in the erection of the Exhibition Building, which has been an incubus for several years past, paralysing the efforts of the Board and circumscribing its operations, as without the necessary funds it was impossible to carry out the important work expected of it. Your Sub-Committee proceeded at once to lay before Government a statement of the position and liabilities of the Board, together with the claim for five years occupation of the Exhibition Building by the Government, for Militia purposes. Your Sub-Committee was led to believe that the amount of the contractor's mortgage would be paid and charged to the rent account of the Building; but notwithstanding the assurance thus given, no action was taken by the Government until the sixth day of November last, when the sum of four thou-

and seven hundred and twenty-four dollars and ninety-six cents, was appropriated by the Governor in Council, in settlement of the claim for rent of the Exhibition Building, during the last five years; and in order to extinguish the mortgage due to Government on the property, the Hon. Mr. Ferrier was authorized, under the direction of Government, to dispose of the vacant lots adjoining the property, to the extent required to meet the balance of amount due.

The amount thus allowed for rent, your Sub-Committee paid over to the holder of the contractor's mortgage, in reduction of the amount due by the Board, and your President signed and received the necessary discharge.

As it appeared, however, from the terms of the minutes of the meeting of the Governor in Council, that a misapprehension still exists respecting the funds out of which the building was erected, and the adjoining lots, your Sub-Committee felt bound to remonstrate against the repeated misapprehensions made on this subject and repeatedly corrected by your Sub-Committee; and duplicate letters were consequently addressed to the Hon. the President of the Council, and the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture. A reply from the latter has been received, containing assurances that, notwithstanding what has been done, he is still fully alive to the difficulties under which the Board labours, and that he will seize the first favourable opportunity to renew his efforts in its behalf. The correspondence and a copy of the minute are herewith submitted.

Your Sub-Committee would recommend to their successors renewed application to the Government, for the relief of the Board from the liabilities still remaining due on the Exhibition Building, as soon as the members of the Government now in England return to this country, inasmuch as the operations of the Board cannot be carried out on a proper scale until these barriers are removed.

The valuable free Library of reference held in trust by this

Board was, in the early part of the year, transferred to the Reading Room of the Mechanics' Institute of Montreal, under an arrangement by which the Reading Room was enlarged and a portion set apart for this Library, with a separate entrance for the public at all hours, whereby not only enlarged accommodation for the Board was secured, and a considerable saving in its expenses effected, but additional facilities were afforded to the public for reference to it.

The specifications and drawings of the English Patent Office have been regularly received and bound; but with the exception of these, your Sub-Committee have been unable to place any additional works on their shelves, for the reasons already set forth as circumscribing the efforts of the Board.

Your Sub-Committee, desirous of having a worthy representation of the manufactures of Lower Canada at the Paris Exhibition of 1867, opened up a correspondence with the Bureau of Agriculture on the subject immediately after entering upon their duties, but was unable to take any action until the latter part of August, owing to a want of information respecting the amount to be placed at the disposal of the Board for that purpose. Notwithstanding these difficulties, your Sub-Committee have no reason to be ashamed of the collection they have made, and believe that the representation of this section of the country will not be injured by the collection now made, and awaiting transportation to Paris.

As soon as your Sub-Committee was informed that the sum of \$4000 was all that was appropriated for the purchase of manufactures, the Secretary was instructed to write to the Minister of Agriculture, and remonstrate against its insufficiency for the purpose intended.

It is to be regretted that the recommendation of your Sub-Committee's predecessors, that a joint exhibition of the products of the two sections of the country, should be held previous to the transportation of the articles to Paris, has not been acted upon; as an

excellent opportunity would have been afforded the residents of both sections to see what progress had been made by each other in the Arts and Manufactures.

Your Sub-Committee petitioned Parliament last session for the amendments to the Patent Law, which have been repeatedly recommended by the Board ; but no beneficial result has attended their labour, although special legislation was evoked in individual cases, and one of the principles asked for by the petition—the patenting foreign inventions—was admitted in these particular cases; a result which your Sub-Committee remonstrated strongly against, inasmuch as the man of means was favoured, while the equally worthy but poor man was ignored ; whereas, in the opinion of your Sub-Committee, no distinction between the two should be recognized.

Your Sub-Committee, while regretting that these remonstrances were insufficient to overcome the influence exerted in this matter, was nevertheless gratified that they were not fruitless, but led to the insertion into each Act granting such privileges, of restricting clauses, which had been recommended as desirable and applicable to a general measure.

The petition and correspondence are herewith submitted.

Your Sub-Committee recommend to their successors the desirability of continued action in endeavouring to obtain the adoption of such a law on this important subject as will be a happy substitute for the unjust and illiberal measure which now exists in our statute book.

Your Sub-Committee has much pleasure in drawing your attention to the fact, that the Act 24th Vic., chap. 21, respecting Trade Marks, which was prepared and submitted to the Legislature by a previous Sub-Committee, has been largely taken advantage of during the past year, and is one of the fruits of the efforts for the public good put forth by this Board.

It is a cause of regret that the clauses respecting the registration of designs have not also been taken advantage of; but your Sub-Committee is of opinion that this result is attributable rather to a want of information than to a want of appreciation on the part of the public, of the provisions of the Act. It is therefore suggested to your Sub-Committee's successors that the question, whether more publicity should be given this matter, and what action should be taken by the Board for that purpose? is not worthy of consideration.

Your Sub-Committee have had under consideration the feasibility of founding a School of Design in this city, and plans have been prepared by which the required accommodation can be provided at the Exhibition Building, at a comparatively small outlay.

At the same time the Art Association of Montreal having under consideration the desirability of establishing a Gallery of Art, a Committee was appointed to confer with a Committee of the latter Association, for the purpose of securing a School of Design and a Gallery of Art combined; but nothing definite has yet been decided upon.

Your Sub-Committee recommend to the consideration of their successors, this scheme for supplying a want, the necessity and importance of which is daily increasing.

In the early part of the year your Sub-Committee made application to the Minister of Agriculture for duplicate models and copies of specifications of Canadian Patents, but in consequence of his having no funds for that purpose, he was unable to comply with that request.

As it is highly desirable that these models and specifications, or copies of them, should be placed in some central position where access to them could easily be had by the public; and as Montreal is the centre and seat of the mechanical class, your Sub-Committee suggest

to their successors the consideration of what measures are necessary to procure and place on exhibition such a valuable collection as this would undoubtedly be.

Your Sub-Committee appointed a delegation to visit the Provincial Exhibition held in the city of Toronto, in the month of September last; the result of which visit appears from the report of Messrs. G. Weaver and David Brown, which is herewith submitted.

The Classes of the Mechanics' Institute for the winters of 1865-6 were visited and examined by a Committee consisting of Dr. Dawson and Mr. Murray, and in consequence of their favourable report, a sum of \$80 was appropriated for their aid by the Sub-Committee.

These Classes have again resumed their operations; and, considering the benefits they confer, and for the purpose of enlarging their usefulness, your Sub-Committee, at the beginning of the present session, expended a sum of \$100 in the purchase of such models and blocks as were required to fully carry out the objects of the classes, and these are now among the assets of the Board.

The long expected Dublin Exhibition Medals were received during the past summer, and those awarded to Montreal Exhibitors were distributed by the Hon. the Minister of Agriculture, at a meeting of the Board, held on the 18th September.

During the year now closed a new element—delegates from the Art Association of Montreal—was introduced into the composition of the Board, under the provisions of the amendments of 1864 to the Act incorporating this Board, thereby proving that the operations of this Board have not been wholly deprived of public interest; and your Sub-Committee sincerely trusts that every succeeding year will exhibit not only an increasing interest, but largely increasing means of carrying out the great and noble objects for which this Board was organized.

The Treasurer's statement for the year is herewith submitted, from which it will be seen that the funds of the Board have been carefully husbanded, awaiting the fulfilment of the many promises on the part of the members of the Government for the amelioration of the condition of the Board.

The whole, nevertheless, respectfully submitted.

(Signed)

DUNBAR BROWNE,

Secretary.

APPENDIX.

- 1.—*Copy of Remonstrance made by the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Lower Canada, against the terms of the Order in Council of 6th November, 1866.*
 - 2.—*The reply thereto of the Hon. the President of the Council.*
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(Copy.)

MONTREAL, 6th December, 1866.

SIR,

I am directed by the President and Sub-Committee of the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Lower Canada, to address you upon the subject of the order of His Excellency the Governor General in Council, of 6th November, 1866, which has been communicated to the President and laid before the Committee.

The President and Sub-Committee have seen with pain, repeated in that document, a mis-statement of fact, which, when formerly embodied in a report of the Minister of Agriculture, was answered by this Board. It is stated that "the amount of the claim upon the building by the Contractor is \$11,000, the remainder of the money having been advanced by Government." So far is this from being the case that the land was purchased from McGill College on a *constitut*, not one penny having been paid out of any Government "advances" towards it. Of the \$43,590 which the building cost, \$10,000 were raised by the citizens of Montreal, \$12,000 were borrowed from McGill College, wherewith to complete it, and \$11,000 were never paid at all, remaining a charge upon the

building. \$20,000 were advanced to the Board for the purposes of the exhibition of 1860, and out of that, prizes were paid, and all the heavy expenses incidental to the reception of His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, were defrayed. Had the Exhibition Building not been erected, the temporary structures necessary for such an occasion would have cost as much as, or more, than the portion of the \$20,000.00 not expended in prizes and current expenses. The receipts at the door on that occasion were much below what had been confidently anticipated; the presence of H. R. H. in town, diverting attention from the exhibition to other festivities, —not drawing people to it. Out of the carefully husbanded petty annual grant made to this Board, a very considerable sum has also been paid towards the cost of the erection of this Building, and the interest on the debt. But we cannot suppose that the Executive Council will choose to reckon these moneys as advances towards the building, any more than the payment of rent for actual occupation by the Local Militia, can be properly so regarded.

The President and Sub-Committee also beg leave most respectfully to point out, that the title to the land ordered to be sold by the Hon. Mr. Ferrier is vested in the Board of Arts and Manufactures for Lower Canada, as a corporate body and not in Her Majesty, the Provincial Government only being a hypothecary creditor in consequence of the transfer to it of the *Bailleur de fond*, and hypothecary right of McGill College. They respectfully desire, therefore, to be informed if it is the intention of His Excellency in Council to enforce the College claims thus transferred to the Government, by legal process or otherwise, it being obvious that neither the \$20,000 granted for an exhibition nor the sum lately paid in express terms for rent, constitute any claim either in law or equity against the property of the Board.

The Board had hoped that by a real advance of the balance of the builder's claim of \$6,276, Her Majesty's Provincial Government would have afforded relief to its embarrassments, and would have accepted the transfer of lots on payment of the proceeds of their sale for re-imbursement. Such was the understanding which this Board had of the nature of the concession to be made, and the very text of the order in Council itself seems almost still to warrant that interpretation.

I have transmitted a duplicate of this letter to the Honourable the Minister of Agriculture.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

DUNBAR BROWNE,

Secretary B. of A. and M. for L. C.

(Copy.)

MONTREAL, 8th December, 1866.

SIR,

The Hon. the President of the Executive Council instructs me to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, remonstrating against the terms of the order in Council of 6th November ultimo, and submitting the views of the Board of Arts with regard to the liabilities of the Board, and the measure of relief they desire should be afforded by the Government, and in reply I am to inform you that when the subject shall have been brought before the Government through the proper Department, he, the President, will give the matter his attentive consideration.

I am, Sir,

Your very obedient servant,

W. A. HIMSWORTH,

Assistant Clerk, E. C.

DUNBAR BROWNE, Esq.,

Secretary B. of A. and M. for L. C.