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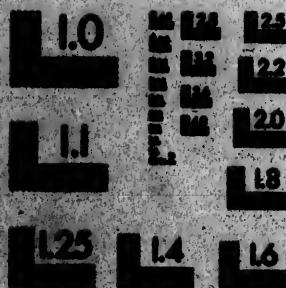
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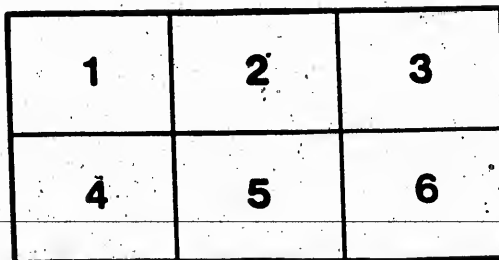
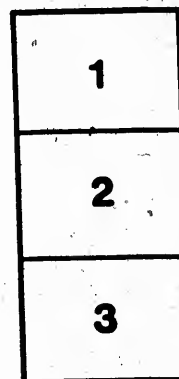
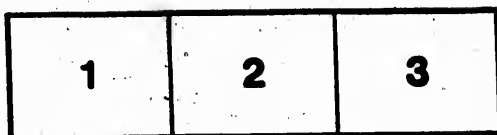
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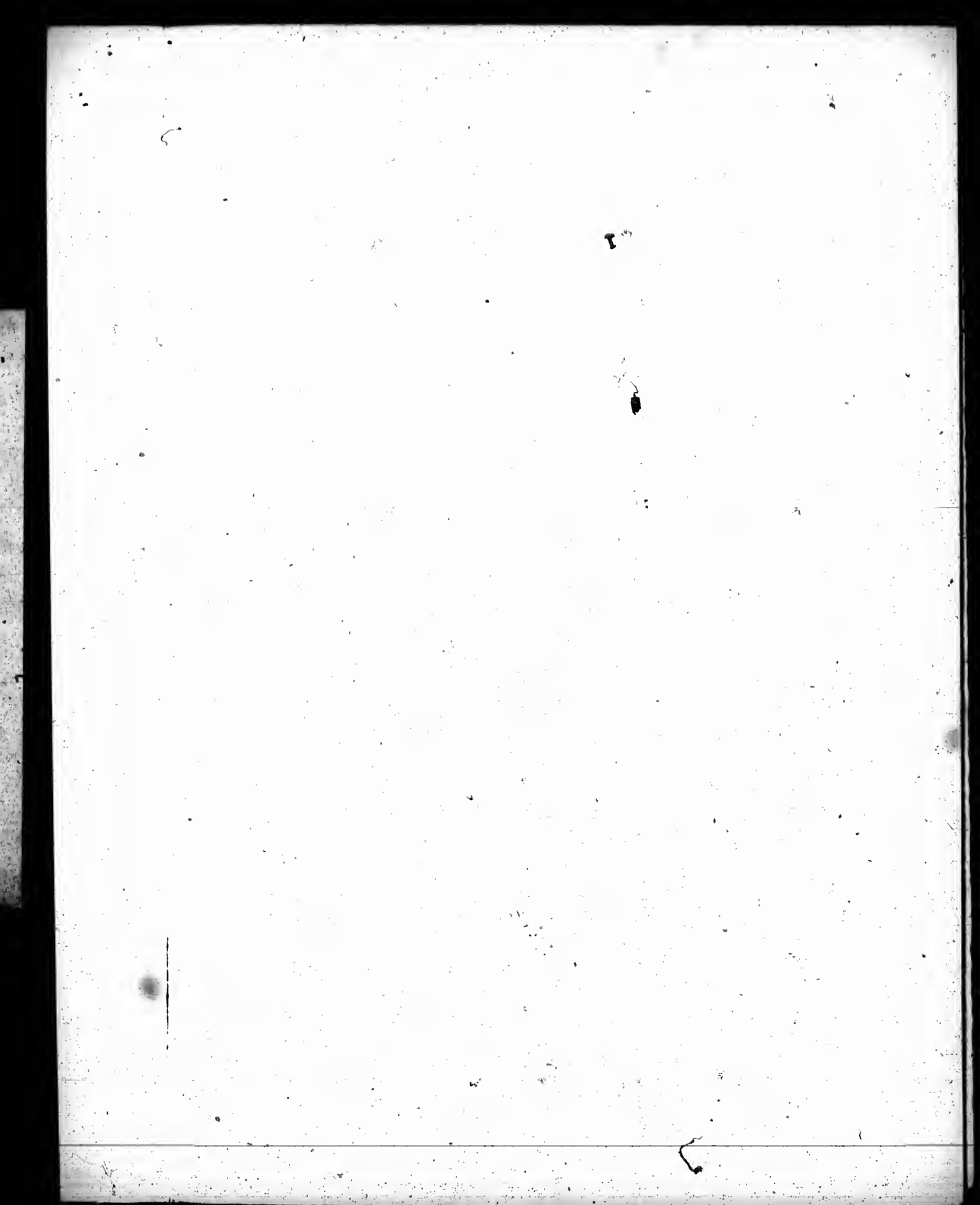
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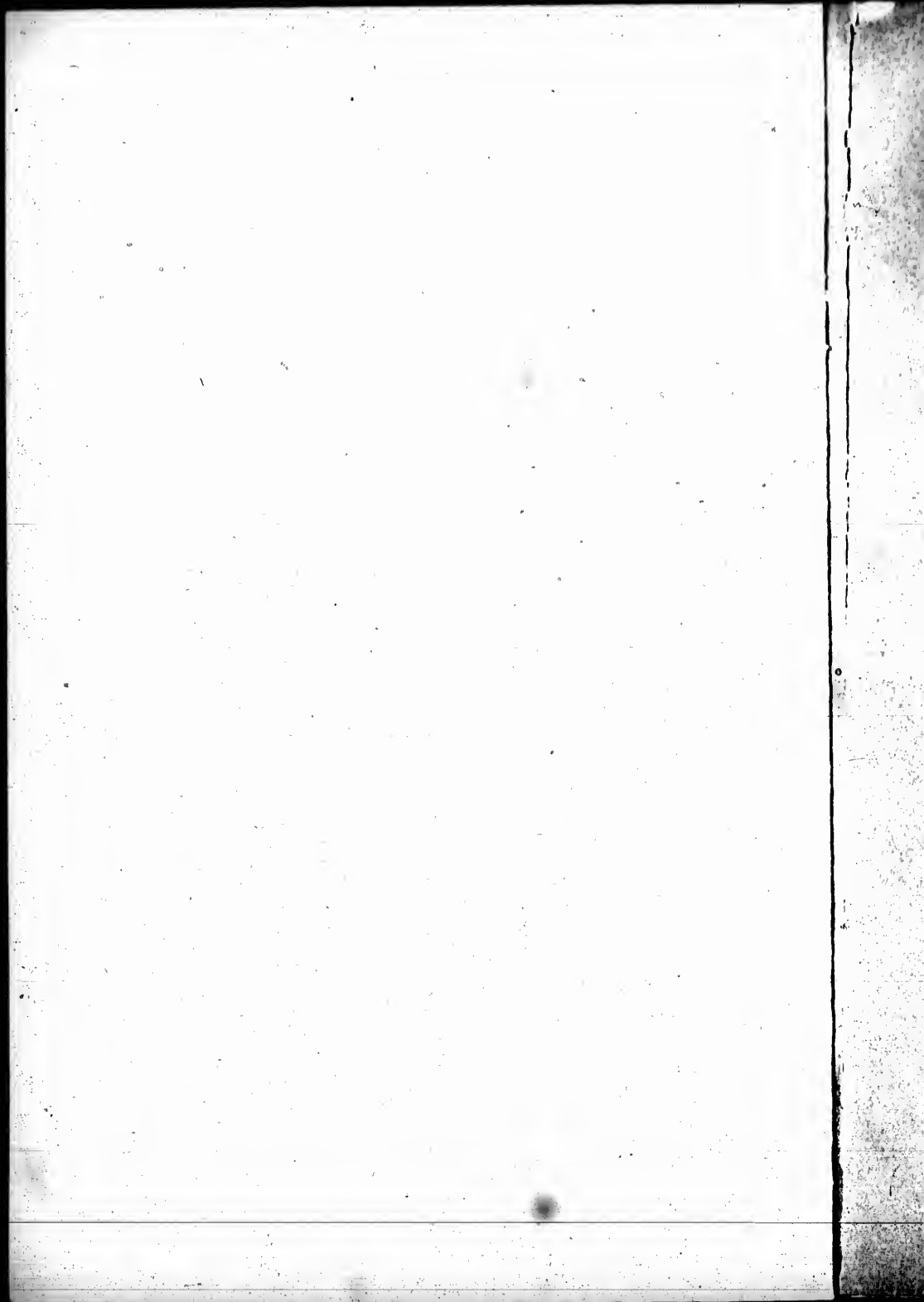
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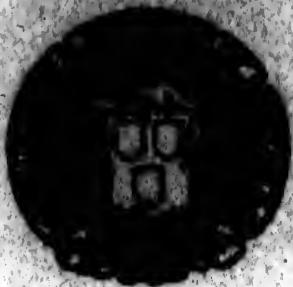
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**Reasons for a New Art Gallery at  
the Industrial Exhibition : with  
Designs & A Report from the  
Ontario Society of Artists to the  
Industrial Exhibition Association**

**Toronto, 1899**



# Reasons for a New Art Gallery

A Report from

## The Ontario Society of Artists

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TO THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION ASSOCIATION:



**TWENTY** years ago when the Industrial Exhibition Association was formed and the buildings erected, the Gallery intended for Art purposes was a great advance on anything of the kind before existing in the Dominion, and with the exception of the Art Association Building in Montreal and the old rooms of the Ontario Society of Artists at 14 King St. West, the only building constructed with sky-lights, especially for art purposes.

The Provincial Exhibition had art exhibits, but no particular rooms or galleries, part of the Main Building being used for the purpose, and the light was generally very bad.

At the time of the formation of the Association, Art Schools had only been established in Canada about three or four years, and the result of their work had not begun to be felt, and it was not then the common thing for the citizens of Toronto to spend their summer holidays wandering through the Art Galleries of Europe as it is for many of them now, and even those who visited the principal cities of the United States only saw the beginning of the fine collection of paintings and the Art Galleries they now possess.

The World's Exposition in Chicago was a great stimulus to Art in America, and a vast number of our people for the first time realized what an Art Exhibition could be.

Such are the factors that have been at work since the opening of the Exhibition in 1879. There the fine art exhibit has been managed in various ways. In the first place on the old plan of granting money prizes for the best landscape, portrait, marine, flowers, etc., after the fashion of the old

Provincial Exhibition, then by a manager making the best collection he could get together for a certain money grant to cover expenses, the chief requisite being the filling up of the gallery even to the roof with pictures.

For a number of years past it has been managed by the Ontario Society of Artists, and until quite recently the same conditions were required of them by the Association or the exhibition was not considered satisfactory.

But public opinion at last demanded a change, with the result that for the last two or three years good pictures have only been hung, and in some instances a small space has been allowed between the frames, but broadly speaking, what has been and is the general effect of this exhibition of fine arts? One large square room and some four or five hundred pictures, oil, water colors, old masters and new, closely hung together, robbing each other of the good points they possess, so much so that it has not been believed that they were the same pictures shown at the Society's Annual Exhibition, and still less, that quite a number of them had been exhibited at the Royal Academy and Paris Salon.

And how has architecture, the liberal and applied arts, such as Industrial Designs, Photographing, Lithographing, Wood Carving, Painting on China, the Art Schools and Technical School work been accommodated? For our great Industrial Exhibition offers one of the best opportunities of placing before the public the beneficial influence of art on industrial and educational pursuits and to place before the manufacturers designs which will make his wares beautiful as well as useful.

For such work there is no adequate provision, so they are hung on the stairway, in some odd corner not desired by commercial exhibitors, beside circular saws or next the lavatory.

And how do the public of the present day, those who have been trained in the Art Schools, the frequenters of European Art Galleries and visitors from the large American cities view this state of things? Why they naturally say, "It is just the same as ever, some of the pictures seem better than usual, but taking it altogether it might be last year's

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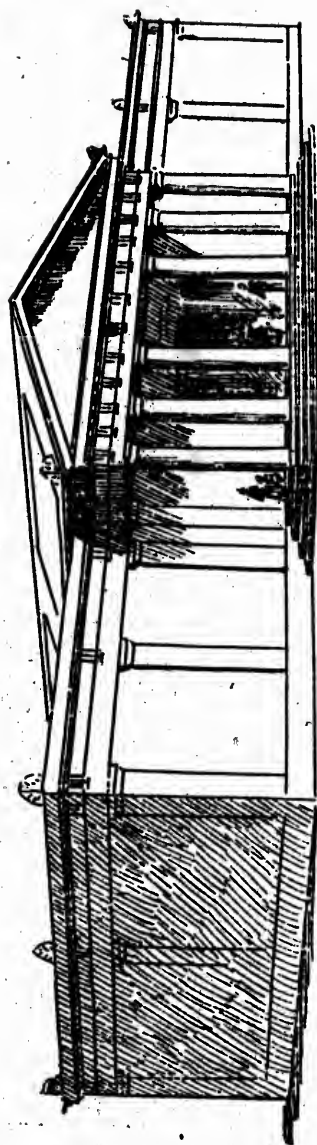
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exhibit over again." Of course this is not the actual fact, for the works are so much in advance of fifteen or twenty years ago that could they once more occupy this gallery, with some exceptions, would seem like a display of curiosities.

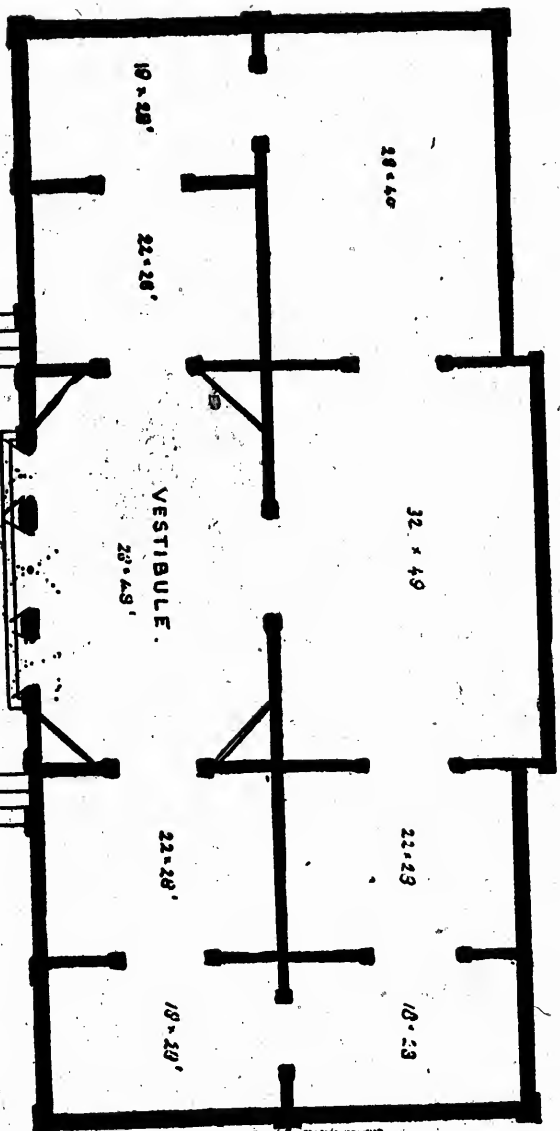
But it is the reasonable verdict of people who have not time nor opportunity to carefully examine the works, but are influenced by the effect of the whole.

Now this condition of things would not be allowed in other departments, the stables, cattle sheds, horse ring, and in fact, nearly all the buildings have been remodelled or rebuilt, until they are at least equal to anything of the kind on the continent.

The building for the Dog Show is perfect. Why should there not be a perfect Art Gallery? A modern Art Gallery, where the works could be exhibited under the conditions required to give full value to the different mediums of the paintings and suitable to the other classes of work. For instance, the oils require a room separate from the water colors, and designs with their white grounds should not destroy the repose of the paintings. Such a gallery would induce artists to exhibit who now hold aloof, would authorize the management in borrowing expensive and important works and thus induce all classes in the Dominion interested in the Arts to visit it, thus making the exhibition a special attraction. The foregoing facts have for some years caused the representatives of our society on the Industrial Exhibition Association to press upon the authorities the necessity of this new Art Gallery. And as a new era is now about to be entered upon, the Ontario Society of Artists strongly urge that the matter be at once considered and steps taken for its construction, as they feel sure it is of vital importance, not only to the Art of the Province, but to the greater success of the Exhibition, and therefore beg respectfully to advise the Association and City Council in the matter by offering the following designs and plans suitable for the purpose.



FRONT ELEVATION.



ESTIMATED COST \$7,500

GROUND PLAN.

