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MARCUS AURELIUS ON INSURANCE PREPAREDNESS

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Our Oldest Art Society

The Ontario Society of Artists, which celebrates its fiftieth anniversary this year, is the oldest organization of its kind in Canada. As a rule, one assumes that Dominion societies are the parents and provincial societies the children, but in the case of art that is not so. In fact, the O. S. A. might claim to be the father of the Royal Canadian Academy, which did not come into existence until some years after the artists of Ontario had organized. There were other art societies before Confederation, but all of them have been dead for so long that their memory hardly remains. The O. S. A. had the advantage of coming into existence just at the time when the national spirit was flaming high in this country, as a direct result of the Federation of British America. Men began to realize for the first time that artists could not go on forever imitating the English schools. They had to find their subjects in Canada, and learn the best way of putting on canvas the beauties of their own land.

Even in a democratic country noble patrons count for something, and our artists will always remember with gratitude the two Governors-General who encouraged and fostered painting in Canada. Lord Dufferin was the first of them, and he was not the sort of man to play at encouraging the intellectual aspirations of colonialists. He dabbed a little in painting and sketching himself, and several pictures owned by him were placed in the early exhibitions of the O. S. A. The Marquis of Lorne, whose wife, the Princess Louise, also painted with skill, co-operated with the Ontario artists in bringing the Canadian Royal Academy into existence. In creating a Dominion-wide association, the Governor-General and his royal wife had the support of Mr. Lucius R. O'Brien, at that time vice-president of the Ontario society. One other titled painter has sent pictures from Rideau Hall to the Ontario exhibitions. The popular Princess Patricia added paintings to her other accomplishments, and her canvases easily won a place on their merits in exhibitions were exacting hanging committees were disconcerting dozens of aspiring artists.

Only two of the artists who journeyed up to John A. Macdonald in 1872, when that gifted, but belligerent, painter called the meeting to organize the art society, are still alive. T. Mower Martin is one of the surviving foundation members, but he has done little painting in recent years. With Robert F. Gagen, however, there has been no standing still. He had pictures in the first exhibition of the O. S. A., which opened on Easter Monday, 1873, and in the fiftieth exhibition, now on view in Toronto, he is showing marines that are among the most vigorous ever done by a Canadian painter. Robert F. Gagen is the ever-young man among the artists of this country, and he still keeps abreast of the modern movements. One observer of things artistic recently remarked that if Mr. Gagen continues to work a few years longer, he may yet be asked to fill the vacant place in the Group of Seven. At the present time, there are only six stars in that famous constellation.

The artists of Canada may claim without much danger of contradiction, that our painters have made greater headway with the establishment of a native school than have our authors or our poets or our dramatists. There is no native drama in the Dominion as yet, and little great prose. The poets have done better than the writers of fiction, but even they have not been as creative as our painters. The artists are now interpreting their country on canvas with originality, with vitality and with power. To the Ontario Society of Artists must be given the credit of having fostered the native art in this country. Their efforts brought into existence, after several setbacks and disappointments, the art school where the young men and women are learning the technique of painting. This institution is now thirty years old. At their exhibitions, all the innovators have had their first pictures introduced to the public. Now the society contains many schools of thought, and the controversies between the different groups are keen and not always untinted with unkindness. In other words, the art movements of Canada are so very much alive that they can spare a little of their superfluous energy to fight one another, though it is not a fight to the death so much as it is a fight to the life of art.—Toronto Mail and Empire.

Logs Cross Pacific.

Towing log booms across the Pacific ocean from British Columbia to Japanese ports is the latest idea of the Japanese. In getting the long logs of from 80 to 100 feet into their country. Many of the steam freighters will not carry extra long logs, so logs will be bound together by the "Davis raft" system, and towed during the summer months. The Japanese anticipate no trouble with this system, and will send over their own powerful tugs to tow the rafts.

Finger Prints.

The finger print system has been adopted by a leading dressmaker of Paris to prevent her customers from copying her models and selling them. Every model that she produces will hereafter bear her signature, her finger print and a number that will enable the model to be traced to the person who bought it.

Miss Ruth Brady, of Balboa, Panama canal zone, in a contest with 1,000 others, was picked as the most beautiful girl.

An Interesting Discussion. At the regular meeting of the Christian Endeavor Society of Calvary Congregational church, held on Monday evening, E. Green presided and the topic, "How Can We Help Our Church?" brought about a most interesting and profitable discussion. The meeting was largely attended.

WATERING OF SYDENHAM ROADWAY IS FORBIDDEN

By County Road Superintendent Fair as it Damages the Surface.

Everything was in readiness to water the main street in Sydenham on Monday, when word was received from the county road superintendent forbidding the watering to be done. For a number of years the people of the village have been in the habit of raising by public subscription a sum of money for watering the main street. The latter part of last week the canvassers made their rounds and were able to secure sufficient money. It is thought that some person who did not approve of the public subscription got in touch with the county road overseer, with the result that the dust will have to put up with the dust. On Monday when motors would drive up and down the streets, the residents could hardly see themselves for dust.

It is stated that the county road superintendent's reason for stopping water being poured on the street was on account of it softening the roadway, and then when the motor traffic moves over it the road is torn to pieces. It is stated that last summer the watering was done with the result that the surface of the road was ruined.

For the purpose of trying to adjust matters, R. H. Fair is going out to the village on Tuesday and have a conference with some of the members of the township council. In Loughborough the council decided that the funds of the township should not be expended in the watering of the streets in Sydenham as so few of the ratepayers in the township would get the benefit of the money spent. It has been suggested that the streets be oiled by public subscription. In Kingston the householders benefited pay for the whole cost of oiling.

Queen's Alumni Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of Queen's University Alumni Association, Ottawa, will be held on Thursday evening, Dr. L. J. Austin, F.A.C.S., will give an address on "Quackery and Quackery." After the lecture there will be refreshments and dancing.

CONSERVING WATER-POWERS

(By J. E. Middleton). Navigable streams are under the jurisdiction of the Federal authority. Thus, while the Dominion Government was engaged in constructing the Trent Valley Canal, various water-powers along its course were alienated to private individuals and corporations, without reference to the opinion or the policy of the Provincial Government.

After the Niagara Hydro-Electric System was in successful operation, Mr. Gagen was in successful operation, municipalities to the east of Toronto demanded Hydro service—and Hydro rates. Electrical service was being provided by a series of small privately-owned plants, some of which were inadequate for the task. An inquiry by the Government showed that all these plants, and the undeveloped riparian rights of various companies and individuals, were controlled by a large insurance corporation of Montreal. Negotiations were opened looking towards a "clean-up." In due time the Provincial Government bought the entire property of 22 subsidiary companies for \$8,350,000, acquiring a monopoly of water-power rights along the Trent Canal, and turned over the property to the Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario to operate under the authority of the Power Commission Act.

Extensive improvements were made in the generating and transmitting plants, all discriminatory rates were abolished, and within three years the aggregate sale of power had increased from a peak of 18,000 horse-power to one of 26,000 horse-power. The Central Ontario System as now constituted serves 25 municipalities from Ottawa to Kingston. The rates for domestic lighting and factory drive are low and whatever profits are acquired in the operation go back into the business. Yet undoubtedly the price paid for the assets of the System was high—largely because of the acquired rights of individuals.

The Dominion Government gave away property which the Provincial Government had to buy back at an exorbitant price for the protection of the people. During the last twenty years frequent attempts have been made by private interests to secure from the Federal Parliament power-rights along that portion of the St. Lawrence which flows through the Province of Ontario. On at least two occasions the plan was defeated by a narrow majority. In view of the declared policy of the Ontario Government to acquire and hold all water-powers for the public advantage, and in view of the practically unanimous support that policy secures from the electorate it is not a reasonable suggestion that the Federal Parliament should co-operate with Ontario, by giving the Province a primary option on St. Lawrence power-rights?

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Contracts for our new building were awarded yesterday and work started to-day. When completed we will have the finest Dry Goods Store in Eastern Ontario, with a service unsurpassed by any. We ask your kind indulgence for the next few months, as the building progresses and as an incentive we will continue our

RE-BUILDING SALE

indefinitely—doing business at cost to keep your custom during the period of re-adjustment.

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- 14 in.—4 blade Woodyatt Lawn Mower \$11.00
- 16 in.—4 blade Woodyatt Lawn Mower \$12.00
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- 14 in.—5 blade Empress Ball Bearing Mower \$14.00
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- 6 qt. Jap. Watering Cans85
- 10 qt. Jap. Watering Cans85
- 10 qt. Galv. Watering Cans \$ 1.50

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