

CURATORS OF SMALL TOWN
ART MUSEUMS IN FRANCE
FORMED AN ORGANIZATION

London, Jan. 28.—The curators of the small town art museums in France have organized and the Paris correspondent of the London Observer sees in their vigorous demands for betterment and state recognition of their museums a future enlargement of American and other tourists' acquaintance with some of the world's masterpieces.

Comparatively few persons know what beautiful things can be seen in the art galleries of provincial France, he says. Tourists stop in the towns where there are famous cathedrals and they are careful not to miss even a second-rate chateau in the Loire country, as long as it is 200 years old; but they often pass a good picture gallery by.

The collections belonging to the state receive their fair share of attention, but chiefly because the buildings in which they are housed are historic. People see what is inside the palaces of Versailles and Fontainebleau and Compeigne because they want to see the palaces themselves. On the other hand, there are many municipal galleries, with far finer collections of pictures, which are almost deserted.

Some Hidden Treasures

Tours is worth a visit for its one Tour pastels, Besancon for its Fragonards, its Hubert Roberts, and its Courbets, Rouen for its early nineteenth century painters, Caen and Grenoble for their Flemish and Italian masters Lyons for its Goyas, Mantauban for Ingres, Albi for Toulouse-Lautrec, Nancy for its Dutch pictures and Valenciennes for its Flemish, to say nothing of its notable Watteaus.

Many of the municipalities do little either to make known the treasures which they possess or to show them to the best advantage. The galleries, which are sometimes picturesque in themselves, because they are often in former great private houses or monasteries or other buildings nobly constructed and generally badly lit and nearly always overcrowded with rubbish, in which it is difficult to pick out the real masterpiece. There is hardly ever a good catalog.

Pictures and Politics

Most of the trouble can be traced to the fact that the possession, exhibition and care of these works of art, many of which are priceless, is exclusively a matter for the municipalities most of which are ignorant. Moreover, local politics enter into the question of starving the galleries financially, as they do into that of retaining valueless pictures, which have been presented by local collectors or painted by local artists. In theory town might even sell its art collection. The state nominally has some voice in the control of a municipal gal-

lery to which it has lent a certain number of pictures; but this voice amounts in practice to nothing and the pictures lent by the state mostly consist of the official purchases at the annual salons in Paris, which do not diminish the general tone of mediocrity, it is not surprising that the moral prestige of the central authority is not high.

In these circumstances the lot of the curator of a municipal gallery is not a happy one. He is appointed by the minister of fine arts, who, however, can only choose between three candidates presented by the town. He is paid by the town, and he has to fight against all sorts of local influences to obtain money for the minimum outlay necessary to keep the gallery going.

The Curator Business

The result of all this is that there are not very many competent curators and still fewer energetic ones. The municipalities do not realize that the job needs training, like any other, and tend either to appoint tired painters, as a sort of old age pension, or professors from local art schools. And yet there is, in Paris, the admirable Ecole du Louvre, which is constantly turning out men who have learnt this particular business. No doubt the time is past when a curator could set about repainting all the old masters in this gallery, as did one whose activity in this respect was cut short by death, but there are not many curators today who know much about the processes by which old pictures should be preserved.

There are some competent and enthusiastic provincial curators nevertheless and they have formed themselves into an association. They demand that the state take action in the matter and insist upon the following reforms. Municipalities must be obliged to allot to the upkeep of their galleries annual sums which will vary from place to place only according to the importance of the galleries and the art collections which they contain. There must be government inspectors with real powers. Above all, every curator must belong to an organized state service, with a fixed scale of salaries and regular promotion.

Heat in double boiler 1 cup sugar, 2 tablespoons grated chocolate and 1-2 teaspoon vanilla. When hot, remove from fire and beat until very light. Add 1 cup flour mixed and sifted with 1 teaspoon baking powder and beat steadily 15 minutes, then fold in quickly whites of 4 eggs beaten to stiff froth. Bake immediately in ring cake mold in slow oven until it leaves side of pan. Invert pan when baked until cake cools, then ice with chocolate icing.

STANLEY WILSON, OF ROLLINGDAM,
ELECTED PRESIDENT OF F. & D. ASSOC.

Stanley Wilson of Rollingdam, was elected president of the Farmers' and Dairymen's Association at the conclusion of yesterday's busy day. The new president succeeds A. J. Doucet, ex-M. P., of Notre Dame, who presided yesterday at the second day of the farmers' and dairymen's three day meeting in this city.

Other Officers

The nominating committee's report which was adopted unanimously named the following to office for the ensuing year: President, Stanley Wilson, Rollingdam; 1st vice-president, Carl C. Allen, Melrose; 2nd vice-president, Clyde E. Rideout, Hartland; recording secretary A. J. Gaudet, St. Joseph's; corresponding secretary, A. J. Doucet, Notre Dame; treasurer, A. C. Taylor Salisbury; auditor, W. W. Hubbard, Burton.

The program yesterday afternoon was followed to the letter, and there were interesting addresses by C. F. Bailey, superintendent of the Experimental Station; E. M. Taylor, of the Soils & Crops Division, and Harvey Mitchell, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, as well general discussion on various topics with respect to branches of agriculture.

Harvey Mitchell

Harvey Mitchell spoke briefly but forcefully and urged the closer cooperation of all departments of agriculture, and a keener inter-association between all the branches of farming and dairying.

Several resolutions were passed. One, that the Department of Agriculture withhold special grants from sending delegates to the annual convention until the secretary had received reports from the various societies. Furthermore that prizes of \$10, \$7.50, \$5, and \$2 be submitted for the five best reports submitted from the agricultural societies.

Another resolution favoring the formation of a Canada-wide Farmers' Association to fix prices, was sent in from Kings County, but it was voted down when put to the meeting. A resolution to make the import duty on foreign butter as high as other manufactured products was brought before the meeting, but it was stated that this was the situation at the present time with the duty on that commodity as high as other import goods. The resolution was left for consideration later. Resolutions thanking the Mayor, the city, and the press received attention from the Association.

County V-P's

The list of county vice-presidents as submitted by W. W. Hubbard, the chairman is as follows: Albert, William Chambers, Elgin; Carleton, Percy Simonds, Centreville; Charlotte, Melvin Maxwell St. Stephen; Gloucester, Patrick Blanchard Pokemouche; Northumberland, Frank Dolan, Reynolds; Madawaska Edward Rice St. Jacques; Kent Fabian L. Arsenault, Bonsecours; Kings, Fred W. Osborne, Sussex; Queens, H. C. Gale Young's Cove; Restigouche, Joseph Miller, Dalhousie; St. John H. H. Magee, St. John; Sunbury, Harvey Patterson, Hoyt; Victoria, Gilbert Titus, and over; Westmorland, L. T. Gildart, Steeves Mountain; York H. C. Green-law Millville.

COMPETITION BY RUSSIANS
HURTS CANADIAN LUMBER
IN THE BRITISH MARKETS

(Montreal Star)

Problems of the Canadian lumber industry due to Russian competition are emphasized by Walter Molson, retiring president of the Montreal Board of Trade, in the course of the 88th. annual report of the board. "Many factors have contributed to the difficulties in 1930; the greatest of these was the appearance of large quantities of lumber from the Soviet Union in Great Britain and New York," he states. "These two markets have always absorbed a large volume of Canadian lumber. In the past few years 80 per cent. of the Canadian spruce cut in the eastern provinces was exported to the United Kingdom. This years shipments were negligible. Russian white wood, which resembles Canadian spruce, took its place at exceedingly low prices. It is estimated that in 1930 Great Britain imported 1,200,000 board feet from the Soviet Union. Similarly a large amount of Soviet lumber was 'dumped' in New York at a price which made it impossible for Canadian dealers to compete."

General Situation

Reviewing the general situation Mr. Molson notes that the farms, mines and fisheries of the Dominion produced greater quantities in 1929 but with lower values and that increased production and general expansion were not uncommon in manufacturing enterprises in spite of the severe depression.

The report of the board contains more than 200 pages and covers a varied range of subjects including the St. Lawrence waterway project, the visit to Canada of the R100, a report of the Congress of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce of the British Empire held in London, a proposed district highway connection between Montreal and the Abitibi district, civic market facilities, the annual reports of the various trade association affiliated to the board, national and local trade statistics and a list of members of the board.

A reference to unemployment is associated with mention of the Canadian National terminal project.

The position of the trade of the country is set out in the following: "The total trade of Canada for the 12 months ending November amounted to \$1,960,301,526 as compared with \$2,560,354,891 for the same period in 1929. The imports totalled slightly more than one billion dollars while the exports did not reach this figure by \$104,711,874, which indicated the unfavorable balance of trade for this period.

Exports to the British Empire with \$418,000,000. This unfavorable comparison is mostly due to a falling off of grain shipment of over \$50,000,000. Imports from the British Empire amounted to \$322,000,000, as compared with \$258,000,000 for the same period in 1929. The total trade with the British Empire amounted to 559,320,518 being a decline of \$117,061,142. avoe 5 d Tnions..N

THE GREAT NECESSITY

A certain American newspaper uses 88 tons of ink every week and so much paper that it requires 750 acres of forest to make a week's supply. It imposes a big responsibility—to cover that much paper with that much ink fashioned into words. [Much trivial matter is published, but as a whole, newspapers form the single greatest intellectual necessity of mankind. Civilization could not go on without newspapers. Governments in a land of large area could not be maintained without them. The Roman empire fell because there was no easy way of keeping the outlying parts of the empire in touch with the central power. Action in a modern, democratic country is based on information. Some information is bad, inaccurate, but without any information, of the sort people must get from the newspapers, we should revert to the dark ages.

Food, clothing and shelter are called the great human necessities. They are the great "animal" necessities of which the human being is in need. But man, as man, not as animal, faces another fundamental want, a deep necessity. He must have food, clothing, shelter and information.

Lima Beane says the natural tendency is to swallow flattery and spit out advice.

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