

**The National Museum of Canada.\***—The National Museum originated in the Geological Survey of Canada and its early history is inseparable from that institution. The first united Parliament of Upper and Lower Canada met in Montreal in 1841. In July of that year the Natural History Society of Montreal and the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec petitioned the Government to carry out a geological survey. As a result, a resolution was passed in the Estimates on Sept. 10 to defray the expenses of a Geological Survey of the Province of Canada.

William E. Logan was appointed the first director of the Geological Survey in 1842. He and his assistant, Alexander Murray, undertook their first field work in 1843, and their collections formed the humble beginnings of the National Museum. Logan was much more than a geologist and his interests extended to other branches of natural science. His diaries contain accurate drawings of named plants. He wrote in his annual report for the year 1852-53: "It may be a consideration whether a growing country like Canada could not afford to anticipate what future importance may require in the nature of a national museum and at some future time not far distant, erect an appropriate edifice especially planned for the purpose."

In the meantime, the officers of the Geological Survey continued to collect for the geological museum. In 1856, Elkanah Billings, a palaeontologist, and the first of a number of specialists, was added to the staff, and the legislation passed that year to continue the work of the Geological Survey specified the establishment of a geological museum, open to the public, to exhibit specimens, books and instruments.

In 1874, the practice of recording the number of visitors to the Museum was commenced; from May 1874 to April 1875 the number of visitors was 1,017 and by the year ended April 1896 it had reached 31,595. In 1874, the distribution of specimens of minerals, rocks and other natural history objects to schools was started with a donation to the Board of School Teachers of Elora, Ont. The first organized Museum lecture program was undertaken in 1912, with a series of lectures for young people after school; by 1915, Saturday morning lectures for children and evening lectures for adults—both features of the Museum program today—were in operation. Prior to 1880, the Museum occupied several buildings in Montreal but that year the Geological Survey moved to Ottawa, occupying the former Clarendon Hotel on Sussex Street. Construction of the Victoria Memorial Museum Building was started in 1904 and in 1910 the Geological Survey moved in.

The scope of the Museum was enlarged in the "Act to make better provision respecting the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada and for maintenance of the Museum in connection therewith" of Apr. 28, 1877. In that Act the Survey was instructed "to study and report upon the flora and fauna of the Dominion" and "to continue to collect the necessary material for a Canadian museum of natural history, mineralogy and geology". As early as the Act of 1856, the Geological Survey of Canada had been authorized "from time to time" to distribute publications relative to the Survey. From this authority developed the Museum's series of scientific bulletins presenting the researches of its staff.

The Act of 1877 established the Geological Survey and the Museum on a continuing basis and permitted the appointment of specialists in natural history. John Macoun was appointed to establish the division of biology in 1882. He was an eminent botanist who had accompanied the expedition of Sanford Fleming to explore Western Canada in 1871. Macoun's report of 1874 laid the groundwork for the establishment of western Canadian agriculture. He also published a catalogue of Canadian birds. In 1895 under the third Director of the Geological Survey, George M. Dawson, the Museum entered the field of Canadian anthropology.

In 1910 the Museum began an expanded program of research and exhibition under the direction of R. W. Brock, then Director of the Geological Survey of Canada. Unfortunately this program was curtailed during World War I because the burning of the Parliament Buildings, in 1916, forced Parliament to occupy the Museum building until 1919.

\* Prepared by Dr. A. W. F. Banfield, Director, Natural History Branch, Dr. W. E. Taylor, Jr., Director, Human History Branch, and Dr. D. M. Baird, Director, Museum of Science and Technology.