

The Survey staff made space faster than it was required, always managing to keep ahead of the Public Works men. Under the direction of Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, Mr. J. B. Hunter, deputy minister, Mr. John Shearer, superintendent of buildings, and their various assistants, the Public Works staff prepared the building for parliament by building walls, decorating, carpeting, installing telephones, two telegraph offices, two post offices and many other necessities and conveniences. They also provided facilities for those of the Survey staff remaining at the museum to carry on its work.

His Royal Highness, the Governor-General, inspected the House of Commons and the other parts of the Victoria Memorial Museum building turned over for the use of parliament at eleven A.M. on Monday, less than eighty-seven hours after the fire began or less than seventy-four hours after the museum authorities were notified of need for the space. He was apparently much pleased at the speed with which the survey staff had made room and with the facilities and comforts so hastily installed by the Public Works staff.

The museum retains intact only one and a quarter of the exhibition halls, namely, the anthropological hall and part of the hall of vertebrate paleontology. It is closed to the public, admission being by pass only.

A sample museum, by means of which to advance museum interests in the Dominion, has been begun in the anthropological hall. The archeological and ethnological exhibits are intact, some of the best zoological exhibition cases of birds, reptiles and insects, have been placed in the wider aisles where they may be viewed, while mounted mammals and skeletons of various animals have also been placed in the aisles and on top of the cases. In the unoccupied space of this character, and in such other space as may be made by storing all but a representative archeological series, still other exhibits may be placed.

On the whole the scientific work of the museum may go on practically unhampered. The lecture work is being carried on in other auditoriums. The exhibitions eventually may

be facilitated by the present apparent set back, as the museum staff is undiscouraged, and the members of parliament, who are now in daily proximity to the exhibits and constantly meeting museum workers, may become so interested that they will provide future facilities for museum work in the Victoria Memorial Museum building or in a building even better adapted for museum purposes. Besides this they may carry home to all parts of the Dominion inspiration to establish useful museums and to improve those already in existence.

HARLAN I. SMITH

MUSEUM OF THE GEOLOGICAL SURVEY,
OTTAWA, CANADA

ROBERT JAMES DAVIDSON

ROBERT JAMES DAVIDSON closed his earthly career suddenly December 19, 1915, leaving a beautiful and beneficent memory. Born at Armagh, Ireland, April 3, 1862, he attended schools near Liverpool, England, and came to this country as a youth. He was educated at South Carolina College and University, from which he received the degrees of Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts and in whose faculty he served for some six years. This preparation was to bear ripe fruit in the career which really commenced in 1891, when he was called to the chair of chemistry in the Virginia Polytechnic Institute at Blacksburg, Virginia. For nearly a quarter of a century he labored there teaching chemistry, administering the discipline of the college as professor and as dean, leading the farmers of the state with admonition and advice, and always ready to serve. One invariably thinks of the word *service* in remembering Davidson. It gives the keynote to the song of his life. Whether with his students, his colleagues, or his fellow-citizens, in fact with his neighbor wherever he met him, Davidson's first and main thought was to be of service and truly did he follow, far more closely than the average man, the example set by the Master nineteen hundred years ago. He was fearless in this service, never hesitating to state his objection to argument or his adverse opinion with the reasons

therefor, and this when he thought need be, whether or not it gave annoyance or even pain. But with this fearlessness to serve in the truest sense, was combined a gentleness that made his personality a strongly marked one in whatsoever society he chanced to be. For many years a sufferer from bodily pain, he went uncomplainingly, fearlessly but gently, keeping a lookout for opportunities to serve. A charming host to the stranger on the campus and to his colleagues, he was a big brother to every student who claimed his aid or would let himself be helped, and many a man has left the college the better for the glimpse of tender family love and gentleness which pervaded his hospitable home.

It was among his scientific colleagues, perhaps, that Davidson's personality stood forth most clearly defined. His attainments won recognition and he held a high place among the notable men of several important scientific organizations. He was a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Chemical Society, the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists, and the Washington Academy of Sciences. He was frequently chosen a delegate to important gatherings, as for instance, the International Congress of Applied Chemistry at London, and in 1903 he served as president of the Association of Official Agricultural Chemists. Never afraid to raise his voice for the truth as he saw it, always gentle and considerate of adversary or controversialist, ever anxious to compose differences of opinion and especially of feeling between opponents, and a faithful attendant at meetings, Davidson's membership in numerous and important committees was logical and inevitable. And these committees he served with his whole heart and his whole strength. It had a profound effect on his scientific life. With a strong mentality, wide and deep reading, a cheerful readiness amounting to eagerness to hear or learn of the work of others, and a patient and diligent effort to assimilate new ideas, he should have been a notable man in chemical research. While his contributions in this field, especially in the application of

chemical ideas to the problems of soil management and farm practises are worthy of high praise, it was not humanly possible for any one to give to his college duties, to his work among farmers, and to his committee duties, the time and energy that Davidson gave, and at the same time gain unusual distinction in a specialized field of science. But fame was truly appraised by Robert James Davidson as of lesser importance than duty and the opportunity to serve. Though his name may not be remembered as linked with some particularly important milestone in the history of science, yet it will be remembered long, tenderly, and reverently, not only as a faithful worker in science, but as the man and the brother and a model in all the activities of a good citizen for his colleagues and his neighbors. Agricultural science has lost one of her most notable American pioneers and her most faithful servants.

FRANK K. CAMERON

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION AND THE GENERAL EDUCATION BOARD

ANNOUNCEMENT is made of the annual election of officers of the Rockefeller Foundation. President John D. Rockefeller, Jr., and Secretary Jerome G. Greene were reelected. The executive committee is now John D. Rockefeller, Jr., Simon Flexner, Starr J. Murphy, Wickliffe Rose and Jerome D. Greene. The finance committee is John D. Rockefeller, Jr., A. Barton Hepburn and Starr J. Murphy. The Foundation has elected as new trustees, Martin Antoine Ryerson, of Chicago; the Rev. Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, of Montclair, N. J., and Frederick Strauss, of New York. Mr. Ryerson is president of the board of trustees of the University of Chicago. The Rev. Dr. Fosdick is pastor of the First Baptist Church, Montclair, and the Morris K. Jesup professor of practical theology in the Union Theological Seminary.

From the trustees of the estate of Mrs. John D. Rockefeller, Sr., the foundation has received a gift of \$49,860, which is in addition to a previous gift from Mrs. Rockefeller's estate of