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Report of the Annual Meeting

Report of the Secretary

C. Marius Barbeau

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

C. MARIUS BARBEAU

Various historic events and commemorations of interest to the members of the Association have occurred in the course of the past year.

THE CELEBRATION AT ANNAPOLIS ROYAL

Dr. Charles Morse was last year appointed a delegate to represent our society at the Annapolis Royal celebration of the tercentenary of the birth of Nova Scotia, the bicentenary of the establishment of the first court administering English Common Law within the boundaries of what is now the Dominion of Canada, and the centenary of the arrival in Annapolis Royal of Thomas Chandler Haliburton. The account of Dr. Morse accompanies this report.

The Association decided at the same meeting to present to the Historical Association of Annapolis Royal a flag of the period of George I, to be used in unveiling the tablet commemorating the first court of Common Law. The flag was sent accordingly to the president of the Association, Mr. Fortier, whose acknowledgement, dated July 1, includes the statement: "Everyone here appreciates and admires this interesting gift, and it is our intention to preserve it permanently under glass in the Museum of Fort Anne after it has served the special purpose for which it has been sent to us."

THE PENETANGUISHENE TERCENTENARY

A statue to Père Joseph LeCaron, the first missionary in Huronia, was unveiled at Penetanguishene, on the second of August, 1921. Among other memorials dedicated in the same ceremonies were inscriptions to Francis Parkham, the historian of the Jesuit Missions, and to Sir John Franklin in commemoration of the voyage of northwestern discovery which he commenced at Penetanguishene.

THE DAVID THOMPSON MEMORIAL

As mentioned in last year's report, the Canadian Pacific Railway and the Hudson's Bay Company for some time have contemplated the erection of a suitable monument to the memory of the great western explorer, David Thompson, near Invermere.

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in the Columbia Valley. A date has been set for the ceremony at the end of August.

The President, in this connection, has discussed with Col. Dennis, of the Canadian Pacific Railway, the advisability of putting aside a modest sum for a suitably inscribed stone to be erected over the grave of David Thompson, in Mount Royal cemetery. We quote Col. Dennis' reply of June last: "I am taking up with the proper persons the matter of devoting the sum of \$100 for the purpose of marking Thompson's grave, and I expect we will be able to do so when the time comes." There is a fair prospect of the reproach being at last removed that Canada has allowed one of her most famous explorers to lie in an unmarked and practically unknown grave.

THE SIMON FRASER MONUMENT

The Hudson's Bay Company last year invited the President of our Association to unveil the memorial which the company had decided to place over the grave of Simon Fraser, in the old Roman Catholic graveyard at St. Andrews, near Cornwall, Ontario. It was subsequently decided, however, to abandon the formal ceremony, and the monument was erected in September last. The Hudson's Bay Company issued a small pamphlet to mark the occasion. The following is the inscription on the memorial:—

"In memory of Simon Fraser, explorer, born 1776, died 1862. While in the employ of the North West Company he conducted important exploration and pioneer work principally in the area now known as British Columbia, which he helped to secure for the British. He led the first exploring expedition to descend the great river which bears his name, reaching the Gulf of Georgia on July 2, 1808. This monument was erected in 1921 by the Hudson's Bay Company over the grave where he and his wife were buried."

THE FOUNDATION OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY

The anniversary of the foundation of McGill University was fittingly celebrated last autumn. The nature of the celebration was not such as to call for the active participation of our Association, but, although not formally delegated to represent us, several of our members attended the ceremonies.

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THE JACQUES CARTIER LANDFALL

A movement has been initiated in favour of suitably marking the landfall of Jacques Cartier by a monument on the Gaspé Coast. The President has been in correspondence with Dr. John Clarke, of the New York State Museum at Albany, who has for some time past interested himself in the project. He has also consulted with various Canadian historical societies and The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada. As the work should undoubtedly be undertaken under the auspices of the Dominion Government through the Monuments Board, the Association was gratified to learn that the consideration of the Board would be formally given to the matter at its next meeting.

RELICS OF THE ORIGINAL BROCK MONUMENT

The President brought to the attention of the Queen Victoria-Niagara Falls Park Commissioners the fact that a fragment of the stone carrying the inscription of the original Brock Monument was lying in a corner of the room at the base of the present monument, and suggested that, as this was apparently all that remained of the old monument, it would be worth while to preserve it more carefully, and put it in a prominent position where it could be seen by visitors. The Superintendent of the Park wrote in reply: "We are making arrangements to place the two pieces of the original tablet upon a table with a small bronze plate showing where they came from. I am greatly obliged for your calling my attention to the fact that they are out of the sight of visitors."

THE OLD MILITARY BURYING GROUND IN MONTREAL

The fact that the City Council of Montreal had adopted a resolution in favour of extending one of the city streets through the old military burying ground in that city was recently brought to the President's notice. This burying ground is under federal jurisdiction, and it is understood that the civic authorities purpose asking permission from the Department of Militia and Defence for the proposed roadway. As this old graveyard is in a real sense historic ground, containing the graves of Canadian soldiers who fell in 1812 and 1837, as well as the monument to General D'Urban unveiled by H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught some years ago, it is felt that nothing but the most urgent necessity would justify such a piece of vandalism. The President has made representations to the Historic Sites and Monuments

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Board, and has taken the matter up with General Fiset, the Deputy Minister of Militia and Defence, who has replied: "This Department has not been approached as yet by the City of Montreal for permission to run a street through the old burying ground, and if such a request is ever received by the Militia Department I shall place your letter before my Minister before consideration is given to the city of Montreal."

MILITARY SITES AND BUILDINGS

The Department of Militia and Defence has recently transferred to the Department of the Interior, for preservation by The Historic Sites and Monuments Board, certain sites and buildings no longer required for military purposes, but which remain of national interest because of their historical associations. A number of other sites and buildings of the same kind also possess historical associations rather of a local than a national character. The President has offered to the Department of Militia and Defence the good offices of this Association in arranging for the transfer of these properties to responsible local societies or other authorities which will undertake to keep them in preservation.

THE QUEBEC HISTORIC MONUMENTS COMMISSION

It will be interesting to learn that the Quebec Government has created a Commission with jurisdiction over matters affecting the preservation of monuments and other articles of historic and artistic interest within the province. There is every reason to believe, from the announcement of the personnel of the new Commission, that this important development is in good hands, and will be carried on in the best interests of the province and the Dominion.

THE SPEAKER'S CHAIR

Record may be made here of the presentation to the Canadian House of Commons by the members of the Houses of Lords and Commons of Great Britain of an exact replica of the Speaker's Chair in the House of Commons at Westminster. The Royal Arms which surmount the canopy are carved in old oak taken from the roof of Westminster Hall.