

# Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada

Report of the Annual Meeting

## Report of the Management Committee

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## REPORT OF THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The Management Committee is glad to be able to report a slow but steady growth in the membership of the association, throughout the Dominion, and an increasing interest in the work we are trying to do. It is a particularly happy circumstance that our membership is not only country-wide, but also very definitely representative of both races in Canada. We have at the present time about 165 members in the province of Quebec, a very large proportion of whom are French Canadian. It has always been one of the main objects of the association to further in every possible way the development of the most friendly relations between the two great races that make up the vast majority of our population, and it is realized that the most effective way of breaking down the walls of prejudice and misunderstanding that still to some extent divide us is to bring members of the two races into intimate relationship, working together toward a common object, as we are doing in the Canadian Historical Association. We have the privilege this year of serving under a president who is one of the most distinguished members of the French-Canadian race, and who is known and honoured as a scholar not only in Quebec but throughout Canada.

At the last annual meeting the president and the chairman of the Management Committee were instructed to appoint a special committee in connection with the proposed memorial to the western explorer David Thompson in Mount Royal Cemetery, Montreal. The following are the

members of that committee: Thomas Chapais, L. J. Burpee, J. B. Tyrrell, Gustave Lanctot, J. M. Gibbon, C. N. Cochrane. The association having approved of the idea of a memorial, the details were left to the committee.

The committee took the matter up with M. Henri Hébert, the well-known sculptor of Montreal, who submitted a design of a shaft surmounted by a sextant, as typical of the notable life-work of exploration that made Thompson famous. Unfortunately, as you know, there exists no portrait of Thompson, and we know only in a general way what he looked like, so that a head or medallion is not practicable.

You will be glad to know that subscriptions to the Thompson Memorial Fund are now approximately \$800 which, with some additional amounts expected, will give us ample funds to carry out the work, without making use of the authority given us at the last annual meeting to draw on the association's funds for any amount needed to complete the amount, up to \$100.

At the last annual meeting authority was also given to the president and the chairman of the Management Committee to appoint a special committee to consider ways and means of appropriately celebrating in 1927 the bicentenary of the birth of General Wolfe. The committee was appointed, and consists, in addition to the President and Chairman, of Dr. A. G. Doughty, Mr. Ægidius Fauteux, Colonel William Wood, Dr. J. C. Webster, Dr. C. W. Colby, Prof. George M. Wrong, and Dr. Pierre Georges Roy.

This matter will be brought before you at the present meeting by Dr. Webster, and it is hoped that the discussion that follows may bring out some helpful ideas. In any event, it is recommended that the special committee be continued, and that it be given authority to mature plans for a suitable celebration next year. While the occasion will be the two hundredth anniversary of the birth of Wolfe, it is felt that, in view of the peculiar relationship of Wolfe and Montcalm to each other and to this country, and their equal claims to the veneration of all Canadians, the celebration, in whatever form it may take, should honour the memory of both generals.

Also at the last annual meeting, the Management Committee was authorized to arrange if possible a plan of co-operation between the association and the two Canadian historical periodicals—*The Canadian Historical Review* and *Le Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*. As a result of subsequent negotiations, arrangements have been completed whereby the members of this association receive the *Canadian Historical Review*. The association pays the *Canadian Historical Review* one dollar for each member's subscription, which is only one-half the regular price. To make this arrangement effective, the association must authorize the increase of the annual fee from \$2 to \$3. It is hoped that a similar arrangement can be made with the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*, so that our members can be offered the alternative of either the English or the French review, or it may be practicable to arrange so that any member may receive both by adding another dollar to his fee.

The committee recommends that the first part of Section IV of the Constitution be amended so that it shall read: "The officers shall be a president, a vice-president, an English secretary, a French secretary, and a treasurer." It was the practice in the Landmarks Association, out of which this association grew, to have both an English and a French secretary, and there are obvious advantages in such an arrangement in a national organization such as ours.

The committee has not overlooked the scheme for a series of Outline Lectures in Canadian History, to which the association has been committed for the past two years. It is firmly convinced that these outline lectures would be of very great value, in connection with sets of lantern slides. Put at the disposal of high school teachers and others competent to use them, they would help to spread throughout the country sound ideas as to the causes and consequences of various events in Canadian history.

Perhaps the principal difficulty in carrying out the idea has been the fact that, while a number of competent students, men who have specialized in particular periods or incidents of Canadian history, are interested in the plan and willing to undertake the preparation of individual outlines, they are in every case so overburdened with other duties or commitments that it is difficult for them to find the time to carry out this particular task. The only outlines so far received are those prepared by Dr. Webster and Judge Howay. When a few more are in the hands of the committee, we hope to find means of reproducing both them and the accompanying sets of slides.

Three other projects which the association had tentatively adopted, to be carried out some time in the future, have been completed by individuals who, although they did the work independently, are nevertheless members of the association. The Oxford Press will publish this year an *Encyclopædia of Canadian History*, prepared by L. J. Burpee; the Macmillan Company a *Dictionary of Canadian Biography*, by Stuart Wallace; and Thomas Nelson & Sons an *Atlas of Canadian History*, by L. J. Burpee.

In this connection, it should be noted that the Oxford Press is bringing out a new and revised thin-paper edition of *The Makers of Canada*, with additional volumes on Tupper, Laurier and Van Horne. The series is under the general editorship of W. L. Grant and George H. Locke. The Radisson Society of Toronto is publishing a series of reprints of famous Canadian books, including Paul Kane's *Wanderings of an Artist*, Grant's *Ocean to Ocean*, the *Voyages of Radisson*, Alexander Henry's *Travels*, De Gaspé's *Les Anciens Canadiens*, Mrs. Moodie's *Roughing it in the Bush*, and Mackenzie's *Travels*. The volumes are edited by such competent authorities as Dr. Colby, Professor MacMechan, Stephen Leacock, Professor Cappon, W. L. Grant, Martin Burrell, Jules Tremblay, Sir John Willison and Arthur Heming. The Ryerson Press has also put in the hands of a competent board of editors the preparation of a series to be known as *The Canadian Historical Studies*, which it is hoped will eventually become a library of historical research regarding Canada. The Arthur H. Clark Company of Cleveland is to publish a series of journals of the western fur trade, in seven volumes, under the general title *Fur Traders of the West*. Thomas Nelson and Sons have published a series of twelve large coloured pictures of Canadian history, seven of which are by Charles W. Jefferys and the rest by Henry Sandham. Others are to be added from time to time. The educational value of pictures of this kind can hardly be overestimated. A much more ambitious attempt to tell the story of Canada by means of pictures, along similar lines to the Yale Press *Pageant of American History*, will be described to you by Colonel Wood.

The committee feels that the association should note with particular approval the direct encouragement given by the province of Quebec to historical research by the competition instituted last year. Prizes of five hundred dollars were offered for the best study in each of the twelve following subjects: The Colonization of New France, Pierre Le Moynes d'Iberville,

the Martyrs of New France, Pierre Boucher de Grosbois, the Supreme Council of New France, Doctor Sarrazin, The Seignorial régime in Canada, Pierre Gaultier de la Vérendrye, Industry under the French régime, the first Parliament of Lower Canada, the History of a Canadian parish, Alexander Mackenzie. It is particularly to be noted that the Government, with characteristic broad-mindedness, threw the competition open to all, and provided that either English or French might be used.

As instructed by the association at its last annual meeting, the Prime Minister and the Minister of the Interior were approached with a view to increasing the public usefulness of our annual report by increasing its size. Both Mr. King and Mr. Stewart were very sympathetic, but, as will be seen by the following letter from the latter, nothing can be done at the present time:—

In reply to the application of the Canadian Historical Association for the publication of a larger annual report, I may say that for the last five years the Canadian National Parks Branch of this department has paid for the printing of the annual report of this association. The Dominion-wide activities of the association greatly stimulate local historical associations in the marking, restoring and preserving of historic sites of public interest, and it has been thought advisable to assist the association in its work as it has no other means of revenue except the fees collected for membership.

In previous years, the report has consisted of about sixty pages, which include a brief report of the activities of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of the Parks Branch. The cost of printing last year's report was \$496.65. If the size of the report is increased to 200 pages, it will cost about \$1,650 to publish.

The amount of money that we can provide for the work of the Historic Sites and Monuments division of the Canadian National Parks is extremely limited, and not more than \$500 can be spared for the publication of the report of the Canadian Historical Association.

I may mention that only last month at the request of the Prime Minister, I gave this matter my special attention, but was forced to the conclusion, at that time, that the limited moneys available would not permit of the additional expenditure involved.

Yours faithfully,

CHS. STEWART.

In September last the British Columbia Historical Association forwarded the following resolution, with a request that it should be brought to the attention of the Canadian Historical Association:—

Whereas at the last session of the House of Commons at Ottawa, a resolution was introduced for the purpose of considering a design for a new flag for Canada, and whereas the British Columbia Historical Association stands for the preservation of the traditions of our country, Therefore this meeting expresses its strongest disapproval of any attempt to substitute another flag for the Union Jack as the Canadian standard, And a copy of this resolution to be sent to the Canadian Historical Association.

Without expressing any opinion as to the desirability or otherwise of the proposal, a copy of the resolution of the British Columbia Historical Association was sent to each of the historical societies throughout the country for consideration and such action as it might think proper. So far as replies have been received, the consensus of opinion appears to be in sympathy with that of the British Columbia Historical Association. Your committee does not feel that it is either necessary or desirable that this association should take any action in this matter at the present time.

The committee has pleasure in reporting that the reports received from the various provincial and local historical societies throughout the country reveal an increasing interest in the very useful work which these societies are doing in stimulating public interest in Canadian history; gathering and preserving the materials for the history of provinces, counties and towns; and marking and protecting historical sites and buildings.

Among the monuments and other memorials that have been erected during the last twelve months to mark historical sites, the most important was the very fine Champlain monument at Orillia, Ont., unveiled on July 1, 1925. Under the auspices of this association, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, on April 24, 1926, laid the corner-stone of a building which covers the site of the old Court House of York. The corner-stone of the latter had been laid by Sir Peregrine Maitland on the same day in the year 1824, one hundred and two years before. Last summer a monument was unveiled on Gonzales Hill, under the auspices of the British Columbia Historical Association, to commemorate the search for the Northwest Passage and the early exploration of the straits by Juan de Fuca.

Here also we wish to record our appreciation of the good work being done, year after year, effectively but unobtrusively, by the National Sites and Monuments Boards of Canada and the Commission des Monuments Historiques de la Province de Québec. The latter has issued a very handsome report in two volumes *Les Monuments Commémoratifs de la Province de Québec*, very fully illustrated, and *Les Vieilles Eglises de la Province de Québec 1647-1800*, also with many illustrations. It may be proper also to mention here the published reports of the Public Archives of Canada, the Bureau of Archives of Ontario, the Quebec Archivist, and the Archives of other provinces.

The Historical Association of Annapolis Royal is arranging for the commemoration this year of the writing of Lescarbot's play in honour of Poutrincourt in 1606—the birth of the drama in North America. A tablet is to be placed in Fort Anne, and a book published containing the story of the play and its surrounding circumstances.