

# 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 Secretary-Treasurer

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

By NORMAN FEE

The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association took place at McGill University, Montreal, on Friday, May 23, the sessions being held in the Royal Victoria College. The members of the Association were guests at tea at the Royal Victoria College in the afternoon, and in the evening were entertained by the Hon. N. Pérodeau at dinner at the Mount Royal Club.

At the first session on Friday morning, the address of the president, the Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux, who was prevented from being present by pressure of his parliamentary duties, was read by Canon Chartier. Mr. Lemieux drew attention to the approaching four-hundredth anniversary of the coming of Jacques Cartier to the shores of the St. Lawrence, and pointed out that it was proposed to have a celebration of a national character, as a suitable recognition of the importance of that event.

The papers, which were presented, will appear in the association's annual report. Of special interest was that in which Professor Harvey discussed some of the characteristics of recent historical writing and the relation of Canadian historians to them. He remarked on the fact that, as yet, Canadians had contributed little to the writing of general histories or to the study of lands other than their own, and he made a plea against a narrow provincialism which would take too little account of prevailing aims and tendencies. On the other hand, he questioned whether the so-called new history was so very new after all, and suggested that writers capable of producing really valuable works of synthesis are few in number and may well be left to make their appearance as Providence directs. Meanwhile, students of Canadian history may make a very valuable contribution to the general advancement of historical knowledge by careful, intelligent, and really creative work in their own field of special interest. The paper presented by Major Lanctot on the route taken by Cartier to Hochelaga aroused an animated discussion and revealed the two well-defined opinions, one in favour of the Back River route, and the other in favour of the direct route by way of the St. Lawrence.

Sir Robert Borden becomes president of the association for this year, and His Honour Judge Howay of New Westminster, B.C., was elected to the vice-presidency. The other officers remain as before: L. J. Burpee, chairman of the management committee; Norman Fee, English secretary and treasurer; Gustave Lanctot, editor, and French secretary. The members of the council are: George Wilson, Halifax; Chester Martin, Toronto; Dr. J. C. Webster, Shediac; Canon Chartier, Montreal; W. T. Waugh, Montreal; R. Trotter, Kingston; D. C. Harvey, Vancouver; A. S. Morton, Saskatoon; A. L. Burt, Edmonton; A. G. Dorland, London; Senator Thomas Chapais, Quebec. The reports of the secretaries showed an increase in membership and a general improvement in the financial condition of the association.

During the past year the association was admitted to membership in the International Committee of Historical Sciences. It is proposed to co-operate in certain of the projects which the committee has under way, and, in this connection, there was read at the meeting of the association a

preliminary report on the teaching of history in Canadian schools, prepared by Professor W. N. Sage. It is apparent that the different provinces present most interesting variations in the methods, aims, and content of their courses in history.

At the annual meeting resolutions of thanks to McGill University and Victoria College, to Hon. N. Perodeau and to Dr. Doughty were adopted. During the year the secretary received a large number of inquiries for information and was only enabled to answer these through the co-operation of Dr. Doughty, whose assistance not only in this way, but in connection with the publishing of the annual report is essential to the welfare of the association. The association also desires to thank Dr. George Brown, managing editor of the *Canadian Historical Review*, and his assistant, and Mr. Roy, editor of the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques* for their assistance and co-operation during the year.