

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

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Report of the Secretary

Norman Fee

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By NORMAN FEE

THE Executive and Council of the Canadian Historical Association met at McMaster University, Hamilton, following the annual meeting in May, 1943, when the Programme Committee, with Mr. A. J. Dorland as Chairman, was named for the year 1944. The annual meeting of Council, was held at Baldwin House, University of Toronto, on November 1 and was well attended. The Chairman of the Committee on the Salvage of Historical Material reported that following the annual meeting in May last, the Committee had prepared a circular letter pointing out that Canadians in their zeal to comply with requests for salvage of all kinds were throwing away old books and newspapers and in some cases family documents, and suggested ways and means to save this material. This letter was sent to local historical societies, libraries, and salvage committees in different centres throughout Canada and was also published in the *Canadian Historical Review* and received notices in the Canadian press. The results were very gratifying and salvage committees are now co-operating with local historical societies and interested persons to save this material. The payment of duty on history books coming into Canada is a question which is raised from time to time. On the suggestion of Mr. Flenley, the Association requested a ruling from the Department of Customs. The letter of the Deputy Minister of National Revenue is as follows:

Ottawa, 26 October, 1943.

Dear Mr. Fee:

I have your letter of the 22nd instant with which you enclosed a copy of letter received by you from Dr. G. W. Brown, President of the Canadian Historical Association, also a copy of a letter written to him by Professor Ralph Flenley, and while tariff item 172 contains a provision for the entry free of Customs duty of books for the promotion of religion, medicine and surgery, the fine arts, law, science, technical training and the study of languages, I think you will agree that history books do not come within the category of this tariff provision.

However, history books which are included in the curriculum of any University, college or school in Canada for use as text books or as works of reference, also those imported to be placed in bona fide libraries and being the property of the organized authorities of such libraries, are free of Customs duty under tariff item 173 and are exempt from sales tax, but are subject to the 10% war exchange tax when imported from Countries such as the United States.

Histories of United States origin which do not qualify for entry under tariff item 173 are dutiable under tariff item 171 at 10% ad valorem. In addition to the Customs duty, there is payable the 8% consumption or sales tax calculated on the duty paid value of the books, as well as the war exchange tax of 10% payable on the value for entry purposes.

Yours faithfully,

D. SIM,

Deputy Minister Customs and Excise.

Norman Fee, Esq., M.C.,
Secretary-Treasurer,
Canadian Historical Association,
Ottawa.

Archives and the problems of collection and care of records were discussed and an Archival Committee with Mr. Brown as Chairman, and the Dominion Archivist and Archivists of the different provinces as members, was appointed. This Committee arranged for a discussion of the subject at the annual meeting and also for a report on the part of microfilms in

archives work. A committee was named at the annual meeting to give publicity to the points raised at this session and to continue the study of archives problems. Mr. A. E. Prince of Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, was named Chairman of the Programme Committee for 1945.

THE PROGRAMME

The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association for 1944 was held in McGill University, Montreal, on June 1 and 2, concurrently with the annual meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association. The following papers were presented: "Some Aspects of the Relations of French Canada with the United States," by Mr. Mason Wade, Quebec; "The Blending of Traditions in Western Canadian Settlement," by Professor G. W. Simpson, University of Saskatchewan; "The Settlement of New Brunswick: An advance toward Democracy," by Mrs. Esther Clark Wright, Acadia University; "Le Régime seigneurial et l'expansion de la colonisation dans le bassin du Saint-Laurent au XVIII^e siècle," by Professor Guy Frégault, University of Montreal; "Colonialism and Nationalism in Canadian Poetry before 1880," by Professor A. J. M. Smith, Michigan State College; "Religious Organization and the Rise of the Canadian Nation, 1850-1885," by Professor S. D. Clark, University of Toronto. A general session was given to the problem of public and other historical records in Canada, at which reports were received with regard to the existing situation in the Public Archives in Ottawa and in each of the provinces. The discussion made clear that there is a more active interest in the question than has been evident for a good many years. Two joint sessions were held with the Canadian Political Science Association. At the first, the presidential addresses were read by Professor George W. Brown, University of Toronto, for the Canadian Historical Association, on "Canada in the Making," and by Professor R. A. MacKay, Dalhousie University, for the Canadian Political Science Association, on "The Social Sciences in the Post-War World." At the other joint session, two papers were read on the subject of "Liberalism in Crisis," by Professor H. N. Fieldhouse, University of Manitoba, and by Professor E. P. Herring, Harvard University.

All the papers mentioned above except those by Professor MacKay and Professor Herring will be printed in the *Report* of the Canadian Historical Association, which is being edited this year by Professor R. M. Saunders of the University of Toronto. The *Report* will also contain a full account of the session on public records.

The Association is indebted to Principal James and the authorities of McGill University for the excellent arrangement and the hospitality which contributed much to the success of the meeting, and also to Professor E. R. Adair, who was chairman of the local arrangements committee.

Officers were elected as follows, for 1944-5: President, Walter N. Sage, University of British Columbia; Vice-President, F. H. Underhill, University of Toronto; English Secretary and Treasurer, Norman Fee, The Public Archives, Ottawa; French Secretary, Séraphin Marion, The Public Archives, Ottawa; Editor of the annual *Report*, R. M. Saunders, University of Toronto; new members of Council, retiring in 1947, R. S. Longley, Acadia University; R. Parent, Department of Labour, Quebec; A. E. Prince, Queen's University; G. W. Simpson, University of Saskatchewan.