

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

David M. L. Farr

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

THE annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held at Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia, on June 10 and 11, 1949. The occasion marked the first meeting of the Association to take place in the Maritime Provinces, and it was particularly appropriate, in many ways, that the meeting could be arranged to coincide with the bicentennial celebrations being observed in Halifax during the summer of 1949. Dalhousie University and the city of Halifax provided a cordial welcome for the Association, and the meetings will be remembered most happily by those members of the Association who found it possible to attend. Toronto, Quebec City, Vancouver, and Halifax: these places of meeting for the Association in the past four years serve as an excellent illustration of the national character of the Association's membership and interests.

The proceedings at Halifax opened on the morning of June 10, with two papers being read. Professor D. G. G. Kerr of Mount Allison University, Sackville, New Brunswick, presented a paper on "The New Brunswick Background of Sir Edmund Head's Views on Confederation," while Professor A. M. Fraser of Memorial University College, St. John's, Newfoundland, marked the entrance of Newfoundland into the Canadian federation with a review of "Confederation Negotiations between Canada and Newfoundland in the Nineteenth Century." Professor Fraser's presence at the 1949 meeting of the Association was highly appreciated; his election to a place on the Council being a tribute to himself and to the newest province of Canada. In the afternoon the usual joint session with the Canadian Political Science Association was held, under the chairmanship of Dr. A. E. Kerr, president of Dalhousie University. This meeting featured papers by Dr. R. D. Howland, vice-president, Nova Scotia Research Foundation, on "The Work of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation," and Professor J. H. Aitchison (formerly of the University of Toronto, now of Dalhousie University) on "The Municipal Corporations Act of 1849." The presidential addresses of the two societies were delivered in the evening of the same day, at a session under the chairmanship of Premier Angus L. Macdonald of Nova Scotia. Abbé Arthur Maheux, president of the Canadian Historical Association, presented a stimulating paper on "A Dilemma for Our Culture," at this session.

The final meetings took place on June 11, with the annual general meeting of the Association being held in the morning, followed by two papers, "La Plus Vieille Maison du Canada" (an account of the history of the old Jesuit house at Sillery, Quebec) by Rév. Adrien Pouliot of Le Collège des Jésuites, Quebec, and "Halifax as an International Strategic Factor, 1749-1949," by Colonel C. P. Stacey of the Historical Section, General Staff, Ottawa. In the afternoon an interesting visit to the Public Archives of Nova Scotia was arranged, through the kindness of Dr. D. C. Harvey, provincial archivist. Later members were taken on a tour of the historic sites in Halifax with members of the Nova Scotia Historical Society acting as guides. After the tour the Nova Scotia Historical Society tendered the Association a dinner at the Lord Nelson Hotel, at which two members from the staff of the Archives

of Nova Scotia presented papers on the social history of Halifax. Mr. C. B. Fergusson read a paper on "Eighteenth-Century Halifax," and Miss Phyllis R. Blakeley spoke on "Incidents in Victorian Halifax."

The following officers were elected by the Association for the year 1949-50: President—Professor A. L. Burt, University of Minnesota; Vice-President—Dr. G. E. Wilson, Dalhousie University; English Secretary and Treasurer—David M. L. Farr, Carleton College; French Secretary—Séraphin Marion, Public Archives of Canada; new members of Council to retire in 1952—Professor A. M. Fraser, Memorial University College; Dr. Hilda Neatby, University of Saskatchewan; Professor G. F. G. Stanley, Royal Military College; Marcel Trudel, Laval University.

A hearty vote of thanks was passed by the Association to the individuals who did so much to make the gathering a success. Premier A. L. Macdonald and the Government of the Province of Nova Scotia were thanked for a financial grant which allowed the Association to provide assistance for its members desiring to attend the meetings in Halifax, Dr. Kerr of Dalhousie University was thanked for his hospitable welcome and for the provision of splendid facilities to the Association, Dr. G. E. Wilson, chairman of the local committee on arrangements, was given a vote of thanks for his most successful efforts, and Dr. Harvey and the Nova Scotia Historical Society were remembered for the kindnesses shown in arranging a tour of Halifax and a complementary dinner for the Association on June 11.

The business meetings of the Council of the Association were productive of some important discussions. The healthy state of the reserve banking account of the Association was noted, standing at over \$2,000, and it was decided to purchase another \$500 bond from this reserve. This purchase has since been made, and brings the Association's holdings in bonds to \$1,500, which will form the nucleus of what is hoped will become an endowment fund. Discussion on the purposes of this fund brought out the suggestions that it be used for assisting publication of historical material, or as an endowment for the giving of an annual prize for notable achievement in historical studies. The size of the fund obviously makes it impossible to undertake any such ventures at present, but the Association's policy will be to increase this fund by contributions from members and other sources.

The Association also undertook to prepare a brief for presentation to the Royal Commission on National Development in the Arts, Letters and Sciences, touching on the subjects to be investigated by the Commission which were of special interest to members of the Association. This brief was drawn up by members of Council and submitted to the Commission on August 19, 1949, by the president (Professor A. L. Burt) and the past president (Abbé A. Maheux). The document included suggestions concerning the strengthening of the Public Archives of Canada, the preservation of historical material bearing on the public interest contained in the papers of ministers of the crown, and the acquisition of private collections of papers by the Archives. In addition the Association made recommendations regarding a National Library for Canada, expanded museum facilities in Canada, documentary films, governmental assistance to help publication of scholarly material, public aid to scholars attending major international conferences, a scheme of

national scholarships at the undergraduate and post-graduate level, and the establishment of a National Commission for UNESCO in Canada.

The Council also decided to publish an Index to the historical material in the *Annual Reports* of the Association as an aid to readers and researchers using these *Reports*. This index will be based on a private index to the *Reports* compiled by Dr. Lucien Brault of the Public Archives of Canada and kindly made available by Dr. Brault to the Association. The Index will be prepared under the supervision of the editors of the *Annual Report*, and will probably be published as a supplement to the *Annual Report* in 1951, when the Association marks its thirtieth anniversary.

DAVID M. L. FARR