

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

Marius Barbeau

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

New Members.—Sixty-eight new members were added to our lists since the last annual meeting: 32 for Ontario, 21 for Quebec, 4 for New Brunswick, 3 for British Columbia, 3 for the United States, 2 for Alberta, 1 for Germany; and two affiliated societies, one for Saskatchewan and the other for Nova Scotia.

The President's visit to local historical societies.—The president last summer visited all the provinces except Prince Edward Island, and conferred with groups of members and representatives of local historical societies in most of the principal cities. The purpose of these conferences was to assist in building up the association, strengthening the lines of co-operation with the local societies, and discussing ways and means of making the association more generally useful.

The Historic Sites and Monuments Board.—It is the purpose of the association to co-operate with the federal board in the compilation of as complete and accurate a list as possible of historic sites and buildings throughout Canada; and also with the Quebec Board under the Legislature, and other provincial institutions with similar aims.

The Association's Historical Sites Committee.—The committee, at the last annual meeting, was authorized to employ a competent assistant, at a small remuneration, to put into convenient shape the association's records relating to historic sites and monuments and gather further data by correspondence and otherwise. Mr. Pemberton Smith, the chairman, reports that Mr. Donald Ross-Ross, of Montreal, was put in charge of the work, and made considerable progress, but has been compelled to resign on accepting an important position in Cornwall. The chairman has himself paid his assistant an allowance of \$100, and \$23 for expenses, and has offered this amount as his personal contribution to the association. We put on record the association's acknowledgment of Mr. Pemberton Smith's generosity.

Outline lectures in Canadian history.—Lectures were completed during the year by Dr. J. C. Webster on "Louisbourg," and by Judge Howay on "Pacific Coast explorers." Others are being prepared by Dr. A. G. Doughty on "The Siege of Quebec, 1759"; by Professor Chester Martin on "The Red River Settlement," and by Mr. Lawrence J. Burpee on "The North West Company." These and other lectures will be ready presumably during the coming year with their accompanying sets of lantern slides, and will be placed at the disposal of high school teachers and others desirous of using them as the foundation of lectures on Canadian history.

Methods of teaching history in the schools.—The president is giving serious thought to this important subject, and is considering the possibility of putting together in the form of a small hand-book certain suggestions to strengthen and make more popular what is admittedly one of the weakest subjects in the school curriculum.

The Hand-book of Historical Societies.—The Conference of Historical Societies, which includes representatives of most of the historical organizations of both the United States and Canada, has undertaken the praiseworthy task of preparing a Hand-book of Historical Societies in North America. When this has been completed, it will form a very useful work of reference.

The Centenary volume of the Literary and Historical Society of Quebec, 1824-1924.—The members of the association were delighted to receive a copy of this volume, at the time of the annual meeting at Quebec in 1924. It is an attractive publication of over three hundred pages, containing a history of the most venerable of Canadian historical societies, and a summary of its activities and list of publications.

The two hundredth anniversary of the birth of James Wolfe.—Plans are under consideration both in England and Canada for the fitting celebration in 1927 of this anniversary. Dr. J. C. Webster, who has discussed the matter with various people during his recent visit to England, will report his conclusions at the annual meeting in Montreal.

Mr. John Buchan's visit to Canada.—This association, together with the Canadian Authors' Association, had the privilege last autumn of entertaining at a dinner in Ottawa the well-known historian and novelist, John Buchan. Mr. Buchan's most notable achievements, from the point of view of this Association, are perhaps his *History of the Great War*, and his *Life of Lord Minto*.

While in Canada, Mr. Buchan is understood to have discussed with His Excellency the Governor General and the Prime Minister the idea of a series of prizes to be offered by the Dominion Government, either annually or at longer intervals, for the most meritorious work by a Canadian in poetry, history, fiction and painting. A similar idea has already been put into operation by the Quebec Government in favour of its people. The council of this association should give consideration to the plan and make representations to the Dominion Government either alone or in co-operation with such other organizations as the Royal Society of Canada and the Canadian Authors' Association. The value of such a stimulus in the development of Canadian art and literature cannot be denied. It has lately received interesting recognition; and we may note here that the Royal Society has been the recipient of two endowed gold medals, one, the gift of Sir Joseph Flavelle, and the other, of Dr. Lorne Pierce. The first is open to all Fellows of the Royal Society, and the latter to Fellows of the Sections of French and English Literature and History (*I and II*).

The David Thompson Memorial.—It is gratifying to report that the proposal to place in Mount Royal Cemetery a memorial stone over the grave of David Thompson, the famous western explorer, is now about to be realized. The president's efforts have been rewarded by the following subscriptions: The Canadian Pacific Railway, \$150; the Hudson's Bay Company, \$75; the Canadian National Railways, \$75; the Bank of Montreal, \$75; the Royal Bank of Canada, \$75; the Sun Life Assurance Company, \$75. It seems appropriate that our association should also devote a suitable amount toward this important object. Subscriptions from individuals should be addressed to the Treasurer of the Canadian Historical Association.

David Thompson, neglected during his lifetime and dying in poverty, is to-day coming in for belated recognition among his fellow-countrymen and others. A few years ago the Hudson's Bay Company and the Canadian Pacific Railway built an effective memorial to him on the shores of lake Windermere,

in the valley of the Columbia river—a reproduction of a typical trading fort, which is now maintained as an historical museum. A monument is also to be unveiled at the town of Verendrye, North Dakota, to commemorate his work as an explorer and surveyor in that part of the west. Mr. T. C. Elliott, of Walla Walla, Wash., will on that occasion give an address on Thompson, and our president, Mr. Burpee, on LaVérendrye.

Historical memorials for British Columbia.—A generous gift by the Hudson's Bay Company here deserves to be recorded; that is, the amount of \$10,000 toward the cost of historical pictures to be presented to the University of British Columbia. Mr. John Innes, of Vancouver, has been commissioned by the Native Sons of British Columbia to paint the series, which will consist of eight pictures. Among the subjects are the meeting of Vancouver with Don Galiano off Point Grey in 1792, Alexander Mackenzie's arrival on the Pacific in 1793, Simon Fraser in the Canyon of the Fraser in 1808, the erection of Fort Victoria in 1843, and Sir James Douglas at Fort Langley in 1859.

Our delegate to the Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association.—Professor George M. Wrong, of the University of Toronto, represented our association at the annual meeting in December last of the American Historical Association in Richmond, Virginia. Here is his brief report of the proceedings:—

"In attending the annual meeting of the American Historical Association at Richmond in December, 1924, three things struck me as likely to be suggestive for the Canadian Historical Association.

"(1) The American Historical Association has in its forty years of life acquired an importance which gives a certain distinction to the places chosen for each annual meeting. At Richmond, the members were welcomed by the Governor of Virginia and he gave for them a reception at his official residence. The University of Richmond entertained the members at luncheon. The William and Mary College at Williamsburg also entertained the members at luncheon, and facilities were provided for visiting Jamestown and Yorktown. The Richmond newspapers gave considerable space to reports of the meeting. All this shows that the public are ready to take an interest in a society concerned with History.

"(2) I was struck with the number of school teachers present at the meeting. Professors were there, of course, in large numbers, but it was interesting to find school and university linked in this common interest and to observe the close fellowship among all those engaged in the teaching of History.

"(3) The meeting was made memorable by the presence of a considerable number of historians from England, and it was pleasant to observe how they and their utterances were received. The marked respect which the American members of the Association seemed to feel for their British brethren impressed me. It is of good omen for increased cordiality between the two branches of the English speaking peoples.

"The papers read at the Association were rather too technical in character for public gatherings. Their range was very extensive. One section was given to Slavonic history, another to the preservation of Archives, the third to still unexplored problems in the modern history of the British Empire. As yet the Canadian Historical Association can hardly cover so wide a field, but this is the goal which it should, I think, have in view."

(Signed) GEORGE M. WRONG, Toronto, January 6, 1925.

C. MARIUS BARBEAU.