

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

Reports of the Secretary-Treasurer

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REPORTS OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

C. N. COCHRANE

I

The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association took place at Ottawa on Monday and Tuesday, May 17 and 18. Through the courtesy of Dr. Doughty, the general sessions were held in the new wing of the Dominion Archives. Members of the Association, who had not recently visited the capital, had an opportunity of inspecting the beautiful addition to the Archives building, with its admirable facilities for preserving and exhibiting the manuscript and other treasures of the Public Archives of Canada. During the meeting, special exhibits of historical material, books, and pictures were on view. There was a gratifying attendance of members from all parts of the Dominion, the Maritime provinces being especially well represented.

The general sessions began on Monday afternoon. The president, the Hon. Thomas Chapais, opened the meeting by a brief address in French and English. The chairman of the Management Committee then read his report on the activities of the past year, and the secretary-treasurer presented the financial statement. These reports indicated that the affairs of the association were in a healthy condition.

The academic side of the program began with an address by Dr. A. G. Doughty, describing a new device—still nameless—for the reproduction of documents. This invention, which is an improvement on the photostat, makes it possible to produce exact copies of historical texts in any quantity, and the copies may be so reduced in size that a whole number of *Punch* is contained on a single page of paper. The text may then be read by means of a magnifying glass, or may again be enlarged to any size desired. Dr. Doughty suggested several ways in which this important device might be used to facilitate research. The next speaker, Mr. H. P. Hill of Ottawa, gave a most lively and entertaining account of the discussions which preceded the selection of Bytown as the national capital, emphasizing the prescience of Lord Dalhousie, whose keen eye had early detected the advantages of the site, and quoting from the editorial fulminations of the *Bytown Gazette* to illustrate the spirit in which the controversy was sustained. Mr. S. B. Watson of Toronto then outlined the considerations which must guide the action of publishers in selecting historical pictures for educational purposes in schools. A paper on Sir Howard Douglas, by Prof. Leo Harvey of the University of New Brunswick, described the significance of Douglas as one of the best of the early military governors. Mr. C. Marius Barbeau of Ottawa, taking as his title, "Pseudo-history among the Indians", discussed the methods by which tribal traditions could be made to yield significant historical material. "The First St. Lawrence Deepening Scheme" was the theme of a valuable paper on the development of that waterway, delivered by Mr. George W. Brown of Toronto. Major Gustave Lanctot then gave a very clear and succinct account of the organization of the courts under the *ancien régime*. The question of celebrating the Wolfe Bicentenary was again raised by Dr. J. C. Webster, and it was decided that the Association should continue to support the project. Col. William Wood concluded the program by discussing the possibility of a pictorial treatment of history for educational purposes.

On Monday evening, the presidential address was delivered by the Hon. Thomas Chapais in the hall of the Victoria Memorial Museum. Senator Chapais spoke in French, urging with great force the necessity of absolute veracity and exactitude on the part of historians, without which a sound reconstruction of the past is impossible. Following his address, a resolution was proposed by the Hon. Mr. Justice Mignault and seconded by Dr. A. G. Doughty, by which the thanks of the Association were conveyed to Senator Chapais for his services as president.

The past year marks an important stage in the life of the association. By an arrangement made with the board of editors of the *Canadian Historical Review*, members now receive copies of the *Review* as they are issued. To make this possible, the management committee had authorized an increase in the annual membership fee from \$2 to \$3, and this action of the committee was confirmed by a unanimous vote at the general business meeting. Negotiations are now being concluded whereby French-Canadian members may receive the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques* as an alternative to the *Review*, or any member, upon payment of an additional dollar, may receive both journals. Members will thus have an opportunity of keeping in touch with the latest developments of research in either language.

The David Thompson Memorial Fund, which at the end of the year 1924-5 stood at \$525, has now reached the sum of approximately \$800.00.

The thanks of the association are due to the generosity of those who have contributed to the support of so worthy a project. A design for a gravestone, submitted by the committee in charge, was approved by the Association. This design consists of a fluted column surmounted by a sextant, which with the base will stand about nine feet in height. Thompson's remains lie in an unmarked grave in Mount Royal cemetery, Montreal, and money has still to be raised sufficient to ensure perpetual care of the lot. It is hoped that this may be done in time to permit of the unveiling of the monument during the autumn of the present year.

Herewith is appended a list of the officers elected for the coming year. It will be noted that Prof. G. M. Wrong of Toronto succeeds Senator Chapais in the presidency. M. Gustave Lanctot of Ottawa assumes the duties of French secretary. The number of councillors has been increased from six to nine, in order that there may be a more adequate representation by provinces,—

President, George M. Wrong, Toronto.

Vice-president, Arthur G. Doughty, Ottawa.

Chairman of Management Committee, Lawrence J. Burpee, Ottawa.

English Secretary and Treasurer, Charles N. Cochrane, Toronto.

French Secretary, Gustave Lanctot, Ottawa.

Auditor, Col. J. F. Cunningham, Ottawa.

Council (in addition to the above-named officers): Archibald MacMechan, Halifax; Leo Harvey, Fredericton; Pierre Georges Roy, Quebec; Ægidius Fauteux, Montreal; D. A. McArthur, Kingston; Chester Martin, Winnipeg; F. H. Underhill, Saskatoon; A. L. Burt, Edmonton; F. W. Howay, New Westminster.

Standing Committee on Historic Landmarks: James Coyne (chairman), Pemberton Smith, Mrs. J. B. Simpson, C. M. Barbeau, Harlan I. Smith, A. S. Morton.

II

Arrangements with the Canadian Historical Review and le Bulletin des Recherches Historiques.—For some time the Management Committee had felt that the receipt of either or both of these journals by the members of the Canadian Historical Association would serve a useful purpose in keeping alive their interest in the development of historical research in the field of Canadian history in both languages. The committee, therefore, entered into arrangements with the editors of these journals whereby members should receive copies at a reduced rate. These arrangements were approved at the general annual meeting held in Ottawa in May, 1926, and mark a distinct advance in the work of the association.

Membership.—From the point of view of the secretary-treasurer it was necessary that there should be a very strict revision of the membership roll because of the financial obligation incurred in connection with the Review and the Bulletin. An effort was, therefore, made to eliminate so far as possible names of those who could no longer be regarded as active members and the secretary is pleased to report that the membership roll now contains the names only of those who are actively supporting the Association. It is gratifying also to note that the *entente cordiale* manifests itself in the fact that many members have asked for both journals and a considerable number of English members have asked for the French journal and *vice versa*.

The Wolfe Bicentenary.—At the annual meeting the question of celebrating the Wolfe Bicentenary was again discussed. A committee, with Dr. J. C. Webster as chairman, was reappointed.

David Thompson Memorial.—Owing to the efforts chiefly of the chairman of the Management Committee subscriptions have been received sufficient to warrant the executive in making a contract for the completion of this work. The artist chosen was Mr. Henri Hébert, R.C.A., of Montreal, and the design which he submitted was approved at the annual general meeting, the work to be finished in the autumn of 1926. For the benefit of those who were not at the annual meeting it might be stated that the memorial consists of a fluted column surmounted by a sextant, the whole to stand approximately nine feet high with an inscription recounting in brief the main achievements of David Thompson. It is interesting to note that the committee found that Thompson had been buried in a lot, the title to which was apparently invested in another name, and a certain proportion of the funds received had, therefore, to be devoted to securing rights to the grave and insuring perpetuity to the memorial. The names of subscribers up to April 30, 1926, are published in that portion of the financial report of the treasurer, entitled David Thompson Memorial Fund.