

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-Treasurer

Norman Fee

Volume 13, numéro 1, 1934

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/300123ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/300123ar>

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Éditeur(s)

The Canadian Historical Association/La Société historique du Canada

ISSN

0317-0594 (imprimé)

1712-9095 (numérique)

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Citer ce document

Fee, N. (1934). Report of the Secretary-Treasurer. *Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association / Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada*, 13(1), 18–19. <https://doi.org/10.7202/300123ar>

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

By NORMAN FEE

The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association which was held at McGill University, Montreal, on May 20-2, proved to be one of the most successful in recent years. Professor Duncan McArthur gave in his presidential paper a very interesting analysis of the origin and growth of the Dominion Archives in Ottawa, and traced especially the influence of the Archives in Canadian historical writing. He also made several valuable suggestions for the future development of the Archives. The other papers which were read, and which are printed in this report, were of a high order. C. P. Stacey traced the movement for the withdrawal of British military forces in Canada and showed its important effects on English and Canadian politics. R. S. Longley analysed the important services of Francis Hincks in connection with Canadian public finance in the 1840's. G. deT. Glazebrook discussed the problems and extent of road-building during the French régime and the relation of roads to the general movement of expansion. R. O. MacFarlane gave an account of Indian trade in Nova Scotia with special reference to the unfortunate experiences of 1760-2 in connection with the government's trading posts. K. B. Wainwright and Margaret Ells contributed two statistical studies on the numbers of Loyalists who settled in Cape Breton and Nova Scotia. These papers, prepared under the supervision of D. C. Harvey, are another evidence of the valuable work which is being done at the Nova Scotia Archives and the exhaustive research indicates that the figures arrived at are as accurate as we are ever likely to obtain. The result, especially in the case of Cape Breton, is a radical revision of previous estimates. A. A. Marchbin read a paper on the origin of south-east European immigration to Canada. At a joint session with the Political Science Association an excellent paper presenting much new material was read by Chester Martin on the subject of land grants to Canadian railways. In recognition of the anniversary of Cartier's first voyage, a special session was held at the Château de Ramezay where papers were given by Léon Gérin and A. Beau-grand-Champagne. G. Lanctot read another by title. H. P. Biggar and W. D. Lighthall, although unable to attend, also sent papers on Cartier.

McGill University entertained the Political Science and Historical Associations at tea and also at a dinner at which Professor Stephen Leacock, President of the Political Science Association, spoke on "The revision of democracy". Members of the Historical Association were given a delightful excursion to the historic church of Sault-au-Récollet and to the Manoir de Repentigny where they were entertained by Mrs. Colville, the present owner. Mrs. Colville in her admirable restoration of the manor buildings during the past few years has fully preserved their great historic interest.

At the business session the following officers were elected for next year: President, F. J. Audet of the Archives in Ottawa; Vice-president, E. R. Adair, McGill University; Chairman of the Management Committee, R. G. Trotter, Queen's University; French Secretary, G. Lanctot; English Secretary and Treasurer, Norman Fee; Editorial Committee, E. R. Adair,

G. Lanctot, D. McArthur, Chester Martin. A resolution was also passed to the effect that in the future the Association should financially and otherwise be independent of any government department. For some years past the Association has received a valuable and much appreciated support from the Public Archives in Ottawa, especially in respect of the printing of its annual report. It was felt, however, that the time had arrived when the Association should be able to carry on without relying on this assistance.