

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

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By NORMAN FEE

The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association for 1935-36 was held in Ottawa on May 26 and 27. Following the practice of the previous year, joint sessions were held on one day with the Canadian Political Science Association. On the afternoon of May 26, the attention of the joint session was directed to western Canada. Professor W. A. Mackintosh of Queen's University, Canadian editor of the excellent series on "Canadian frontiers of settlement" which is now in course of publication, gave an admirable analysis of the chief characteristics of economic development in pioneer communities. Professor A. S. Morton of the University of Saskatchewan described "The North West Company's Columbian enterprise and David Thompson", and in doing so criticized rather sharply Thompson's slowness in reaching the mouth of the Columbia river. In the evening of the 26th the presidential addresses were delivered by Professor E. R. Adair of McGill University on "The military reputation of Major-General James Wolfe", and by Mr. R. H. Coats, the dominion statistician, on "Statistics comes of age". On the morning of the 26th a round-table session was given to the question of local history, historical societies, and archives. Professor Fred Landon of the University of Western Ontario was in the chair. The session was opened by Professor D. C. Harvey, the archivist of Nova Scotia, and Dr. J. J. Talman, the archivist of Ontario, who were followed by a discussion in which the importance of encouraging the collection and preservation of historical materials in local communities was strongly emphasized. Professor Landon was later appointed to investigate the means by which the association might contribute to the development of local historical collections.

Following dinner on May 26 a discussion on the teaching of international relations in Canadian universities was led by Professor W. E. C. Harrison of Queen's University. The Canadian Institute of International Affairs combined with the two associations in this session.

On Wednesday May 27th sessions were held in the Public Archives when papers were read as follows: *John Simpson, 1788-1873, Percepteur des Douanes et Député*, by F. J. Audet, Public Archives, Ottawa. *Le 17 ou le 18?*, by Arthur Saint-Pierre, Montréal. *Faux et Faussaires en histoire canadienne*, by Gustave Lanctot, Public Archives, Ottawa. *Selkirk and Louisiana*, by J. P. Pritchett, Vassar College. *Sir Charles Bagot as an Authority on American-Canadian Boundary Questions*, by Wm. O. Mulligan, Montreal. *Public Opinion and the McLeod Case*, by A. B. Corey, The St. Lawrence University. *An Unsolved Problem of Canadian History*, by F. G. Roe, Edmonton. *Some Aspects of the Komagata Maru Affair, 1914*, by E. W. Morse, Ottawa.

At the evening session Professor Griffith Taylor, recently appointed to the newly created chair in geography at the University of Toronto, spoke on "The geographical approaches to European history". His highly interesting and profusely illustrated lecture was followed by a lively and critical discussion.

On the afternoon of the 27th the Women's Canadian Historical

Society of Ottawa entertained the association at tea at the Bytown Museum which houses a valuable historical collection.

The principal officers elected for this year are: President, Professor C. W. New, Hamilton; vice-president, Professor D. C. Harvey, Halifax; chairman of the management committee, Professor R. G. Trotter, Kingston; English secretary and treasurer, Mr. Norman Fee, Public Archives, Ottawa; French secretary, Major Gustave Lanctot, also of the Dominion Archives. Major Lanctot and Professor G. de T. Glazebrook of the University of Toronto, were appointed an editorial committee.

A constitutional amendment was passed to provide for the retirement of one-third of the twelve members of the association's council each year and the election of four new members. The membership fee for local historical societies was reduced from \$5.00 per year to \$3.00 per year. The association also established a student membership at \$1.00 per year, open to graduate or undergraduate students registered at universities, and arranged for joint membership with The Canadian Political Science Association at \$4.00 per year; joint membership to include subscription to the *Canadian Historical Review* or to the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques* and to the *Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*.