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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 was held in Ottawa on May 23 and 24, concurrently with that of the Canadian Political Science Association. Joint sessions were held in the evening of May 23 and in the afternoon and evening of May 24. The general theme around which the historical sessions were in part built was "The 1840's as a Period of Revolutionary Changes in British North America". The following papers related to this central theme: "The European Background of the 1840's", by Edgar McInnis, University of Toronto; "The Product of Revolutions", by A. R. M. Lower, Wesley College, Winnipeg; "Patronage and Parliamentary Government", by J. Bartlet Brebner, Columbia University; "Intercolonial Communications, 1840-1867", by J. S. Martell, Public Archives of Nova Scotia; "Head and Responsible Government in New Brunswick", by D. G. G. Kerr, Montreal; "George Etienne Cartier in the Period of the 'Forties", by J. I. Cooper, McGill University; "The Early Methodist Church and the Canadian Point of View", by George W. Brown, University of Toronto; "The External Relations of the Province of Canada", by George deT. Glazebrook, University of Toronto; "Canadian Border Defence Problems After 1814 to Their Culmination in the 'Forties", by A. B. Corey, The St. Lawrence University; "The Ashburton-Webster Boundary Settlement", by J. R. Baldwin, McMaster University.

The joint session with the Canadian Political Science Association on the afternoon of May 24 was given over to the subject of business history. Mr. N. S. B. Gras, Harvard University, presented a paper on "Why Study Business History?" and Professor A. S. Morton, University of Saskatchewan, presented a paper on "The Business Methods and the Archives of the Hudson's Bay Company". In the absence of Abbé Lionel Groulx, who was prevented from being present by illness, Mgr Olivier Maurault, rector of the University of Montreal who presided at the joint sessions on May 23, was good enough to prepare a very interesting short description of the historical writing of the Abbé Groulx in which he commented on the relationship of French- and English-speaking Canadians.

The presidential address of Mr. D. C. Harvey, archivist of the province of Nova Scotia, was on the subject of historical writing in Nova Scotia before Confederation. The paper brought out interesting and important evidence with regard to the attitudes and loyalties of Nova Scotia, and was a timely contribution to the historical background of the vexed question of Dominion-provincial relations. Mr. Harvey made clear the sharp change in point of view which was forced on the province by the Confederation issue.

The principal officers elected for this year are: President, Reginald G. Trotter, Kingston; vice-president, J. Bartlet Brebner, New York, N.Y.; English secretary and treasurer, Norman Fee, Ottawa; French secretary, Séraphin Marion, Ottawa; programme committee, E. R. Adair, A. B. Corey, and D. G. Creighton.

The Association wishes to record its thanks to the Honourable the Secretary of State of Canada and the Dominion Archivist for the accommodation provided in the pleasant surroundings of the Northcliffe Room of the Public Archives.