

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

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By NORMAN FEE

The Executive and Council of the Canadian Historical Association held two meetings during the year, one at the home of Dr Trotter, Kingston, in November last, and one at the University of Western Ontario, London, on May 22, prior to the annual meeting. The meetings were largely attended.

As the business transacted at these meetings is closely related, this report will deal with the general business transacted and the work done throughout the year, instead of attempting to report steps taken at each meeting on the various matters and subjects discussed. Council determined that in view of the expressions of opinion by members and Council in response to a letter of the President, the Association should carry on and keep up its activities during the war. Membership fee for libraries was reduced from \$5.00 to \$3.00 per year, and the price of the annual report of the Association was increased to \$2.00 per copy. Messrs Adair, Brebner, and the Dominion Archivist were named a national committee to represent Canada in relations with the International Committee of Historical Sciences. Mr Adair, chairman of the Committee, presented a report and submitted a bibliography of newspapers of Canada prepared under his direction by Miss Jean Lunn, for the Commission d'histoire de la presse, of the International Committee. Mr Glazebrook, chairman of the Radio Committee, as reconstituted last year, outlined the work of his committee. The work of Mr Riddell, English secretary of the committee, was loudly praised, and the chairman emphasized that the closer co-operation which was developing between the C.H.A. and the C.B.C. was in large measure due to the efforts of Mr Riddell. Mr Brown, who was named delegate to the meeting of the Conference of Historical Societies, held in Washington in December last, reported that at least two local historical societies were members of the Conference, and recommended that the Association assist the Conference by furnishing lists of historical societies on request, and in any other way which might be deemed feasible.

Special consideration was given to the report of the committee appointed last autumn to investigate and recommend means of encouraging the preservation of records of all kinds pertaining to Canada's participation in the war. The committee was enlarged, and now includes R. G. Trotter, chairman, E. R. Adair, G. W. Brown, J. J. Talman, and the Abbé Maheux. The following letter embodying a resolution of the Association to be sent to the Prime Minister, the Secretary of State of Canada, and to the Premiers of the Provinces, was approved.

The Canadian Historical Association, at its annual meeting held in London, Ontario, May 22-24, adopted unanimously the following resolution:

That this Association express its sense of the great importance in the national interest as well as in the interest of historical scholarship, that records of Canada's part in the present war, official and unofficial, should be preserved for posterity in such manner as to make them available for the largest use, and therefore would urge upon governmental authorities and unofficial organizations the importance of keeping this purpose in mind in the disposition of all records of the war period.

The Association, confident that you are in sympathy with its purpose in this matter, in which the needs of the future demand a definite policy in the present, instructed its committee on Preservation of Records to inform you of its action.

Organizations throughout the country such as libraries, library associations, and historical societies, are being asked to co-operate. During the course of the next few weeks this committee will prepare a memorandum on the various procedures which it would judge suitable for institutions and organizations which may be good enough to co-operate in this service.

The president outlined the tentative proposals advanced by a committee of the Royal Society which envisaged the possibility of close affiliation between that Society and the Canadian Historical Association and the Canadian Political Science Association. Messrs Trotter and Creighton, representatives of the general committee, consisting of Messrs Lanctot, chairman, Trotter, Glazebrook, and Creighton, named by the president to discuss the principle and details of the plan, met along with two representatives of the C.P.S.A., a committee of the Royal Society. No specific proposals were presented, but it was agreed that some arrangements for partially joint programmes might prove practicable on occasions when the several bodies should find it convenient to meet at the same place, and to arrange overlapping schedules.

The formation of the Social Science Research Council of Canada was reported, with a draft of its constitution, and R. G. Trotter was named as the Association's representative. Council accepted with regret the resignation of Professor Creighton as editor of the report, and appointed Mr R. G. Riddell editor for 1940.

The president read a letter sent by the Association to the Consul General of Poland, on the treatment of the University of Cracow, and other Polish institutions of learning, deploring and condemning this assault on the custodians and promoters of Polish culture.

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Association was held in London on May 22-24. The local arrangements were admirably managed; all parts of the Dominion were represented; the careful thought and hard work of the programme committee were manifest at every stage of the programme, and all the papers were on a high level of excellence. They are printed in this report. The titles are: "Hopes Raised by Steam in 1840," D. C. Harvey, Public Archives, Nova Scotia; "Canada's Bid for the Traffic of the Middle West: A Quarter-century of the History of the St. Lawrence Waterway, 1849-74," Samuel McKee, Jr., Columbia University; "T. C. Keefer and the Development of Canadian Transportation," D. C. Masters, United College; "Manitoba Politics and Parties after Confederation," R. O. MacFarlane, University of Manitoba; "Sir John Macdonald in Caricature," A. R. M. Lower, United College; "Canada and Sanctions in the Italo-Ethiopian Conflict," Miss Gwendolen M. Carter, Wellesley College; "The European-Canadians in Their Press," Watson Kirkconnell, Winnipeg; "The Frontier in the History of New France," A. L. Burt, University of Minnesota; "Latin-American Frontiers," A. S. Aiton, University of

Michigan; "Western Canada and the Frontier Thesis," G. F. G. Stanley, Mount Allison University. The presidential address by Professor Bartlet Brebner of Columbia University was a penetrating and challenging analysis of the qualities which underlie the development of a Canadian national spirit. The following papers were read at a joint session with the Canadian Political Science Association: "The Growth of Government Activities in Canada, 1914-21," J. A. Corry, Queen's University, and "War Finance and the Canadian Economy, 1914-1918," J. J. Deutsch, Queen's University. Professor Corry's paper will be printed in the Historical Association's report and Professor Deutsch's in the November number of the *Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*.

Officers were elected as follows: President, G. Lanctot, Ottawa; vice-president, F. Landon, London; secretary-treasurer, Norman Fee, Ottawa; French secretary, Séraphin Marion, Ottawa; members of council to retire in 1943, R. Flenley, Toronto, Kaye Lamb, Victoria, Watson Kirkconnell, Winnipeg, the Abbé Arthur Maheux, Quebec.

The thanks of the Association were expressed to Miss Jean Lunn for her bibliography of the Canadian press. Resolutions were also adopted, thanking the University of Western Ontario for the courtesy extended in providing accommodation for the meetings, and also for the hospitality to members; to Messrs Landon, Talman, and Dorland, the committee in charge of local arrangements; to the Canadian press, and the local press for advance notices and reports of the meetings; to the London Life Insurance Company, and the City of London for accommodation provided for meetings; to Mr Arthur Ford, editor of the *London Free Press* for presiding at the annual meeting, and to Mr Creighton, editor of the report, for his work as editor during the past year, and to Mr Creighton and the members of the programme committee for the excellence of the programme.

SÉRAPHIN MARION
French Secretary

NORMAN FEE
English Secretary