

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

David M. L. Farr

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

THE annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held at the Provincial Archives, Victoria, British Columbia, and the University of British Columbia at Vancouver, from June 16 to June 19, 1948. In spite of transportation difficulties caused by the floods in British Columbia in late May, a large number of members of the Association made the journey to the Pacific coast, and the 1948 annual meeting, the first to be held west of the Rockies in the Association's history, was well attended and a marked success.

The general session at Victoria was centred about three papers dealing with the history of British Columbia in the colonial period and as a province of Canada. Dr. Margaret A. Ormsby read a paper on "Canada and the New British Columbia," Mr. Willard E. Ireland presented a paper on "British Columbia's American Heritage," and W. Kaye Lamb's essay entitled "A Bent Twig in British Columbia," was read in his absence by Professor A. C. Cooke.

A conference on local history was held at the Provincial Archives in Victoria on June 17, under the chairmanship of Dr. George W. Spragge, Supervisor of Local History, Department of Education, Ontario. The group considered the state of the writing of local history in Canada today and discussed methods by which the members of the Association might be kept informed of the progress being made in local history in other provinces and the means by which the material bearing on local history might be preserved. It was decided to continue the Local History Committee of the Canadian Historical Association for another year as previously constituted.*

On June 18 the Association reconvened in Vancouver for a general session at the University of British Columbia. Papers were presented which related to the events of 1848 in Canada, Nova Scotia, and the Red River area. These papers included: "Events of 1848 in Canada and Nova Scotia: Comparison and Contrasts," by Dr. R. S. Longley; "Cent Ans de Gouvernement à la Rivière Rouge," by the Rev. Antoine d'Eschambault (read in his absence by l'abbé A. Maheux), and "LaFontaine and 1848 in Canada," by the Rev. V. J. Jensen, S.J. That afternoon a joint session with the Canadian Political Science Association was held at which W. T. Easterbrook presented a paper on "Security, Enterprise and History," and H. N. Fieldhouse read an essay on "The Autonomy and Limitations of Historical Thought." In the evening session the presidential addresses of the two Associations were given, the President of the Canadian Historical Association, F. H. Soward, reading a paper on "1848 and 1948." The final general session held on the morning of June 19, was given up to papers dealing with Canadian cultural history: one by Gérard Morisset on "Les Arts en Nouvelle-France sous le Régime français," and one by Lawren Harris on "The Group of Seven in Canadian History."

The following officers were elected by the Association for the year 1948-9: President, l'Abbé Arthur Maheux, Laval University; vice-pre-

*A full account of the conference on local history in Victoria on June 17, will be found in the *Canadian Historical Review* for June, 1948, pp. 222-3.

sident, A. L. Burt, University of Minnesota; English secretary and treasurer, David M. L. Farr, Carleton College; French secretary, Séraphin Marion, Public Archives of Canada; members of Council to replace those retiring, Norman Fee, Public Archives of Canada; G. P. de T. Glazebrook, University of Toronto; G. O. Rothney, Sir George Williams College; and C. P. Stacey, Historical Section, Department of National Defence.

The 1948 meeting of the Association was the first one to be held in British Columbia in the Association's life and the appreciation of all members was extended to the individuals and institutions which made the gathering possible. Votes of thanks were extended to President N. A. M. MacKenzie and the staff of the University of British Columbia for the provision of excellent facilities for the meeting; to Willard Ireland, provincial archivist, for accommodation for the meetings in Victoria; to Dr. W. N. Sage and the local committee on arrangements, for their effective co-operation; and to the city of Victoria, for a complementary dinner on June 17, 1948.

The Council gave much attention to the question of the financial position of the Association, which had been made difficult by the rising cost of publication of the *Annual Report*. Dr. J. A. Gibson was appointed to head a sub-committee to make recommendations for changes in subscription rates and fees and this committee suggested a general increase in the schedule of fees. The new rates, which were approved by the general meeting of the Association, are as follows: Membership, \$3.00 a year; membership and including subscription to the *Canadian Historical Review* or to the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*, \$5.00 a year; membership and including both of the above noted publications, \$6.00 a year. The student membership rate was abolished but a special rate of \$3.00 per year was set up for history clubs in the universities desiring to take the *Canadian Historical Review* or the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*. The rate for a combined membership in the Canadian Historical Association and the Canadian Political Science Association was set at \$6.00 a year, following consultation with the executive of the Canadian Political Science Association. The new scale of rates was made retroactive to May 1, 1948.

A special resolution of appreciation on behalf of the Association was tendered to Mr. Norman Fee, who retired from the post of English Secretary and treasurer after twenty-one years of service. This resolution, which was read by Professor D. G. Creighton, was heartily endorsed by the members of the Association. It said:

Mr. Norman Fee, English Secretary and Treasurer of the Canadian Historical Association, is retiring this year, after twenty-one years of service. It has seemed appropriate and desirable that this association should formally record its appreciation of Mr. Fee's long and continued devotion to its interests and welfare.

In 1927, when Mr. Fee first assumed these duties, our association was five years old. In some sense an outgrowth of the old Historic Landmarks Association, it had been formally organized in 1922. These early and formative years were difficult ones; and the association will always be grateful for the work of its founders; but it is no depreciation of their labour to say, that in 1927, the year in which Mr. Fee

was appointed to the office he has since held, the association began a new career of greater usefulness. It was, for example, in this year, the Diamond Jubilee of Confederation, that Professor Wrong, then president, organized what is believed to have been the first of the integrated programmes, centred about some general theme or themes, which have been a feature of our annual meetings for many years now. It was in this year also, under the Mr. Fee's direction, that the minutes and other permanent records of our association were started. The Canadian Historical Association's written history begins with Mr. Fee's appointment. He is our first historian. For twenty-one years he has given his thought and care and effort to the association's growth.

Therefore, be it hereby resolved that the Canadian Historical Association formally records its high appreciation of the value of Mr. Fee's long services and its gratitude for the faithful and effective part which he has played in the organization.

The 1948 meeting of the Association revealed some very encouraging features which seem indicative of future growth. The sound scholarship and industry which produced the papers read before the Association in the most prominent mark of healthy historical writing in Canada; the great interest displayed in the meetings shows a quality of vigour in the Association's membership and a feeling of awareness of historical studies in Canada among many people outside the society. The membership of the Association stands at 420, the highest figure in its history, and in the presence of a favourable public attitude regarding the aims and functions of the Association, it can be expected to grow to an even greater number. The viable state of the Association at this moment can give one every confidence that its contribution to Canadian national life in the years to come will be of measurable significance.

DAVID M. L. FARR

MARCH OF BOOKS

The Canadian Library Association and the Canadian Council for Reconstruction through Unesco have embarked on March of Books, a nation-wide campaign to collect from Canadians books and periodicals of a scholarly nature for distribution to needy libraries in war-devastated countries.

Reconstruction of the educational, scientific and cultural life in war-devastated areas will contribute substantially to peace and progress in the world. All human development depends on the free exchange of ideas and information, and books are the chief instrument of this vital communication. Many overseas libraries were destroyed or damaged during World War II, and almost all were cut off from the tremendous knowledge accumulated in many fields since 1939. Letters from libraries reflect the urgent need for publications in every subject and emphasize particularly the lack of scientific and technical material.

Enquiries about March of Books are welcomed by Mr. W. A. Magill, Director, March of Books, 139½ Sparks Street, Ottawa.