

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

D. M. L. Farr

Volume 33, numéro 1, 1954

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/300366ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/300366ar>

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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

Farr, D. M. L. (1954). Report of the Secretary. *Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association / Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada*, 33(1), 86–87. <https://doi.org/10.7202/300366ar>

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association

The Canadian Historical Association held its thirty-third Annual Meeting at the University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, on June 2-5, 1954. The occasion marked the second visit of the Association to Winnipeg, the first meeting to be held there having been in 1928. It is gratifying to note that a large group of members took advantage of the central location of Winnipeg to attend what was one of the most successful programmes which the Association has presented in recent years. A feature of the meeting was a tour of historic sites in the Winnipeg area, sponsored by the Manitoba Historical and Scientific Society, which ended at Lower Fort Garry, where tea was served. Professor Richard Glover was chairman of the committee in charge of local arrangements and his committee deserves the warm thanks of all members of the Association for their efforts.

The opening session of the 1954 meeting was devoted to Canadian history and comprised two papers: "Canadian Nationalism — Immature or Obsolete?" by J. M. S. Careless and "Frontenac: New Light and a Reappraisal", by W. J. Eccles. The presidential addresses of the Association and the Canadian Political Science Association were given on the evening of June 3, when M. H. Long, the Association's President, gave an illustrated address on "The Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada", and Alexander Brady, President of the Canadian Political Science Association, spoke on "A Governing Class and Democracy". On June 4 a morning session on the history of western Canada was held in Beaver Hall, at the Hudson's Bay Company's store in Winnipeg. Here the following papers were delivered: "Crossing the Prairies Two Centuries Ago", by Clifford P. Wilson; "Le Roi du Nord et sa suite française à Winnipeg", by L. Lamontagne; and "English Missionary Records and the History of the Canadian West", by L. G. Thomas. The Association was afterwards tendered a luncheon by the Hudson's Bay Company. In the afternoon a session on medieval history was held and featured papers by T. J. Oleson, "The Vikings in America: some Problems and Recent Literature"; and G. B. Flahiff, "Twelfth Century Critics and Humanists". In the evening the Association was joined by many of the societies meeting in Winnipeg to hear the Honourable L. B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs and a distinguished member of the Association, speak on "Some Thoughts on Canadian External Relations". Professor Long acted as chairman for this meeting. The General Meeting of the Association was held on the morning of June 5 to conclude the proceedings. At this gathering votes of thanks were passed to a large number of individuals and groups in Winnipeg who had contributed to the success of the meeting.

New officers for the Association were named for the year 1954-55: President, J. J. Talman; Vice-President, G. F. G. Stanley; English Language Secretary, D. M. L. Farr; French Language Secretary, A.

Roy; *Treasurer*, W. G. Ormsby; *Editor of the Annual Report*, P. G. Cornell; *Associate Editors of the Annual Report*, Rév. Adrien Pouliot, S.J., and John S. Moir. The following persons were appointed to Council, to retire in 1957: George Buxton of Ottawa, Rév. A. d'Eschambault of Genthon, Man., R. S. Longley of Wolfville, and L. G. Thomas of Edmonton. J. B. Conacher was named chairman of the committee on local arrangements for the 1955 meeting in Toronto.

It will be generally agreed that the past year has been a satisfactory one for the Association. Membership stands at a record total of 675 and much of this increase can be attributed to the effect of the Historical Booklets series in making the aims and work of the Association better known. The Booklet series was launched in December, 1953, with Col. C. P. Stacey's pamphlet on *The Undefended Border, The Myth and the Reality*, which was followed by the second booklet, *Louis Riel, Patriot or Rebel?* by G. F. G. Stanley, distributed in February, 1954. The third booklet, that by Guy Frégault, *La Société Canadienne sous le Régime Français*, appeared in June, 1954. Booklets No. 2 and 3 were translated in order to ensure a wider distribution. It can be reported that in the issuance of these five booklets (including the translations) the Association has been able to show a modest profit which, in the early stages of the venture, is a very heartening sign. The booklets have been well received, not only in the Canadian press, but among scholars and in the general community, and have certainly provided sound and impartial treatments of certain significant topics in Canadian history. Further numbers in the series are planned, and it is expected that they will maintain the high standards set by the early booklets.

In addition to the publication of the Booklet series, the Association has distributed a memorandum on the cataloguing of small historical collections, written by Miss N. Story of the Public Archives, to almost 200 local history societies (French and English) in Canada. It has advised on the publication of a new historical atlas of Canada, sought the preservation of certain historic sites in the Ottawa area, discussed matters of concern to Canadian archivists through its Archives Committee, and assisted in the furtherance of an efficient records policy through its representation on the Canadian Government's Public Records Committee. There is no doubt that the range of the Association's activities is increasing from year to year, which is surely an accurate indication of the society's vigour and of its success in filling a useful and necessary place in the Canadian community.

—D. M. L. FARR.

Ottawa
October, 1954.