

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

The thirty-fourth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held at the University of Toronto, Toronto, on June 1-4, 1955. The Association had last met at Toronto in 1946, when one of the leading subjects of discussion had been the compiling of the service histories of the Second World War. Nine years later, with Toronto again the place of meeting, the subjects of the papers reflected the diversity characteristic of the peace-time historical interests of the members of the Association. The 1955 sessions marked the fourth time the Association had met in Toronto; the previous occasions being in 1927, 1942 and 1946. It is almost certain that in none of these years did the attendance at the meetings exceed that for 1955, when approximately 200 people took part in various activities connected with the sessions. Several events of an unusual and interesting nature took place, such as the tour of the printing departments of the University of Toronto Press, the visit to the Ontario Archives and the Sigmund Samuel Gallery, and the bus tour of historic sites and hydro-electric power developments in the Niagara Peninsula, which was arranged by the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Members who took part in that tour will remember particularly the generous hospitality provided by the Commission, highlighted by the pleasant luncheon at the Sheraton-Brock Hotel. The local arrangements for the Toronto meetings were handled by a committee from Flavell House under the chairmanship of Prof. J. B. Conacher, to whom great credit for the success of the meetings must be accorded. The work of Prof. Conacher and his associates at Toronto is another example of the faithful voluntary service given the Association by a large group of interested members.

Registration began after lunch on June 1 and the first session occurred that evening, when a capacity audience in the Hart House Debates Room heard H. Blair Neatby of Prince of Wales College, Charlottetown, and J. A. Colvin of Ottawa speak on Sir Wilfrid Laurier's imperial and commercial views. On the next morning (June 2) a session was devoted to problems in European historical thought, when three papers were presented. R. M. Saunders of the University of Toronto spoke on "The Function of History, a *philosophe* View"; Ezio Cappelletti of the Royal Military College, Kingston, talked on "Guglielmo Ferrero and the Writing of History", and R. A. Spencer of the University of Toronto gave a paper on "Farewell to German History? Revisionism versus Traditionalism". That afternoon two papers on topics relating to the Maritime provinces were presented: Rev. René Baudry, of Saint Joseph's University, commemorated the 200th anniversary of the expulsion of the Acadians, and Prof. G. O. Rothney of the Memorial University of Newfoundland described three important periods in the island's history connected with the dates 1755, 1855, and 1955. In Father Baudry's unavoidable absence his paper was translated and read by G. F. G. Stanley. On the evening of June 2 the presidential addresses with the Canadian Political Science Association were given, at a meeting chaired by President Sidney Smith of the University of Toronto. Dr. J. J. Talman, the President of the

Association, spoke on "The Impact of the Railway on a Pioneer Community", providing an account of the change in Canadian outlook caused by the coming of the railway, and J. A. Corry, the President of the Canadian Political Science Association, spoke on "The Prospects for the Rule of Law." The final day at which papers were presented was June 3rd, when a morning session on political parties in the mid-nineteenth century was held. J. B. Conacher contributed a discussion on political parties in Great Britain at that time; W. E. Binkley of Ohio Northern University spoke on United States political parties at the mid-century and A. R. M. Lower of Queen's University discussed Canadian political parties in the same period. The afternoon session was a joint one with the Ontario Historical Society at which two papers were presented: "The Moravian Missionaries, their Indians and Government", by Mr. Leslie R. Gray of London, President of the Ontario Historical Society, and "The Clergy Reserves Settlement, 1840-1855", by John S. Moir. The General Meeting was held on the evening of June 3rd, and there were several social functions scattered throughout the course of the meetings. The final day, June 4th, was given over to the tour of the Niagara district.

A new slate of officers was elected in Toronto to guide the Association for the year 1955-56. These were: President, G. F. G. Stanley, Kingston; Vice-President, D. G. Creighton, Toronto; English Language Secretary, D. M. L. Farr, Ottawa; French Language Secretary, Antoine Roy, Quebec; Treasurer, W. G. Ormsby, Ottawa; Editor of the *Annual Report*, P. G. Cornell, Wolfville; Associate Editors of the *Annual Report*, Rév. Adrien Pouliot, S.J., Quebec, and John S. Moir, Ottawa. The following persons were appointed to Council, to retire in 1958: Pierre Brunet, Ottawa; D. G. G. Kerr, Sackville; K. W. McNaught, Winnipeg; Mason Wade, Rochester, N. Y. The 1956 meeting was scheduled to be held at the Université de Montréal, and Prof. Guy Frégault had been asked to head a committee on the arrangements for this meeting.

During 1955 the Association continued to register advances not only in membership and financial strength, but in its publication programme and in a widening recognition for its work. The Treasurer's report for the year follows; it shows revenues and expenditures deriving from a total membership of 705, including affiliated libraries and societies. Two more issues in the Historical Booklets series came out during 1955: W. S. MacNutt's *The Making of the Maritime Provinces, 1713-1784*, which was published in March, and A. L. Burt's *Guy Carleton, Lord Dorchester, 1724-1808, Revised Version*, which appeared in July. There are now five titles in the series, of which two have been issued in both French and English editions. The Association has continued to carry the Historical Booklets series mainly from revenue which the booklets themselves have produced and this has been a very encouraging indication of the wide distribution of the pamphlets. (Prof. MacNutt's booklet was recently re-printed in full in the *Nova Scotia Journal of Education*, a periodical which goes to every school teacher in Nova Scotia.) Bulk orders from certain provinces have been a factor in achieving this favourable financial condition but hundreds of individual orders, many accompanied by an

application for membership, have been even more important in making the series a success. Reviews have continued to be favourable and Col. C. P. Stacey, the General Editor of the series, is laying plans for additional titles in 1956. The other activities of the Association have been maintained, so that 1955 has been a year of real progress in the furtherance of the Association's aims. All members can therefore take pride in the year's achievements and regard the future with a justified confidence.

D. M. L. FARR.

Ottawa
October 1, 1955.