

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

G. W. L. Nicholson

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The thirty-sixth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association took place at the University of Ottawa, Ottawa, on June 12-15, 1957. Sessions were held in the fine new Arts Building, and at Carleton University. The Association is greatly indebted to the local committee in charge of arrangements, and particularly to its chairman, Father G. Carrière. Planning of the programme was capably handled by a committee headed by Professor D. M. L. Farr. Members and their wives enjoyed the hospitality offered by the University of Ottawa at a luncheon on 13 June and a *vin d'honneur* on the following afternoon. Carleton University entertained at luncheon on 14 June; and next morning the Public Archives of Canada were hosts at the "coffee break" following the General Meeting. On the afternoon of the 15th the members of the Learned Societies were privileged to attend the Annual Garden Party at Rideau Hall, when His Excellency The Governor General extended his hospitality to the visitors. Along with the other Learned Societies our Association received the apostolic blessing of His Holiness, Pope Pius XII.

The newly-formed Archives Section met in the afternoon of 12 June under the chairmanship of Mr. L. H. Thomas, and heard papers by Mr. Harvey Mitchell, St. John's, Newfoundland; Mr. J. D. Herbert, of the Glenbow Foundation, Calgary; and Mr. Sam Kula, of the Public Archives of Canada. The Local History Committee and the Council also met on the 12th. The General Sessions began on the morning of 13 June with the Association divided into two sections — an arrangement which continued throughout Thursday and Friday. A joint session with the Historical Society of Ottawa was addressed by Mr. Edwin C. Guillet on the sources of local history, with particular reference to Mr. Guillet's work for the first volume of the Ontario Government series — *The Valley of the Trent*. In the Historiography Section Professor G. S. Couse, of Carleton University, spoke on "Monarchism and Historicism in the Thought of Charles Maurras", with Professor R. M. Saunders leading the discussion on the paper. In the afternoon the session of European History heard a paper by Professor J. C. Cairns, of the University of Toronto, "The Fall of France, 1940: Thoughts on a National Defeat". Dr. John Conway, St. John's College, Winnipeg, developed the ensuing discussion. In the Canadian Section Professor W. R. Graham, Regina College, cast light on an obscure aspect of the political career of Arthur Meighen when he considered the latter's relations with the business interests of Montreal in the decade of the 'twenties. The paper was ably discussed by Dr. Eugene Forsey of Ottawa. In the evening, the Association joined forces with the Humanities Association of Canada to hear an outstanding address by Professor Gregory Vlastos, of Princeton University, on "The Paradox of Socrates".

The morning session of 14 June brought another paper on Canadian political leaders when Professor K. W. McNaught, United College, Winnipeg, examined the parliamentary records of Mackenzie

King and J. S. Woodsworth in the foreign policy debates of 1936-39, the discussion being led by Professor F. R. Scott of McGill. Professor Wallace K. Ferguson, of the University of Western Ontario, speaking to the European Section, discussed "The Revival of Classical Antiquity or the First Century of Humanism: A Reappraisal." Professor W. Stanford Reid, McGill University, was commentator for this paper. The enthusiastic reception given to this and the other papers in the non-Canadian field appeared to justify the programme committee's decision to offer papers on European history. In the afternoon, Professor W. L. Morton, of the University of Manitoba, read a paper prepared by Bernard Ostry of the London School of Economics and Political Science — "The Politics of Industrial Peace: Conservative and Liberal Party Attitudes Affecting Labour, 1870-1920 — An Attempt at Re-examination." Professor D. C. Masters, Bishop's University, led the discussion. Professor J.-N. Rouleau, Collège Militaire Royal de Saint-Jean, spoke on "Problèmes de stratégie et d'économie de la rivière Richelieu, 1609-1812," a subject to which Dr. Gustave Lanctot, former Dominion Archivist, added some pertinent remarks. The evening was occupied with the presidential addresses. Dr. G. E. Britnell, of the University of Saskatchewan, President of the Canadian Political Science Association, spoke on the economic problems of undeveloped areas of the world. Professor D. G. Creighton of the University of Toronto, President of the C.H.A., commented vigorously on recent trends in Canadian historical writing. Saturday morning was devoted to the Association's General Meeting, followed by a tour of the Public Archives Records Centre. This included a special display of historical documents relating to some of the Prime Ministers of Canada, and an exhibit prepared by the Canadian Army Historical Section through the courtesy of the Director, Colonel C. P. Stacey.

During the Ottawa meeting the Association elected its officers for 1957-58. They are: President: W. Kaye Lamb, Ottawa; Vice-President: Rev. A. D'Eschambault, Genthon, Man.; English Language Secretary: Lt.-Col. G. W. L. Nicholson, Ottawa; French Language Secretary: Rev. A. Pouliot, s.j., Quebec; Treasurer: R. S. Gordon, Ottawa; Past Presidents: D. G. Creighton, Toronto; G. F. G. Stanley, Kingston; Editors of the *Annual Report*: John S. Moir, Ottawa; Léopold Lamontagne, Kingston; Councillors (to retire in 1960): H. W. McCready, Hamilton; H. B. Neatby, Vancouver; Rev. Honorius Provost, Quebec; Mrs. Esther C. Wright, Ottawa. Missing from the slate of officers are two members of the Association, D. M. L. Farr and W. G. Ormsby, who for the past seven years have faithfully and efficiently shared the onerous duties of English Language Secretary and Treasurer. It was decided that the 1958 meeting of the Association would be held in Edmonton.

The Association continued to thrive in 1957. A membership of 745 on 30 April, 1957 reflected a net gain of 19 members during the year. The eighth in the Association's series of historical booklets, F. H. Underhill's *Canadian Political Parties*, has been published, and

Booklet No. 9 is in course of revision. The Local History Committee has become the Local History Section of the Association, with powers similar to those of the Archives Section. It hopes soon to launch its programme of awards of merit for local historical groups. The Committee on the Historical Atlas reports that cartographical work on the project will soon be underway. The Association has approved the project of a summer study centre for Canadian historians and it is planned to institute this at Queen's University in the summer of 1958. These various achievements indicate the widening range of the Association's contributions to historical scholarship in Canada.

G. W. L. NICHOLSON

English Language Secretary

Ottawa
September, 1957