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Report of the Secretary

T. M. Hunter

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The fortieth Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held at the University of Montreal, Montreal, on June 7-10, 1961. A total of 193 members signed the register. The Association is greatly indebted to the local committee in charge of arrangements, and particularly to its chairman, Professor Michel Brunet. Members and their wives enjoyed the hospitality of the University at a *vin d'honneur* held on the afternoon of 8 June.

Registration began on the morning of Wednesday, 7 June, and during the remainder of the day the Archives Section and Local History Committee held meetings. Under the chairmanship of Mr. Hartwell Bowsfield, Public Archives of Manitoba, papers were presented by Miss Edith Firth of the Toronto Public Library, on *Editing and Publishing Documents*, and by Professor George W. Brown of the University of Toronto, on *The Dictionary of Canadian Biography — Dictionnaire biographique du Canada: Its Formative Stage*. In the evening the Council of the Association met in the Rector's Lounge.

The general sessions began on the morning of 8 June. In the Canadian History Section papers were presented on *Sir Charles Metcalfe and the Canadian Union and Georges-Etienne Cartier — Juriste*, by Mr. W. G. Ormsby, Public Archives of Canada, and Mr. J.-C. Bonenfant, Bibliothèque du Parlement, Québec, respectively. The commentator was Mr. Fernand Ouellet, of the Archives de la Province de Québec. Simultaneously, the Puritan Revolution in England was discussed under two headings: *The Court of Charles I and the Coming of the English Revolution*, by Professor P. Zagorin, McGill University, and *The Crisis of Cromwell's Career*, by Professor John R. McCormack, St. Mary's University. The commentator was Professor D. W. L. Earl, University of New Brunswick. The afternoon sessions again followed dual patterns, dealing with Canadian political movements and Slavic History. Mr. H. Senior of Royal Roads, Victoria, explained *The Character of Canadian Orangeism* and Professor Lovell C. Clark, University of New Brunswick, discussed *The Conservative Party in the 1890's*. Mr. W. D. Smith, of Brandon College, acted as commentator. Meanwhile, Professor Frederick G. Heymann, University of Alberta, presented his interpretation of *The Death of King Ladislav: Historiographical Echoes of a Suspected Crime*. He was followed by Professor Roderick P. Thaler, Bishop's University, with a paper on *A Seventeenth Century Russian Liberal: Ordyn-Nashchokin*. The discussion was led by Professor Stanley Z. Pech, of the University of British Columbia.

In the evening members of the Association gathered in the Social Centre for the Annual Banquet and Presidential Address. On this occa-

sion an Honorary Life Membership in the Association was presented to Canon Lionel Groulx in recognition of his valuable contribution to the study of Canadian history.

In his presidential address, Professor W. K. Ferguson spoke on *Some Problems of Historiography*. In a lively and illuminating analysis of the qualities most necessary for historical writing, he suggested that interpretation and synthesis had been neglected by professional historians of recent generations, and that "original thought" might be more valuable than "original research". To fulfil their social function, historians must interpret facts so as to give them meaning for the interested but untrained reader.

The sessions were resumed on the morning of 9 June with Canadian biographies and Commonwealth History as the topics. Papers on *Joseph Israel Tarte and the McGreevy-Langevin Scandal, 1890-1893* and *J. W. Dajoe: Conservative Progressive* were presented by Laurier L. La Pierre, University of Western Ontario, and Ramsay Cooke, University of Toronto, respectively. Meanwhile, Dr. John Conway, Harvard University, explored *The Round Table Movement and Liberal Imperialism*, followed by Professor John S. Conway, University of British Columbia, on *Anti-Imperialism before 1914*. Professor A. P. Thornton, of the University of Toronto, was the commentator. The afternoon was devoted to widely separated fields: one dealing with slavery and Canadian History, and the other with Europe. Professor Marcel Trudel, Laval University, discussed *L'attitude de l'Eglise catholique vis-à-vis l'esclavage au Canada français*, and Professor Alex L. Murray, University of Alberta, carried out *An Examination of American Slavery as a disruptive factor in Canadian-American Church Relations*. Mr. W. H. Pease, of the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, led the discussion. In the modern European section, papers were read by Professor Geoffrey Adams, of Elmira College, on *A Temperate Crusade: The Philosophe Campaign for French Protestant Toleration, 1760-1787* and by Professor Ezio Cappadocia, Royal Military College, Kingston, on *The Nature of Restoration Liberalism in France*. Professor James A. Leith, of the University of Saskatchewan, was the commentator. In the evening a joint meeting of the Association and l'Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française heard a stimulating address by Canon Groulx on *Le Canada français en Amérique latine*.

Following a further meeting of the Council, the General Meeting of the Association was held on the morning of Saturday, 10 June. The Secretary reported that membership of the C.H.A. at the end of May 1961 stood at 942, a net gain of 71 members. The following officers were elected for 1961-1962: President: R. A. Preston, Kingston; Past Presidents: W. K. Ferguson, London, and W. L. Morton, Winnipeg; Vice-President: Miss Hilda Neatby, Saskatoon; English Language Secretary:

T. M. Hunter, Ottawa; French Language Secretary: Rev. Adrien Pouliot, S.J., Quebec; Treasurer: R. S. Gordon, Ottawa; Editors of the *Annual Report*: J. P. Heisler and P. E. Dumas; Councillors (to retire in 1964): W. J. Eccles, Edmonton; B. W. Hodgins, Charlottetown; K. A. MacKirdy, Waterloo; B. Weillbrenner, Ottawa.

During the afternoon members of the Association were taken on a tour of points of historical interest within the walls of old Montreal. The Association was indebted to M. Ubalde Baudry for the arrangements in connection with this most interesting tour.

T. M. HUNTER
English Language Secretary

Ottawa, October, 1961.