

# Report of the Annual Meeting Rapports annuels de la Société historique du Canada

Report of the Annual Meeting

## Report of the Secretary

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By NORMAN FEE

The Executive and Council held three meetings during the year 1940-1, one at London, and two at Kingston. The annual meeting was held at Queen's University, Kingston, on May 22-4.

Council, which heretofore had named the Nominating Committee, directed "that in future the Nominating Committee shall consist of the President and three other members to be named by him at the first general session of the annual meeting, and that a report of the Committee shall be made to the Council prior to the general business meeting, and that nominations for office may also be made from the floor at the general meeting." The President, in accordance with this procedure, named Messrs. Brebner, Landon, and the Abbé Maheux members of the Committee. Officers were elected as follows: President, F. Landon, London; Vice-President, A. R. M. Lower, Winnipeg; Secretary-Treasurer, Norman Fee, Ottawa; French Secretary, Séraphin Marion, Ottawa; Members of Council to retire in 1944, A. G. Bailey, Benoit Brouillette, A. L. Burt, and F. H. Underhill. Mr. R. G. Riddell was named editor of the *Report* for the coming year.

Mr. Trotter, representative member of the Association on the Social Science Research Council, reported on the organization of the Council, and outlined briefly the work undertaken by the Council. Mr. Trotter, Chairman of the Committee on Preservation of War-Time Materials, also presented the following report of that Committee:

The resolutions concerning the preservation of war-time material of historic value that were adopted by the Association at its annual meeting last year were transmitted, according to instructions, to the Secretary of State and the Prime Ministers of the Dominion and of the Provinces. They were embodied also in a statement on "Historical Records and the Canadian War Effort" which was published in the *Canadian Historical Review*. Offprints of this statement were distributed widely, to the above-mentioned public officials, historical societies and libraries.

In addition Professor Fred Landon prepared a concise statement of practical suggestions on "The Preservation of War-Time Material," which was published in the *Ontario Library Review*, and of which offprints were, through the co-operation of the Dominion Archivist, circulated throughout the country.

The Abbé Maheux has dealt with this problem in the pages of *Le Canada Français* and prepared a memorandum for the guidance of Canadians of French language.

Council approved the report and recommended further that the incoming President request Mr. Stacey, historian of the Army, and Mr. Tucker, historian of the Naval Service, to stress, wherever possible, the importance of the preservation of war material for the use of future historians.

Mr. Riddell, Chairman of the Radio Committee, reported that six talks had been given over the C.B.C., and that his Committee was collaborating with the C.B.C. on certain programmes. He pointed out that the year 1942 would mark the seventy-fifth anniversary of Con-

federation, and expressed the view that the Association might be of assistance should the C.B.C. plan historical broadcasts on that occasion. The Association complimented Mr. Riddell, and re-appointed him Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing year.

Mr. Ernest Green, of the Department of Trade and Commerce, Ottawa, wrote suggesting the desirability of photographing the area along the St. Lawrence about to be flooded by the development of that river. He stated in part:

In happier times a complete photographic and topographical reconnaissance before the river is transformed, made under direction of the National Parks Bureau or other competent authority, might have been proposed, but under present circumstances the expense could not be justified. Voluntary action, however, may do much to meet the situation. It is suggested that residents along the river between Prescott and Cornwall, as well as others who may visit that locality during the coming summer, use their cameras to the best effect and also make written records of their observations of old battlefields, fortification sites, portage trails, wayside inns, pioneer dwellings, and other antiquities for the enlightenment of coming generations of young Canadians. Photographs taken this year and carefully marked with location and date, may become prized historical records. If arranged in albums and deposited in historical museums or public libraries, the likelihood of their preservation will be greatly increased. It is hoped that the rapids section of the St. Lawrence with all its storied places will be exhaustively pictured while there is yet opportunity.

The Association heartily approved the suggestion of Mr. Green, and referred his letter to the incoming president, Mr. Landon, who, as a member of the Historic Sites and Monuments Board, offered to present the matter to that body for discussion and for whatever action it may be possible to take.

Council named Messrs. Adair, Marion, and Trotter a sub-committee to consider possible economies in the Association. This Committee reported:

1. That, for the duration of the war, the Association do not engage a paid speaker, or pay the expenses of a speaker for the annual meeting.
2. That the gratuity to the Secretary-Treasurer and the French Secretary be discontinued, and that the two Secretaries and the President fix a sum to be advanced to the Secretary-Treasurer as an expense account, from which shall be paid the travelling expenses of the French Secretary, up to the amount of \$25, clerical assistance, and his own travelling and general expenses.
3. That a committee composed of the President, Mr. Landon, and Mr. Brown, and the Secretary-Treasurer be named to explore the possibility of having the *Report of the Association* published as part of the *Canadian Historical Review*.

Mr. Brown, delegate to the Conference of Historical Societies held in the United States, recommended that the Association assist the Conference in its organization by doing all possible to bring it in touch with local historical societies in Canada. A letter from the Conference stated that the Conference of Historical Societies had been disbanded,

and that an Association to be known as the American Association for State and Local History had been organized in its place. The invitation of this new Association to the Canadian Historical Association to become a member was declined, because it was felt that the Canadian Historical Association, being a national body, did not fit in the category of either state or local historical societies.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

The attendance at the annual meeting was representative, and the papers and discussions were of high order. The presidential address by Dr. G. Lanctot, the Dominion Archivist, was a survey of Canadian historical writing from its beginnings, ending with a plea that the time has arrived for historical writing truly national in tone and scope. Papers were read as follows: "Agricultural History as a Field of Research," Everett E. Edwards, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, United States Department of Agriculture; "Fisheries and Sea-Power," Gerald S. Graham, Queen's University; "The Organizing of the East Coast Patrols, 1914-1918," Gilbert Norman Tucker; "Pre-Confederation Defence Problems of the Pacific Colonies," Willard E. Ireland, Archives of British Columbia; "The Exhibition as a Medium for the Study and Teaching of History," Martin Baldwin, Art Gallery of Toronto; "Sir Robert Borden and Canada's External Policy, 1911-1920," F. H. Soward, University of British Columbia.

The social scientist in the modern world was the subject for a discussion session, the paper by Professor A. R. M. Lower, printed in the last issue of the *Canadian Historical Review*, being used as a basis. F. H. Underhill, the Abbé Maheux, and T. F. McIlwraith opened the discussion and a number of others contributed.

A joint dinner of the Canadian Historical and Canadian Political Science Associations was addressed by President James P. Baxter, 3rd, of Williams College. President Baxter spoke on Anglo-American Relations, dealing first with relations in the 1860's and then in a forthright and eloquent way with recent developments and contemporary problems.

Resolutions were adopted thanking Queen's University for the courtesy extended in providing accommodation for the meeting, Principal Wallace for his kindly interest, and for presiding at the session on Friday evening, Messrs. Trotter, Graham, and their associates of the committee in charge of local arrangements, the Canadian Press and the local press for advance notices and reports of the meetings, Mr. Talman and members of the Programme Committee, and Mr. Riddell, editor of the Annual Report, for his work as editor during the past year.

SÉRAPHIN MARION,  
*French Secretary*

NORMAN FEE,  
*English Secretary*