

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

Report of the Annual Meeting

## Report of the Secretary

Norman Fee

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By NORMAN FEE

THE Executive and Council of the Canadian Historical Association held four meetings during the year, two at Toronto and two at Hamilton. Council which had been authorized by the General Meeting in 1942 to proceed with the amalgamation of the *Canadian Historical Review* and the *Annual Report* decided, after discussing the matter in detail with the University of Toronto Press and the Editors of the *Report*, that due to the enlistment of the manager of the University of Toronto Press and the general pressure of business no further action should be taken until after the war. The Committee named to examine the application of Dr. V. J. Kisilewsky for a grant-in-aid toward the preparation of a history of the Ukrainians in Canada recommended that no action be taken at the present time and that Dr. Kisilewsky be urged to prepare, as an independent venture of his own, an article in English on some phase of his proposed research and submit it for acceptance to some learned journal. It was felt that if such an article were prepared it could be made the basis for a further consideration of a grant toward his major project. At the annual fall meeting of Council, Mr. Fieldhouse suggested that Council consider the possibility of having a paper on some general topic in European history presented at the Annual Meeting. This suggestion introduced a long discussion on ways and means for creating a wider interest in the affairs of the Association. The question of continuing the Annual Meetings during the war was discussed at the Council Meeting in Toronto and again at the Annual Meeting in Hamilton. The importance of these meetings in time of war as well as in peace cannot be over-emphasized. They provide an opportunity for the discussion of Canada's characteristics, history, and present problems which is invaluable. They attract not only academic members but a number, we hope an increasing number, of men engaged in business and public affairs; and this year saw also a gratifying increase in the representation from French Canada. The exchange of views made possible by these circumstances, and the constructive and serious tone which in general pervaded the discussions, was a heartening evidence of vitality in a war-time Canada which faces its problems with resolution and, we hope, with an increasing awareness of their nature and complexity. Council commended the President for his efforts during the year and particularly for his stand on the question of continuing the Annual Meetings during the war.

It was disclosed at the annual meeting of the Association that in their zeal to comply with the request for war salvage some people were throwing away old books and newspapers and in some cases family documents. In order to check possible destruction of historical material, a committee was named with Major Lanctot, the Dominion Archivist, as chairman to bring this matter to the attention of the general public and to historical societies and also to suggest ways and means in which they might help to save this material.

### THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting for 1943 was held at McMaster University, Hamilton, on May 24 and 25. The theme of the programme, which had been arranged by a committee under the chairmanship of Professor Eric

Harrison of Queen's University, was nationalism in various aspects as it relates to Canada. At a session on historical writing and politics the following papers were presented: "Durham et la nationalité canadienne-française," by the Abbé Arthur Maheux, Laval University; "History and French-Canadian Survival," by Professor R. M. Saunders, University of Toronto; "Papineau et l'orientation du nationalisme québécois," by the Abbé Pascal Potvin, Laval University; "Nationalism in Quebec Politics since Laurier," by Mr. Gordon O. Rothney, Sir George Williams College.

At a joint session with the Canadian Political Science Association, which was meeting concurrently, papers were read by Dr. J. M. Nadeau, curator, Bibliothèque St. Sulpice, on "The Growth of Federal Authority in the Provinces," and by Dr. H. A. Innis, University of Toronto, on "Economic Trends and the Constitutional Framework." "Aims in the Study and Teaching of History in Canadian Universities Today" was the subject of a session which brought forth a spirited discussion, the paper being read by Professor R. G. Trotter, Queen's University, and the discussion led by Professor W. N. Sage, University of British Columbia. Two of the broader aspects of nationalism were presented at a joint session of the Canadian Historical Association, the Canadian Political Science Association, and Section II of the Royal Society of Canada: "The Historical Approach to the Problem of Nationalism in Europe," by Professor R. Flenley, University of Toronto; "The Problem of Nationalism in Canada and the British Commonwealth," by Professor Alexander Brady, University of Toronto. The final session on "Nationalism and Canada" had three papers: "The Extension of the Franchise in Canada: A Study in Democratic Nationalism," by Professor W. L. Morton, University of Manitoba; "The Development of Canadian External Representation," by Mr. Gordon Skilling, University of Wisconsin; "Canadian Foreign Policy," by Miss Gwendolen M. Carter, Tufts College.

The President of the Association, Professor A. R. M. Lower, of United College, Winnipeg, devoted his presidential address to a discussion of the characteristics and fundamental relations of French and English Canadians. The address was a sympathetic but penetrating and thought-provoking treatment of a subject which, Professor Lower suggested, presents the major antithesis in Canadian history.

The Association is much indebted to McMaster University for its hospitality and admirable local arrangements. An interesting feature was provided by the National Film Board in the showing of several films which have been prepared for educational purposes. The following officers were elected for 1943-4: President, George W. Brown, University of Toronto; Vice-President, W. N. Sage, University of British Columbia; English Secretary and Treasurer, Norman Fee, The Public Archives, Ottawa; French Secretary, Séraphin Marion, The Public Archives, Ottawa; new members of Council, A. G. Dorland, University of Western Ontario; M. H. Long, University of Alberta; Norman Macdonald, McMaster University; Pascal Potvin, Laval University. Professor A. G. Dorland, University of Western Ontario, London, Ontario, has consented to be chairman of the Programme Committee for 1944.