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## Report of the Secretary

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

### CANADIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION ANNUAL MEETING

The thirty-second Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held at the University of Western Ontario, London, on June 4-6, 1953. After registration a session, sponsored jointly by the Association and the London and Middlesex Historical Society, was devoted to the history and geography of the peninsula of South-Western Ontario. A paper, "The Geographic Basis of the Regions of South-Western Ontario", was read by Professor R. W. Packer. Dr. J. J. Talman read a paper on "The Development of the Railway Network of South-Western Ontario." Members then attended a reception at the London Hunt and Country Club given by the University. The evening session, under the chairmanship of Dr. G. E. Hall, President of the University of Western Ontario, was devoted to the presidential addresses of the Association and the Canadian Political Science Association. Herbert Marshall, President of the Canadian Political Science Association, spoke on "The Role of the Bureau of Statistics in the Post-war World"; C. P. Stacey, President of the Canadian Historical Association, described the problem of transcontinental communication in Canada in his address, "The Backbone of Canada." The morning of June 5th, was devoted to a discussion of the archival scene in Canada. The following papers were read: "The Provincial Archival Scene", by Dr. W. E. Ireland, Provincial Archivist of British Columbia, and "The Federal Archival Scene", by Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, Ottawa. An Archives Committee of the Association was then appointed under the chairmanship of Dr. G. E. Spragge, Provincial Archivist of Ontario, to consider the problem of archives and bring it more effectively within the purview of the Association. In the afternoon J. R. Gwynne-Timothy spoke on "The Role of Overseas Colonies in the European Power Balance, 1793-1815"; A. Godbout offered a paper on "Les Ecoles françaises d'Ontario avant 1785"; and S. F. Wise discussed "Simcoe and the Frontier Crises." The evening meeting was devoted to the life and work of one of the leading scholars in Canadian historical studies, the late Professor Harold A. Innis. As was fitting the session was a joint venture of the Association and the Canadian Political Science Association and included papers by Professor J. B. Brebner on "Innis as Historian", and by Professor W. T. Easterbrook on "Innis and Economics". The morning of the final day was given over to meetings of Council and the General Meeting of the Association. Votes of thanks were passed to Dr. G. E. Hall, President of the University of Western Ontario, for the hospitality of the University; Dr. J. J. Talman and the Committee on Local Arrangements for an interesting programme and splendid amenities; Col. C. P. Stacey, immediate past president of the Association, for the energy and initiative displayed in guiding the Association in 1952-53, and all those persons who presented papers at the Annual Meeting.

The following officers were elected for the year 1953-54: *President*, M. H. Long; *Vice-President*, J. J. Talman; *English Language Secretary*, D. M. L. Farr; *French Language Secretary*, Antoine

Roy; *Treasurer*, W. G. Ormsby; *Editor of the Annual Report*, G. F. G. Stanley; *Associate Editors of the Annual Report*, P. G. Cornell and Leopold Lamontagne. The following members were elected to the Council of the Association to take the place of those whose terms had expired: W. R. Graham; J. J. Lefebvre; F. MacKinnon; G. W. Nicholson. J. M. Careless was named representative for the *Canadian Historical Review*. R. G. Glover was named Chairman of the Committee on Local Arrangements for the 1951 Annual Meeting. In addition to these officers it was decided to invite His Excellency, the Rt. Hon. Vincent Massey, C.H., Governor-General of Canada, to accept the appointment of Honourary President.

At London the Association decided to produce a series of historical pamphlets, each written by a recognized authority, with the object of making available to teachers and others the results of the latest research on a wide variety of topics in Canadian history. These pamphlets will be designed to serve the purposes of the elementary and high school teacher who finds it difficult to keep abreast of current writing in Canadian history; but it is expected that they will have an appeal to the ordinary reader as well. They will be short works and will be published in an attractive format and at a nominal cost. Through the sponsorship of a series of this nature the Association hopes to be able to make a contribution to the removal of misconception and prejudice in Canadian history as well as to lay a firm foundation in historical knowledge for coming generations of Canadians. The first three pamphlets of this series will be written by Col. C. P. Stacey, Dr. George F. G. Stanley and Dr. Guy Frégault.

D. M. L. FARR.