

The Canadian Association of Geographers at Laval, 1963

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Lac-Saint-Paul, comté de Labelle, mai 1961, 344 pages)² et à 100 exemplaires seulement. La majorité des autres rapports d'*Utilisation des terres* semblent n'avoir été préparés que pour l'usage du ministère, mais peuvent être consultés à Québec.

Peter B. CLIBBON

The Canadian Association of Geographers at Laval, 1963

The Association met at the Université Laval in surroundings very different from its original meeting in Québec 11 years earlier. The Cité Universitaire, at Sainte-Foy, had reached a sufficiently advanced stage of development to suggest the magnificent complex of facilities for higher education which is to arise on the outskirts of the city. All C.A.G. conferences in recent years have been held in an atmosphere of busy construction, but nowhere has the development appeared more spectacular or more speedy. Roads absent in the morning were carrying traffic at the end of the day's sessions!

The conference opened formally on the morning of Wednesday, May 29th and continued to the Thursday evening. The following two days were occupied by a field-trip to the Saguenay-Lac-Saint-Jean area. The first two days were busy ones, although time was provided for a morning field trip in Québec and its suburbs. A record number of contributed papers appeared on the programme, this being possible through holding simultaneous sessions (usually three at a time), and by working conference members hard throughout the day. The arrangements were effective and provide a useful model for later years.

There were in all nine sessions of such contributed papers, dealing with the customary wide range of topics, well balanced between physical and human geography. As is usual outside the United States, geomorphology was well represented, although there was a notable lack of papers on climatology. Let us hope that this does not presage surrender of the field in Canada to related disciplines. There appeared to be a strengthening of interest in research methodology which was represented by five papers.

Four specially arranged seminars also served to indicate trends in Canadian geographical research. They dealt with periglacial cartography, recent urbanization in Canada, development of the agricultural pioneer fringe in Canada, and quantitative methods in geography. All were well attended, there was enlivened discussion and at least in the last a fairly sharp division of opinion.

The conference organizers provided a useful series of abstracts which were in several cases supplemented by maps, statistical tables and other material. The readiness with which such data can now be produced in quantity suggests that more authors should do this.

The annual dinner was made memorable by an address by the president, Professor Lloyd Reeds, of McMaster University, concerned with the development of agricultural geography, and by a greeting from the Association of American Geographers conveyed by Professor Donn K. Haglund, of Wisconsin, in French. It may be appropriate to remark at this point that the C.A.G., since its founding an organization of both French and English using geographers, each year comes somewhat nearer the goal of being genuinely bilingual. The

² Compte rendu par Louis-Edmond Hamelin, *Cahiers de géographie de Québec*, n° 12, 1962, pp. 284-285.

courtesy with which the Québec hosts provided literature, guides and administrative staff for English-using monoglots was greatly appreciated, and should serve as an example for conference organizers elsewhere.

The Saguenay field trip, which included an overnight stop at Chicoutimi, was admirable in every way. Simply as a tourist introduction to one of the less well known parts of Québec, it displayed more than four hundred miles of varied scenery, including two separate traverses of Laurentide Park, views of the Saguenay and Lake St. Jean and the elaborate hydro development at Shipshaw. Aspects of physical geography demonstrated by Laval geographers included the landforms and vegetation of the north shore of the St. Lawrence as far as Les Éboulements, about seventy miles downstream from Québec. The boundary of the boreal forest was demonstrated as were several tectonic features including the graben which forms the basis for the Vallée du Gouffre, and interesting landslide features due apparently to an earthquake. Laurentide Park alone could provide an interesting field trip for geomorphologists. There are rugged peaks, glacial features, characteristic periglacial phenomena, a wide range of Precambrian rock types, as well as lakes of diverse origins. To the writer, the greatest revelation of the tour was the size and diversity of the urbanization of the Saguenay Valley — « The Kingdom of the Saguenay ». It all originated in a modest settlement at Grande-Baie in 1838, based on subsistence farming and local fishing. The first basis for industry was lumber which eventually led to pulp and paper manufacturing utilizing the rich hydro resources of the Saguenay - Lac-Saint-Jean drainage system. The power development brought the aluminum industry and subsequently other power using activities. A stop at Chicoutimi-Nord provided a broad panoramic view of the Chicoutimi-Arvida complex, and made it apparent that this is one of the most significant urban concentrations in Eastern Canada. The tour was ably led, a detailed field-guide was provided, and in addition a special issue of *Cahiers de géographie de Québec* included articles, photographs and maps related to the route taken.

As the Association grows in size, organizing its annual gathering becomes increasingly complex, so that housing the visitors, arranging the sessions and planning excursions require greater skill and man-power. Special thanks are therefore due to our colleagues of Université Laval for the thoroughness and originality they showed in preparing for the 1963 congress and the associated excursions and in carrying them through. The Association is also appreciative of the generosity of the Université Laval in providing such spacious facilities for the meetings and to the Rector, Msgr. Louis-Albert Vachon, p. a., v. g., for his warm personal welcome to Canada's geographers.

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