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Report of the English Secretary

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REPORT OF THE ENGLISH SECRETARY

By NORMAN FEE

The annual meeting for 1933 of the Canadian Historical Association was held at the Public Archives, Ottawa, on May 22 and 23. Dr. Webster, in his presidential address, "The classics of Acadia", examined the value of the writings of Champlain, Lescarbot, Denys, Le Clercq, and Dièreville, his comments on the last being especially interesting in view of the work of translation and editing on which he is now engaged. Dr. Webster made an admirable presiding officer. His plea for scholarship and the value of research will not soon be forgotten by those who heard it.

Papers were read as follows: F. H. Soward of the University of British Columbia, "Canada and the Far Eastern crisis"; W. M. Whitelaw of Rutgers University, "An Approach to Canadian cultural history"; F. H. Underhill of the University of Toronto, "The political ideas of John S. Ewart"; E. R. Adair, "The church and parish of L'Acadie", an excellent study in local history based primarily on the parish records; Gustave Lanctot of the Public Archives, Ottawa, "La Roche et l'établissement de l'Ile au Sable", in which by the use of new evidence the hitherto accepted story was largely discredited; F. J. Audet of the Public Archives, Ottawa, "Officials of Upper Canada, political and judicial, 1791-1841"; Margaret Ells of the Archives of Nova Scotia, "Clearing the decks for the Loyalists"; and D. C. Harvey, archivist of the Province of Nova Scotia, "The struggle for New England township government". The papers by Miss Ells and Mr. Harvey break new ground in the history of Nova Scotia. Mr. Harvey traced the unsuccessful attempt to gain the adoption of the system of the New England town in local government. Miss Ells cleared up in detail the elaborate process of escheating by which in the 1780's lands were re-acquired by the crown in order that they might be available for the Loyalists.

The Association met concurrently with the Canadian Political Science Association and, for the first time, a joint session and a joint luncheon were held. It was the unanimous opinion that the practice should be continued. Two excellent papers were read at the joint session: "The commercial class in Canadian politics, 1792 to 1840", by D. G. Creighton of the University of Toronto; and "The political ideas of Sir John A. Macdonald", by T. W. L. MacDermot of McGill University.

Professor D. McArthur of Queen's University was elected president of the Historical Association, and Mr. F. J. Audet of the Public Archives, Ottawa, vice-president.