HSTC Bulletin

Journal of the History of Canadian Science, Technology and Medecine Revue d'histoire des sciences, des techniques et de la médecine au Canada hstc bulletin

Editorial: The Symons Report

Volume 1, Number 3 (3), May 1977

URI: https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/1082466ar DOI: https://doi.org/10.7202/1082466ar

See table of contents

Publisher(s)

HSTC Publications

ISSN

0228-0086 (print) 1918-7742 (digital)

Explore this journal

Cite this document

érudit

(1977). Editorial: The Symons Report. *HSTC Bulletin*, 1(3), 1–1. https://doi.org/10.7202/1082466ar

All Rights Reserved © Canadian Science and Technology Historical Association / Association pour l'histoire de la science et de la technologie au Canada, 1977

This document is protected by copyright law. Use of the services of Érudit (including reproduction) is subject to its terms and conditions, which can be viewed online.

https://apropos.erudit.org/en/users/policy-on-use/

This article is disseminated and preserved by Érudit.

Érudit is a non-profit inter-university consortium of the Université de Montréal, Université Laval, and the Université du Québec à Montréal. Its mission is to promote and disseminate research.

https://www.erudit.org/en/

HSTC 3 BULLETIN

May 1977 Mai

Quarterly Newsletter for the History of Science and Technology of Canada Publication trimestrielle pour l'histoire des sciences et de la technologie canadiennes

Editors/Redacteurs: H

Richard A. Jarrell (York University): Norman R. Ball (Public Archives)

Mailing Address: Dept. Natural Science, Atkinson College, York York University, Dowsnview, Ontario M3J 2R7

EDITORIAL: THE SYMONS REPORT

More than a year has passed since the publication of T.H.B. Symons' report on Canadian studies, To Know Ourselves, a thoroughgoing indictment of the conventional approach to education. For those who have not yet seen the report, you will be pleased to know that the greater part of two chapters are devoted to Canadian content in science courses, and in teaching of the history of science and technology of Canada. Until this year, the report elicited little response, but recent events have brought the issues to the fore. A meeting was held in Ottawa in April (see "News") to assess the problem; an article on the problems of teaching the history of science and technology in Canada by one of the editors appeared in Science Forum and brought forth some response from people within both the Science Council and the Ministry of State for Science and Technology. Later this month, historians of Canadian science and technology will meet in Fredericton to discuss problems of organization.

The Symons Report suggests what amounts to fine-tuning in the educational system. Mr. Phillipson, in his report to the Ottawa meeting, suggests that we need an "infrastructure." Everyone agrees we need more government money. But since our area of study is so young, would much more organization be of any value? Many historians are in the civil service and their choice of research is somewhat delimited. How many historians in the academic community spend much time on Canadian studies? It seems to us that any organization ought to be minimal, for our job now is to show that the history of Canadian science and technology is a respectable subject. This requires us to spread--dare we say--propaganda.