

# Report of the Annual Meeting

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Report of the Annual Meeting

## Report of the Secretary

Norman Fee and Séraphin Marion

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

By NORMAN FEE

The reports of the Secretary heretofore have contained only a brief account of the annual meeting and have left unrecorded for the general membership of the Association, matters which have been dealt with by the Council and by the Programme Committee. Now, however, that the practice of holding a Council meeting in the fall has become well established, it has been decided that the matters dealt with by Council are of general interest and should, therefore, be recorded in the annual reports.

Council is appointed at the general meeting of the Association and is so constituted that four members retire each year and four new appointments are made. It meets in the fall, usually in October, to transact the general business of the Association, and to consider the recommendations of the Programme Committee and arrange for the annual meeting. The Programme Committee is appointed by Council which may, as was done this year, authorize the incoming President to name the members of that Committee. This year the Committee, consisting of Professor E. R. Adair, chairman, and Professors A. B. Corey and D. G. Creighton, met in May and November and presented a draft of the programme at the November meeting of Council. The Committee did not, however, confine its work to the drafting of the programme. The chairman, on behalf of McGill University, invited the Association to meet in Montreal and outlined the arrangement made by which the Canadian Political Science Association would meet there at the same time, and presented plans for the accommodation and entertainment of members.

Council this year held two meetings, one in May immediately following the annual meeting and the other in November. One of the objects of the Association is to encourage historical research and public interest in history, an object broad enough to permit active interest in the work of a number of other societies. In May, 1938, Council named Dr. R. G. Trotter to represent the Association on the Committee to consider the formation of a Social Science Research Council and also on the Committee invited by the League of Nations Society to organize the Committee on Intellectual Co-operation. Dr. Trotter reported to Council that the organization of these bodies had been completed and at the annual meeting outlined the work being done by the Committee on Research in the Social Sciences and laid on the table a copy of the report of that body. Copies of this report are available and may be obtained on application to Dr. J. E. Robbins, Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa.

In 1937, as a result of discussions with representatives of the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, a general committee, having as members representatives from every province, was named to co-operate with the C.B.C. in the presentation of history through broadcasts. Professor G. deT. Glazebrook as chairman of the Committee, has had extensive correspondence with the C.B.C. and with members of his Committee. Difficulties in arranging suitable broadcasts and in the working of a committee with a membership so widely scattered were encountered. The Committee this year was, therefore, reconstituted with Professor Glazebrook as chairman, Mr. R. G. Riddell as English secretary, and Dr. Séraphin Marion as French secretary.

Council also received the report of Professor Adair, as representative of the Association and of the Public Archives to the International Congress of Historical Sciences which met in Zurich from August 4 to September 4. These Congresses, which are held every five years, are organized under the auspices of the International Committee of Historical Sciences, whose membership now includes nearly fifty countries, of which Canada is one. Canada's membership has been in the name of the Canadian Historical Association since 1930, and the membership fee of \$50.00 per year was paid by the Association until 1937 when the Dominion Archivist offered in the name of Canada to assume this obligation. The thanks of the Association to Dr. Gustave Lanctot was expressed in a resolution adopted at the annual meeting as follows: "Moved by Professor Adair, seconded by Dr. New, that the Canadian Historical Association express to the Dominion Archivist its appreciation of his generosity in paying the Canadian subscription to the International Committee of Historical Sciences in the name of this Association, and that this resolution be printed in the next annual report of the Association."

Council by authority of the general meeting is to take the necessary steps to see that a "national committee be appointed to represent Canada on the International Committee."

The publication of the annual report requires the services of an editor who collects the copy, edits it, and sees it through the press. Professor G. deT. Glazebrook, who has been doing this work for several years, presented his report, and on account of his work as chairman of the Radio Committee, asked to be relieved of his position as editor. Council, after expressing its appreciation of the valuable services rendered by Professor Glazebrook, accepted his resignation and appointed Professor D. G. Creighton editor for 1939.

#### ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Association was held in Montreal on May 25 and 26, concurrently with that of the Canadian Political Science Association. The papers in each session related to a central theme. Those of the first session were concerned with French Canada: "The emergence of the *coureur de bois* as a social type" by R. M. Saunders, University of Toronto; "The illegal fur trade out of New France, 1713-1760" by Miss A. J. E. Lunn, McGill University; "Life and customs in the French villages of the old Illinois country, 1763-1939" by J. M. Carrière, Northwestern University. At a session on imperial relations and the issue of reciprocity with the United States, papers were presented by A. C. Cooke, University of British Columbia, Miss Joan Foster, Bryn Mawr College, and L. E. Ellis, Rutgers University. A third session on politics in the 1870's and '80's included papers on Hincks by R. S. Longley, Acadia University; on Macdonald by A. D. Lockhart of Toronto; and on Blake by F. H. Underhill. Joint sessions with the Canadian Political Science Association were held in the evenings of both days. Professor Herbert Heaton, University of Minnesota, read at the first joint session an amusing and informative paper on the transfer of the Portuguese royal family to Brazil during the Napoleonic Wars. The presidential address, read at the second joint session by Professor R. G. Trotter, Queen's University, was an interesting and original discussion of the important influence of the

Appalachian barrier in Canadian history. All the papers presented will be published in the annual report of the Association.

Professor T. F. McIlwraith, Royal Ontario Museum of Archaeology, addressed an informal session on the finding of the Viking pieces at Beardmore, northern Ontario, as described in the March issue of the *Canadian Historical Review* by Dr. C. T. Currelly.

The Association wishes to record its thanks to the authorities of McGill University for the courtesies extended in providing facilities for the meetings and for opening Douglas Hall and the Royal Victoria College for the accommodation of members; to Mr. W. M. Birks for his kind hospitality and tea at Mount Bruno; to Mrs. Grant of Royal Victoria College for tea at the College; to all who gave their cars and their services for the drives to local places of historical interest; and to the Canadian Press and press of Montreal for the attention given to the proceedings of the annual meeting.

A special word of appreciation is due to Professor E. R. Adair of McGill University, who was in charge of local arrangements and was also chairman of the Programme Committee.

Professor J. B. Brebner, Columbia University, was elected president for 1939-40 and Dr. Gustave Lanctot, archivist of the Dominion, vice-president. Mr. Norman Fee and Dr. Séraphin Marion, both of the Public Archives, Ottawa, were re-elected as English and French secretaries respectively. In its representative attendance and in the general level of interest this meeting was one of the best ever held by the Association and shows the effect of a cumulative improvement which has been observable for several years.

SÉRAPHIN MARION

*French Secretary*

NORMAN FEE

*English Secretary*