

Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada

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Report of the Secretary

G. W. L. Nicholson

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Canadian Historical Association held its thirty-seventh annual meeting at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, on June 4-7, 1958. Eighty-six delegates signed the register. The majority of these were accommodated in University residences, and the beautiful weather which favoured the proceedings made their stay on the campus a delightful one. The local committee of the Conference of Learned Societies admirably handled the administrative arrangements for the meetings, and for this the Association is indebted to the General Secretary, Prof. M. H. Scargill, and his associates. Dr. W. J. Eccles headed the committee responsible for planning the C.H.A. programme. Members and their wives enjoyed the hospitality of the University at a luncheon in Athabaska Hall on 5 June, and at a reception that afternoon in the D.U. Fraternity House.

Wednesday, 4 June, was taken up with meetings of the Archives Section under the chairmanship of Mr. L. H. Thomas. Mr. R. S. Gordon, of the Public Archives of Canada, spoke on the organization and description of local historical collections. The Local History Committee met that afternoon, and in the evening the Council held its first meeting. The general sessions began on 5 June in the Administration Building. In the Canadian History Section, Mr. Fernand Ouellet, of the Archives of the Province of Quebec, gave a vigorous exposition of the rôle of Louis-Joseph Papineau in the Revolution of 1837-1838, Prof. Mason Wade leading the ensuing discussion. The Section on American History heard Prof. Wallace Farnham, University of Alberta, criticize the lack of interest shown by Canadian universities in American history. In commenting, Prof. K. W. McNaught suggested that the picture was perhaps not so black as the speaker had painted it. In the afternoon Prof. Stanley R. Mealing, Carleton University, spoke to the Canadian History Section on the enthusiasms of John Graves Simcoe. The discussion on this paper was led by Prof. A. L. Burt. Prof. R. A. Preston, Royal Military College of Canada, developed the theme that in the British Commonwealth military staff arrangements, even more than ties of blood and sentiment, had helped to compensate for the decentralization of military command that had accompanied the disintegration of the political framework of the British Empire. Prof. R. Glover led the discussion. The evening saw a joint session with the Historical Society of Alberta. Prof. Morris Zaslow, University of Toronto, traced the efforts of Vancouver and Edmonton to extend their sphere of influence over the North-West. Miss Margaret Ormsby read a paper prepared by Mr. W. W. Bilsland, Public Archives of Canada, describing the origin and development of Atlin, B.C., as a gold mining community. In commenting on these papers, Prof. W. L. Morton discussed the doctrine of metropolitanism, with particular application to the City of Edmonton. An

appropriate feature of the meeting was the showing of the film "City of Gold" through the courtesy of the National Film Board.

The morning of Friday, 6 June, was devoted to sessions dealing with European and British history. In the former, Prof. Lewis Hertzman, Princeton University, dealt with the problem of political leadership in the Weimar Republic, seeing Gustav Stresemann as seeking to be a bridge between the old and the new Germany, and failing. In his comments, Prof. G. O. B. Davies drew attention to the enigma of a man whom so many liked but who had so little political support. Dr. Norman Penlington, Michigan State University, developed the thesis that Great Britain sought power in the last thirty years of the 19th century to overcome her growing relative weakness. In discussion, Dr. D. M. Schurman suggested that there was more behind Britain's aggressiveness in the 'nineties than a mere desire for power. In the afternoon, a session on Historiography was addressed by Prof. K. A. MacKirdy, University of Washington, on the main trends of recent historical writing in Australia. He indicated that Australian historical writers are beginning to show an interest in non-Australian history. Prof. A. C. Cooke drew the parallel between Australian and Canadian historians. The Mediaeval History Section heard Prof. F. D. Blackley, University of Alberta, examine criticisms levelled at the academic attainments of the bishops of Edward the Third's reign. Prof. T. J. Oleson emphasized the importance of such an examination in correcting mistaken opinions based on inaccurate information and insufficient research. A joint evening session was held with the Canadian Political Science Association in Convocation Hall under the chairmanship of Dr. Andrew Stewart, President of the University of Alberta. In his presidential address, Dr. W. Kaye Lamb discussed the relationship of the archivist to the historian. The presidential address of the Canadian Political Science Association was delivered by Mr. G. A. Elliot. Following a meeting of Council on the morning of June 7th, the conference closed with the annual general meeting. The Association approved an increase in the scale of fees.

The following officers were elected for 1958-1959: President: Rev. A. d'Eschambault, Genthon, Manitoba; Vice-President: W. L. Morton, Winnipeg; English Language Secretary: G. W. L. Nicholson, Ottawa; French Language Secretary: Rev. A. Pouliot, s.j., Quebec; Treasurer: R. S. Gordon, Ottawa; Past Presidents: W. Kaye Lamb, Ottawa, and D. G. Creighton, Toronto; Editors of the *Annual Report*: D. T. W. Shadd, Ottawa, and Léopold Lamontagne, Kingston; Councillors (to retire in 1961): P. G. Cornell, Wolfville, G. M. Craig, Toronto, Fernand Ouellet, Quebec, and L. G. Thomas, Edmonton.

The Association accepted an invitation to hold the 1959 meeting at Saskatoon, when the University of Saskatchewan will be celebrating its fiftieth anniversary.

Reports presented at the general meeting showed satisfactory progress in the work of the Association. The membership at the end of May 1958 was 783, a net gain of 38 over the previous year. Colonel C. P. Stacey, editor of the Historical Booklets series, announced that Booklet No. 9 had been published and that two others were forthcoming. Publication of the new Historical Atlas, in connection with which the C.H.A. has an advisory role, is expected in the fall of 1959. The Association had completed arrangements for a Summer Study Centre for Historians to be held at Queen's University from 7 July to 15 August. Six applicants had been accepted. The Association has been recognized as a co-operating body of the Canadian National Commission for UNESCO.

G. W. L. NICHOLSON,
English Language Secretary.

Ottawa
October, 1958