

Report of the Annual Meeting

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Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

Norman Fee

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

By NORMAN FEE

The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held this year on Tuesday and Wednesday, May 26 and 27, in the Dominion Archives building at Ottawa. The executive experimented this year in a new policy for the program, and, instead of the customary miscellaneous conglomeration of papers on all kinds of subjects, the three regular sessions on Tuesday afternoon and on Wednesday forenoon and afternoon were restricted to two papers each. Altogether, the meeting of 1931 was probably the most interesting and encouraging of the meetings in recent years, and the policy of the Program Committee in arranging topics for some of the sessions at least seems to have thoroughly justified itself.

Mr. A. L. Burt of the University of Minnesota, offered a reinterpretation of British policy in retaining the western posts after 1783, in which he stressed fear of an Indian rising as a most important motive at the beginning of the policy. Mr. T. W. L. MacDermot of McGill University gave an analysis of the biographies and biographical material of Sir John A. Macdonald, and made a plea for a more adequate treatment of the varied aspects of Sir John's career while material could still be obtained from men who knew him. Mr. Bartlet Brebner of Columbia University contributed a stimulating discussion on certain contrasts and similarities between the history of Canada and the United States. Mr. H. A. Innis of the University of Toronto gave a valuable account of the part played in the early history of the Maritime Provinces and Newfoundland by the technical development of the fisheries. An interesting paper on "Les types des colonisateurs de la Nouvelle France" was read by M. Léon Gérin. Mrs. Ida Munro Thompson of Ottawa discussed the question, "Where is Henry House?" The papers will, as usual, appear in the annual report.

Perhaps the outstanding feature of the meetings was the active participation of Sir Robert Borden, the president of the association for the current year. At the annual dinner held on Tuesday evening he gave a review of the development of the merit system in the civil service, a development in which he himself played so large a part. On Wednesday he entertained the members at luncheon at the Rideau Club. He presided at all the meetings except one and joined in the discussion. Of special interest were his comments on several points of which he had personal knowledge in connection with his long career in public life.

The executive for the ensuing year was named as follows: President, Judge F. W. Howay, New Westminster, B.C.; vice-president, Dr. J. C. Webster, Shediac, N.B.; chairman of management committee, L. J. Burpee, Ottawa; English secretary and treasurer, Norman Fee, Ottawa; editor and French secretary, Gustave Lanctot, Ottawa; members of the council, George Wilson, Halifax; Chester Martin, Toronto; A. Fauteux, Montreal; W. T. Waugh, Montreal; R. G. Trotter, Kingston; D. C. Harvey, Vancouver; A. S. Morton, Saskatoon; A. L. Burt, Minneapolis; N. A. Fieldhouse, Winnipeg; E. R. Adair, Montreal. Members have also been named to serve on the various committees of the International Institute of Historical Sciences. As representatives of the Anglo-American Conference of

Historians which is being held in London in July, 1931, there were appointed Professor Fieldhouse of the University of Manitoba, and Professor McArthur of Queen's University who is to read a paper. The association is once more under obligation to the Public Archives and to Dr. Doughty for providing accommodation for the annual meeting, and for assistance in publishing the annual report and replying to numerous inquiries during the year.