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Report of the Secretary

T. M. Hunter

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

by T. M. HUNTER

The forty-first Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held at McMaster University, Hamilton, on June 6-9, 1962. A beautiful campus, excellent facilities and fine weather contributed to the spirit of the proceedings. The Association is much indebted to the Committee on Local Arrangements, under the chairmanship of Principal E. T. Salmon, and the Programme Committee, headed by Professor G. S. French, for the success of the sessions. A total of 180 members signed the register in Wentworth House.

During the morning and afternoon of Wednesday, 6 June, the Archives Section and the Local History Section held meetings in the Arts and Administration Building. The Archives Section, under the chairmanship of Mr. C. B. Fergusson, looked into the future when Dr. W. Kaye Lamb, Dominion Archivist, delivered *Some Thoughts on the Role of the Archivist in 1967.* Mr. Lewis H. Thomas, University of Saskatchewan, then discussed *Archival Legislation in Canada.* In the evening the Council of the Association met in the Mills Memorial Library, while a Joint Meeting with the Head-of-the-Lake Historical Society, under the chairmanship of Mr. G. W. Spragge, heard Mr. C. M. Johnston of McMaster read a paper on *Joseph Brant, John Norton and the Six Nations.*

The general sessions on the morning of 7 June were divided between Canadian History of the early nineteenth century and British Military History. In the first division, Mr. L. F. S. Upton, University of Manitoba, spoke on *Chief Justice William Smith: American in Two Empires,* being followed by Mr. J. M. Hitsman, Historical Section, Army Headquarters, who examined *Sir George Prevost's Conduct of the Canadian War of 1812.* The commentator was Professor A. L. Burt of the University of Minnesota. In the second division, Professor A. V. Tucker, University of Western Ontario, took as his subject *Army and Society in England, 1870-1900: A Reassessment of the Cardwell Reforms.* Professor D. M. L. Farr, Carleton University, was the commentator. The afternoon sessions dealt with Canadian History after 1815 and nineteenth century Germany. Professor Fernand Ouellet, Université Laval, spoke on *La crise agraire dans le Bas-Canada (1802-1837),* while Mr. Alan Wilson, University of Western Ontario, discussed *The Culmination of Bishop Strachan's Feud with the Canada Company.* Professor S. F. Wise, of Queen's University, acted as commentator. Meanwhile, Professor Robert Spencer, University of Toronto, delivered *Thoughts on the German Confederation, 1815-1866,* and Professor Ivo Lambi, University of Saskatchewan, considered *Bismarck and the Monarchical Principle,* with Professor Ezio Cappadocia as commentator.

In the evening the Association gathered for its Annual Banquet and Presidential Address in Fischer's Hotel, Hamilton. The occasion was graced by the presence of The Right Honourable Vincent Massey, P.C., C.H., M.A., D.C.L., Litt.D., LL.D., D. de l'Univ., who was presented with an Honorary Life Membership in the Association.

In his presidential address, *Breakers Ahead and a Glance Behind,* Dr. R. A. Preston reviewed the background of the teaching of history in Canadian universities with particular reference to recent developments in the *exotica,* or non-Western fields. He commented on "the danger of dilution", concluding that "expansion into non-Western fields will mean for Canada, more than will be the case in the United States, a weakening in education in essential western concepts".

On the morning of 8 June, general sessions were resumed with papers on Federal-Provincial relations since 1920, and British party politics from 1850 to 1900. In the Canadian section, Miss Margaret Ormsby, University of British Columbia, spoke on *Premier T. Dufferin Pattullo and the Little New Deal,* and Professor F. W. Gibson, Queen's University, dealt with *Mackenzie King, Ernest Lapointe and the Federal Power of Disallowance.* Professor K. W. McNaught was the commentator. Meanwhile, in the British section, Professor J. B. Conacher and Mr. Trevor O. Lloyd, both of the University of Toronto, delivered papers on *Mr. Gladstone seeks a Seat* and *English Party Politics in the 1880's,* respectively. The commentator was Mr. J. H. S. Reid. In the afternoon, a Joint Meeting of the Association with the Canadian Catholic Historical Association took as its theme: *The Philosophy of History and the Historian: A Colloquium.* Under the chairmanship of Professor P. Zagorin, McGill University, the contributors to the discussion were Professor R. H. McNeal, University of Alberta, and Professors W. H. Dray and D. J. McDougall, both of the University of Toronto.

In the evening a meeting sponsored by the Joint Committee of the Canadian and American Historical Associations was held in the Engineering Building. Dr. A. B. Corey, State Historian, New York, presided and two papers were read. Professor D. G. Creighton, University of Toronto, examined *The American Civil War and Canadian Federation,* while Mr. Jay Luvaas, Allegheny College, described *General Sir Patrick MacDougall, the American Civil War and the Defence of Canada.* Professor W. L. Morton, University of Manitoba, was the commentator.

After a further meeting of Council on the morning of Saturday, 9 June, the General Meeting of the Association was held in the Engineering Building. The Secretary reported that membership of the C.H.A. at the end of May 1962 totalled 1,004, a net gain of 62 members. Plans for closer collaboration of the C.H.A. and the American Historical Association were discussed; further progress in the publication of historical booklets

was noted, and a resolution was passed urging the Government to relax the rules governing the availability of certain official records. The following officers were elected for 1962-1963: President: Miss Hilda Neatby, Saskatoon; Past Presidents: R. A. Preston, Kingston, and W. K. Ferguson, London; Vice-President: Marcel Trudel, Québec; English Language Secretary: T. M. Hunter, Ottawa; French Language Secretary: Bernard Weilbrenner, Ottawa; Treasurer: R. S. Gordon, Ottawa; Editors of the *Annual Report:* J. P. Heisler and Fernand Ouellet; Councillors (to retire in 1965): Georges Guimond, Québec; Miss Margaret Prang, Vancouver; S. F. Wise, Kingston; D. M. Young, Fredericton. (Rev. Adrien Pouliot, S.J., who had given diligent service as French Language Secretary for four years, took Mr. Weilbrenner's position as a Councillor.)

During the afternoon members of the Association were taken on an historical tour of the Niagara Peninsula. The tour included visits to the Stoney Creek Battlefield and the Jordan Museum, where members were guests at a reception given by Jordan Wines Limited.

T. M. HUNTER
English Language Secretary

Ottawa, October, 1962.