

*The Canadian Historical Review*, XXIX, 2, (Toronto, June, 1948) : 183-194. GIBSON, J.A., *Canada and Foreign Affairs*

Gordon O. Rothney

Volume 2, numéro 3, décembre 1948

URI : <https://id.erudit.org/iderudit/801489ar>

DOI : <https://doi.org/10.7202/801489ar>

[Aller au sommaire du numéro](#)

Éditeur(s)

Institut d'histoire de l'Amérique française

ISSN

0035-2357 (imprimé)

1492-1383 (numérique)

[Découvrir la revue](#)

Citer ce compte rendu

Rothney, G. O. (1948). Compte rendu de [*The Canadian Historical Review*, XXIX, 2, (Toronto, June, 1948) : 183-194. GIBSON, J.A., *Canada and Foreign Affairs*]. *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*, 2(3), 456-457.  
<https://doi.org/10.7202/801489ar>

*The Canadian Historical Review*, XXIX, 2, (Toronto, June, 1948): 183-194.  
GIBSON, J.A., *Canada and Foreign Affairs*.

Each year an article on this subject is published in the *Canadian Historical Review*. This one, dealing with 1947, is written by the Professor of History at Carleton College, Ottawa. It is a story of great activity, with Canadian missions going hither and yon all over the globe. But it still is not exciting, for the truth is that there is little originality about Canadian external policy. We are very active about little things, but Washington decides the big issues for us.

Professor Gibson contents himself with a summary of a number of publications which appeared on the subject during the year, mostly written from an official point of view. The article would have been more lively if it had told us something of the debates or differences of opinion which occurred in Canada about fundamental foreign policy. The only mention of anything written in French, however, is with regard to *Le Canada et l'organisation internationale du travail*, by Jean-Pierre Després, published under the auspices of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. « Lately of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Laval University, and more recently with the International Labour Organization in Geneva, » Dr. Després has provided « a careful examination » of that body, which he suggests « ought to claim a larger measure of popular attention »<sup>1</sup>.

1947 was a year in which Canada's Secretary of State for External Affairs was a French-Canadian. His *Annual Report* for 1947 is mostly « an account of the work of the several missions abroad. » Peace was the main preoccupation of the year. In September our treaties with Italy, Roumania, Hungary and Finland entered into force. Mr. St. Laurent outlined Canadian policy in his lecture on the Duncan and John Gray Foundation in 1947 (University of Toronto). He was not « unmindful of the limitations upon the influence of any 'secondary' power, » (this is putting it mildly); nevertheless he announced over a national network « that Canada would be a candidate for election to the Security Council. » We were elected, (but the minister has not stressed the fact that Argentina, in spite of her neutrality in the two World Wars, was elected at the same time and by the same vote).

---

1. DESPRÉS, Jean-Pierre, *Le Canada et l'organisation internationale du travail*. Préface du T.R.P. Georges-Henri Lévesque, Montréal, Éditions Fides, 1947, 273 p. (\$2.50).

The only specific mention which Professor Gibson makes of opinion in French-speaking Canada is in relation to « some wistful strains arising from supposed cultural affinities » with the Pan-American Union. To these, the Right Honourable Vincent Massey replied « that Canada could cultivate friendly relations with Latin America on her own account and in her own way without becoming 'a cog in the Pan-American machine' ». The arguments on both sides of this question « have been admirably set out and summarized in a recent pamphlet called *Canada and the Pan American system*, by F.H. Soward and A.M. Macaulay.<sup>2</sup>

The article, in general, however, only tends to confirm the impression that on really fundamental questions concerning Canada's place in international affairs our attitudes are really assumed, by the government and the public alike, rather than rationally thought out.

Gordon O. ROTHNEY

---

2. SOWARD, F.H. and MACAULEY, A.M. *Canada and the Pan-American System*. Published under the auspices of the Canadian Institute of International Affairs. Toronto: Ryerson Press. 1948. P. 47. (60c).