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## Report of the Secretary

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## REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Canadian Historical Association joined the other Learned Societies in helping to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the opening of the University of Saskatchewan by holding the Association's thirty-eighth annual meeting in Saskatoon on June 3-6, 1959. The ninety-three delegates who signed the register were much impressed by the extensive building programme which is making the University campus one of the finest in Western Canada. The Association is very much indebted to the Committee on Arrangements, Conference of Learned Societies, under the chairmanship of Prof. Clarence Tracy. Its admirable arrangements contributed greatly to the success of the meetings. The planning of the programme was capably handled by a committee headed by Dr. Hilda Neatby. Members and their wives enjoyed the hospitality of the University at a reception and dinner tendered by the University of Saskatchewan on 4 June.

The Archives Section and the Local History Section met on the opening day, Wednesday, 3 June, the former being chaired by Mr. William Ormsby, the latter by Professor Margaret Ormsby. Mr. John H. Archer, Legislative Librarian and Archivist of Saskatchewan, addressed the Archives Section on *Saskatchewan's Records Retention and Disposal Programme*. Mr. David Shadd, Public Archives of Canada, spoke later and revealed *Some Problems in providing Reference Service at a Records Centre*.<sup>\*</sup> In the evening, the Council of the Association held its first meeting.

In the Murray Memorial Library, a large number of members of the Association attended the unveiling of a memorial plaque to the late Professor A. S. Morton, first head of the Department of History at the University of Saskatchewan. Prof. G. W. Simpson, who unveiled the plaque, spoke warmly of his former colleague's services to the Saskatchewan community. Prof. W. L. Morton paid a tribute from the Canadian Historical Association, hailing his namesake as "the greatest of our regional historians".

The general sessions began on 4 June. In the Canadian History Section Colonel C. P. Stacey, Director of the Historical Section, Army Headquarters, took a searching look at generals and generalship before Quebec, 1759-1760. The topic was a timely one in view of the observance this year of the Bicentenary of the Battle of the Plains of Abraham. Col. Stacey suggested that although Wolfe and Montcalm both had military talents, neither deserves to rank among the great captains of history.

<sup>\*</sup> These two papers are scheduled for publication early in 1960 in the *Journal of the Society of Archivists*, London, England.

Prof. G. F. G. Stanley, Royal Military College of Canada, led the discussion. Dr. P. Harnetty of the University of British Columbia addressed the English History Section on *British and Indian Attitudes to the Indian Problem at the end of the Nineteenth Century*. He showed how the British determination to retain full control of the Indian Empire, based partly on the ideal of a "sacred trust" to civilize India, conflicted with the political aims of the Congress which sought a greater share in ruling the country and a gradual advance to self-government under the aegis of the British. Dean N. H. Fieldhouse, McGill University led the ensuing discussion. In the afternoon, Prof. Michel Brunet, Université de Montréal, addressed the Canadian History Section on *Le rôle des métropoles et des entrepreneurs dans la colonisation de l'Amérique et la mise en valeur de la vallée du Saint-Laurent*. Prof. Brunet examined the attempt of French colonization to match the work of Great Britain and its investors both at home and in North America in magnificently fulfilling their colonizing responsibilities. He found that the effort made by France and its investors, although considerable, was insufficient. Prof. W. J. Eccles, University of Alberta, was commentator. In the Mediaeval and European History Section there were two papers. Prof. Norman F. Cantor, Princeton University, gave a new interpretation of the age of the Gregorian reform and the investiture controversy. He suggested that the Gregorian revolutionaries, in the period from 1050 to 1130, while destroying the idea of theocratic or quasi-sacred monarchy, failed to substitute the papal supremacy over all the states concerned. Instead they indirectly and unconsciously encouraged the growth of the secular state founded on administrative bureaucracy. Mr. James A. Leith, University of Saskatchewan, discussed the idea of art as a means of propaganda during the French Revolution. Because the new government did not have the funds to commission many works of art with a revolutionary theme, and because the rapidly changing reputations of revolutionary heroes made it difficult to idealize them, and above all, because a belief in artistic freedom safeguarded artists from being forced to depict revolutionary subjects, the idea of using art as propaganda was not so successfully applied in the French Revolution as has been the case with certain modern states. In the evening, in a session devoted to Local History, members and visitors heard an exposition by Prof. Jean E. Murray, University of Saskatchewan, of some aspects of the early history of the University of Saskatchewan. Prof. Murray traced the early development of higher education in that part of the North-West Territories which eventually became Saskatchewan. The commentator was Prof. W. L. Morton of the University of Manitoba.

Prof. L. H. Gipson, Lehigh Institute of Research, was the only speaker on the morning of 5 June. Under the title, *Colonies Ripe for Revolt : The Older British North American Colonies, 1763*, Prof. Gipson summarized the changes that the Seven Years' War had brought to these

colonies. In examining the factors that lead to the war for American independence, Prof. Gipson contended that in view of the degree of self-sufficiency reached by the colonies, no offer of representation in the British Parliament would have been acceptable. Prof. Gipson's conclusion was that the only way to have preserved the old British Empire would have been to have given the colonials a free choice of remaining a part of it or of peacefully separating from it. The afternoon of 5 June was taken up with a meeting of the Council and the general meeting of the Association.

The Council accepted with regret the resignation of Col. C. P. Stacey who had edited the Historical Booklets Series since its inception, and a vote of appreciation was extended to Col. Stacey. The Historical Atlas Committee reported that work on the Atlas was well advanced and that publication was expected early in the spring of 1960. The English Language Secretary reported that a successful Summer Study Centre had been held at Queen's University in 1958 with six members attending. Only three applications had been received for the 1959 Study Centre which was again being held at Queen's University from 6 July to 14 August. Mr. W. G. Ormsby reported that there had been fourteen registrations for the Archives Course being conducted by Carleton University during June.

A joint evening session was held with the Canadian Political Science Association in Convocation Hall under the chairmanship of Dr. J. M. Spinks, President-Elect of the University of Saskatchewan. Dr. S. D. Clark delivered the Presidential Address of the Canadian Political Science Association. The Presidential Address of the Canadian Historical Association had to be cancelled due to the unfortunate absence through illness of Mgr. A. d'Eschambault. In a re-arrangement of the programme the joint session heard a lively panel discussion on the late R. MacGregor Dawson's book *William Lyon Mackenzie King*.† Members of the panel, which was chaired by Dean James A. Gibson of Carleton University, were: Professor F. H. Underhill, Laurier House; Dr. E. A. Forsey, Director of Research, Canadian Labour Congress; and Professor J. R. Mallory of McGill University.

At the General Meeting of the Association, members were told that membership of the Association at the end of May 1959 stood at 840, a net gain of 57 over the previous year. The following officers were elected for 1959-60: President: W. L. Morton, Winnipeg; Vice-President: W. K. Ferguson, London; English Language Secretary: G. W. L. Nicholson, Ottawa; French Language Secretary: Rev. A. Pouliot, s.j., Quebec; Treasurer: R. S. Gordon, Ottawa; Past Presidents: Mgr. A. d'Eschambault, Genthon, Manitoba, and W. Kaye Lamb, Ottawa; Editors of the

† Professor Underhill's views on Dawson's *King* have since appeared in the *Canadian Forum*, August, 1959.

*Annual Report* : D. T. W. Shadd, Ottawa, and P. E. Dumas, Ottawa; Councillors (to retire in 1962) : D. M. L. Farr, Ottawa, Rev. D. J. Mulvihill, Windsor, J.-C. Bonenfant, Quebec, and Miss Margaret Ormsby, Vancouver; Chairman of the Programme and Local Arrangements Committee for the 1960 Annual Meeting: F. W. Gibson, Kingston. The Association accepted an invitation to hold their 1960 meetings in Kingston, where Queen's University and the Royal Military College of Canada will act as joint hosts.

On Saturday, 6 June, some thirty-five members of the Association enjoyed an Historic Sites Tour to Battleford. The programme, which was arranged by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. L. H. Thomas of Regina College, included visits to the cairn marking the surrender of Chief Poundmaker, the old North-West Territories' Government House, Fort Battleford and its Indian museum. They also attended the unveiling of a cairn on the site where the *Saskatchewan Herald*, the first newspaper in the North-West Territories, began publication in 1878. In bringing greetings from the Canadian Historical Association, the English Language Secretary, Col. G. W. L. Nicholson, drew attention to a resolution adopted by the Association regarding its gratification at the continued interest of the Government of Saskatchewan in preserving and marking the Province's historic sites. During the course of the tour members of the Association were the guests of the Town of Battleford at a luncheon in the Windsor Hotel.

Ottawa, August, 1959

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