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At the Meetings

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HSTC ¹ BULLETIN

Quarterly Newsletter for the
History of Science and Tech-
nology of Canada

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pour l'histoire des sciences
et technologie canadiennes

Editors/Redacteurs: Richard A. Jarrell (York University); Norman R. Ball
(Parks Canada)

Mailing Address: Dept. Natural Science, Atkinson College, York
University, Downsview, Ontario M3J 2R7

EDITORIAL

The HSTC Bulletin hopes to become a catalyst in the development of the history of Canadian science and technology. There is, at present, neither journal nor society that actively encourages this growing field of study. The Bulletin is not the official organ of any society, but an independent newsletter by and for historians. The format of this issue will be followed in subsequent issues, but ideas for any new features will be gladly received by the editors. Since most of us work in relative isolation, we may be able to create more of a community by means of this publication, but it will require contributions from you, the readers. The editors cannot monitor all that is taking place in this field and must rely upon you for news and other items for our various departments. Next issue will include a directory of scholars in the history of Canadian science and technology. If you have not received a questionnaire and wish to be included, write to the editorial office.

FINANCES

The Bulletin is non-profit and is not associated with any institution. Our only means of financial support is through donations. At the end of our first year of publication, we will review our financial situation. If donations are insufficient, we may have to require a nominal subscription. All donations will be gratefully accepted; receipts for income tax purposes will be issued to each donor. Please make cheques payable to: HSTC Bulletin and send to the editorial office.

AT THE MEETINGS

Four papers on Canadian science and technology were read at the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Science at the Laval University in June. The abstracts appear below. Five historical papers were presented at the Ontario Medical Association meeting in May. A report of that session, kindly provided by Dr. A.D. Kelly,

appears on page 4. A paper entitled "Mathematicians in Colonial Canada: Bougainville and Masères," was read by Bill Higginson of Queen's to the annual meeting of the Canadian Society for History and Philosophy of Mathematics at Laval in June. No abstract is presently available. C.S.H.P.S. papers were:

R.V.V. Nicholls, "The Production of Potash in Canada during the 17th, 18th and 19th Centuries," described the forms and uses of potash, its provenance in Canada, an outline of the potash industry and trade figures for the 19th century.

W. James and A. Dick, (McMaster), "T.C. Keefer, C.E., at Hamilton Water Works, C.W.: Events Preceding his Appointment as Chief Engineer," discussed the background to the discussion for creating a waterworks for Hamilton, especially the role of the cholera epidemic. The design competition was also described.

L. Murphy, (York), "Thomas C. Keefer's Inaugural Lecture as a Portent of Professionalism in Canadian Engineering," introduced portions of Keefer's unpublished inaugural lecture as professor of civil engineering at McGill and highlighted Keefer's views on engineering as a profession.

R. A. Jarrell, (York), "Towards an Historiography of Canadian Science," reviewed the literature and problems in the history of Canadian science and set out a scheme for interpreting that history with the concept of scientism and the use of a chronological structure.

NEWS

The NRC Oral History Project

The National Reserach Council's "oral history" collection is a general archive on the NRC's early development, including manuscripts and photographs as well as tape-recordings. It grew out of the conviction that important forces in the NRC's history (especially individual personalities and the influence of the political or social climate) had gone unrecorded in scientific literature or official files, thus limiting the historian's resources.

An initial trial, specializing in biology 1920-1940 (in support of a newly-commissioned history) seemed to confirm this, so the work continued.