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Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY-TREASURER

By NORMAN FEE

The annual meeting of the Canadian Historical Association was held in Ottawa on Wednesday and Thursday, May 22 and 23.

Through the courtesy of Dr. Doughty and the kindness of the Dominion Government, the Northcliffe Room in the Public Archives was placed at the disposal of the association. This room contains a wealth of material relating to the conquest including the last letters penned by Wolfe and Montcalm, the original painting of the Death of Wolfe by Benjamin West, books from the library of General Wolfe, a piece of furniture from the house of Montcalm and many other articles the gift of Lord Harmsworth to the people of Canada as a memorial to his brother Lord Northcliffe.

The first session was held on Thursday afternoon when the address of the president, Prof. Chester Martin, "Sir Edmund Head and the Canadian Confederation," and a paper by Prof. F. H. Underhill, "Canada's Relations with the Empire as seen by the Toronto Globe," were read. Other sessions were held on Friday at which the following papers were presented: D. C. Harvey, "Sidelights on Reciprocity and Confederation"; J. P. Bertrand, "Dufrost de la Jemeraye;" A. S. Morton, "The place of The Red River settlement in the plans of the Hudson's Bay Company, 1812-1825;" J. L. McDougall, "The Frontier School and Canadian history;" Dr. Gustave Lanctot, "Les Fonctions de l'intendant;" W. N. Sage, "John Work's first journal, 1823-1824;" J. P. Pritchett and D. J. Pierce, "The choice of Kingston as the capital of Canada, 1839-1841;" Dr. J. C. Webster, "The Dutch governor of Acadia;" F. Audet, "L. J. Papineau;" Dr. W. C. Milner, "Public records in the Maritime provinces;" A. R. M. Lower, "Some Neglected Aspects of Canadian History;" James J. Talman, "Travel literature as a source for the history of Upper Canada;" F. H. Soward, "The election of Canada to the League of Nations Council;" E. R. Adair, "French-Canadian Art;" His Honour Judge Fabre-Surveyer, "The early life of James McGill." The last-mentioned paper was read at the dinner which was held in the Chateau Laurier on the evening of May 23 and which more than fulfilled expectations in respect both to attendance and interest.

The thanks of the association were tendered to Dr. Doughty for the provision made in the Archives building for the meetings and for the co-operation of the Archives in the work of the association, to Professor Martin the retiring president, to Dr. Webster, and to the secretary-treasurer. The thanks of the association are also due to Mr. Wallace, Managing Editor of the Canadian Historical Review, to Dr. Brown, Associate Editor, to Miss Jarvis of the Review, also to Dr. Roy, Editor of the Bulletin des Recherches Historiques, for their assistance and co-operation during the year.

The annual statement shows an increase in the membership and an improvement in the financial condition of the association. During the year the secretaries have answered a large number of requests, sent to the association for information. In this connection the Archives have pro-

vided indispensable assistance. Progress is also being made in the acquisition of a complete collection of reports of historical societies. The Historical Association is combining with the National Research Council and the Royal Society in this enterprise, and it is expected that the collection will be made available for consultation in the library of the Royal Society at Ottawa. The secretary has received communications from a number of local historical societies with regard to their work during the year. It is to be hoped that this practice will continue and be extended.

There has been a noticeable and most encouraging growth of interest in the Association during the last three years, and the recent meeting showed the effects of this cumulative development in the attendance which represented all parts of the country and in the quality of the papers. It is apparent that the very great difficulties which face the Association, due especially to travelling distances, are gradually being overcome, and that the Association is each year becoming more important as a common meeting place for students of history from all parts of Canada. If this development continues, the association can make a vital contribution in co-ordinating historical activities, in fostering scholarship and interest in Canadian history and in encouraging the collection and organization of historical materials.

Officers of the association for the next year were elected as follows: President, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux; Vice-President, Sir Robert Borden; Chairman of the Management Committee, L. J. Burpee; Treasurer and English Secretary, Norman Fee; French Secretary and Editor, Dr. Gustave Lanctot. The members of the council are: Prof. George E. Wilson, Dalhousie University; Dr. J. C. Webster, Shediac, N.B.; Prof. Victor Morin, University of Montreal; Senator Chapais, Quebec; Prof. Chester Martin, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg; Prof. D. A. McArthur, Kingston; Prof. A. G. Dorland, London; Prof. A. S. Morton, Saskatoon; Prof. A. L. Burt, Edmonton; Prof. D. C. Harvey, Vancouver.