

# Report of the Annual Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association Rapport de l'assemblée annuelle de la Société historique du Canada

Report of the Annual Meeting

## 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 Winnipeg on Thursday and Friday, May 24 and 25.

The first session was a luncheon provided at Lower Fort Garry by the Hudson's Bay Company for members of the Royal Society and of the Historical Association. The Lower Fort, which stands in a striking situation on the bank of the Red river about twenty miles from Winnipeg, was built between 1831 and 1839, and is the only remaining complete example of the old stone forts built by the Hudson's Bay Company, and, at one time, numerous throughout the West. The wall of solid masonry, three feet thick and pierced at intervals of a few feet, encloses four and a half acres. Several of the stone buildings are still standing, and the whole is being preserved with the greatest care as a monument of early days in the Northwest. Here, for many years, were held the meetings of the governor and officers of the company. While sitting in this famous council hall almost one hundred years old, the guests were reminded that the British flag had flown in this vast northwest region for a longer period than in any other part of the North American mainland, and the panorama of over two hundred and fifty years of continuous British history stirred the imagination of all present. After the luncheon a complete plan of the fort as it had existed throughout its history was provided, and the buildings now standing were thrown open to inspection.

Through the kindness of the Manitoba Government, other meetings of the association were held in the provincial parliament buildings. In the unavoidable absence of the president, Dr. Doughty, Prof. Chester Martin presided. Dr. Doughty's interest was, however, fully evident not only in his admirable paper on "The Awakening of Canadian Interest in the Northwest," but in the exhibit of pictures which was sent from the Archives. It included more than two dozen original paintings in oil and water colour, illustrating various phases of the history of the Northwest.

The papers read at the sessions of the association were as follows: Dr. C. N. Bell, "The Route of Henry Kelsey, 1690-2"; Judge Prud'homme, "La Verendrye"; Mr. William Smith, "The Reception of the Durham Papers in Canada"; Mr. Léon Gérin, "Roland et le Canada Français"; Miss Lila Staples, "Hon. Alexander Morris"; Prof. W. N. Sage, "Some Aspects of the Frontier in Canadian History"; Prof. C. W. Rife, "Edward Winslow, Jr., Loyalist Pioneer in the Maritime Provinces"; Prof. Chester Martin, "Head's Memorandum on Confederation"; Prof. J. Howe, "The Quit-Rent in New Brunswick"; Prof. R. G. Trotter, "Canadian Interest in the History of the United States"; Dr. Hugh Keenleyside, "British Columbia—Annexation or Confederation?"; M. Gustave Lanctot, "Les premiers budgets de la Nouvelle-France"; M. Camille Bertrand, "Les Concessions des Terres Publiques de 1796 à 1840"; Mr. A. R. M. Lower, "Lumbering in New France". These papers will be printed in the annual report.

A very happy feature of two sessions was the active co-operation of the Historical and Scientific Society of Manitoba under the presidency of Dr. C. N. Bell. The latter of these two sessions took the form of a

dinner to the visiting delegates. On this occasion the Hudson's Bay Company also made special provision for the inspection of its museum which illustrates the history of the Northwest.

Officers of the association for next year were elected as follows: President, Prof. Chester Martin; Vice-president, Hon. Rodolphe Lemieux; Chairman of the Management Committee, Mr. L. J. Burpee; Treasurer and English Secretary, Mr. Norman Fee; Educational and French Secretary, M. Gustave Lanctot. The members of the council are: Prof. George E. Wilson of Dalhousie University; Dr. J. C. Webster of Shediac, N.B.; Prof. Victor Morin, University of Montreal; Senator Chapais of Quebec; Prof. George Smith, Toronto; 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.

The special thanks of the association are due to Dr. Doughty and the Archives, whose assistance in connection with the annual report and in many other ways has been of an essential nature. During the past year, the secretary of the association received twenty-two inquiries from various parts of Canada, as well as from the United States, England, Australia, and New Zealand. In a number of these cases adequate replies were made possible by the aid of the staff and resources of the Archives,—over one hundred pages of photostat and other material being sent out. The thanks of the association are also due to Mr. Wallace, managing editor of the *Historical Review*, to his assistants, Dr. Brown and Miss Jarvis, and to Mr. Roy, editor of the *Bulletin des Recherches Historiques*, for their assistance and co-operation during the year.