

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

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Report of the Secretary

D. M. L. Farr

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REPORT OF THE SECRETARY

The Canadian Historical Association held its thirty-fifth annual meeting at the Université de Montréal, Montreal, on June 6-8, 1956. The spacious buildings and magnificent site of the university were the subject of much favourable comment from the members of the Association, many of whom also had the pleasure of being housed in the new Students' Residence, brought into use for the first time on the occasion of the meetings. The Association was warmly welcomed to the university by the Rector, Mgr. Irénée Lussier, who presided at a *vin d'honneur* offered the visiting societies on June 8th. The City of Montreal was host to the learned societies at a reception at the Chalet on Mont Royal on the previous day. The excellence of the arrangements for the Association's meeting is largely to be attributed to the careful work of the local committee, and in particular to its chairman, Prof. Guy Frégault. In company with Prof. J. I. Cooper of McGill University and Prof. Michel Brunet of the Université de Montréal, Prof. Frégault supervised the numerous details involved in the planning of the programme.

After a Council meeting on the morning of June 6th, the general sessions began on the afternoon with a well-attended meeting to consider the subject of Canadian historiography. Mr. Boris Celovsky of Ottawa presented the attitude of a European student of history in attempting to place Canadian historians in an international setting; Prof. W. Menzies Whitelaw contributed some delightful reminiscences of the gatherings of Canadian historians at the Public Archives between the wars; and Mr. Bernard Weillbrenner discussed some of the leading trends in recent years in historical writing in Canada. In the evening the Association was privileged to hear the *doyen* of French-Canadian historians, the venerable Canon Lionel Groulx, present a paper on the intriguing subject, "Fils de grand homme".

The morning session on June 7th featured two papers: "Histoire de l'Europe et histoire du Canada" by Prof. Claude Galarneau of Université Laval and "Was George III Really the 'Patriot King'?" by Prof. George Buxton of the University of Ottawa. In the afternoon there were two papers dealing with the history of Montreal in the 17th and 19th centuries: "Saint-Sulpice et Montréal" by Mgr. Olivier Maurault, Montréal, and "The Social Structure of Montreal in the 1850's" by Prof. J. I. Cooper. Prof. Cooper illustrated his lecture with a number of interesting photographs and water colours of early Montreal. On the evening of June 7th the presidential addresses were heard in the University Auditorium. Prof. G. F. G. Stanley of the Royal Military College, President of the Association, reviewed the nature of the Confederation arrangement in "Act or Pact? Another Look at Confederation." Prof. Stanley was followed by Mr. J. Douglas Gibson, President of the Canadian Political

Science Association, who spoke on the timely subject, "The Changing Influence of the United States on the Canadian Economy."

Friday, June 8th, was the last day of the meetings. In the morning at a general session Father Malcolm MacDonell of St. Francis Xavier University discussed a neglected aspect of the history of the Maritimes, "Sir John Harvey's Conflict with Chief Justice J. G. H. Bourne" and Prof. Maurice Séguin of the Université de Montréal spoke on "La notion d'indépendance dans l'histoire du Canada". The afternoon of June 8th was given over to the symposium on Canadianism, at which the discussion was recorded by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation for later broadcasting. There have been few occasions in recent years when one of the Association's sessions has thus attained the status of a national forum. The three members of the discussion panel and the chairman rose ably to the opportunity and produced a bilingual interplay that was both stimulating and illuminating. Dr. Eugene Forsey chaired the panel, which consisted of Prof. Hilda Neatby of the University of Saskatchewan, Prof. R. A. Preston of the Royal Military College and Prof. Michel Brunet of the Université de Montréal. (In Prof. Brunet's absence Prof. Frégault read his paper and then participated in the informal discussion.) The Montreal meetings were closed with the business meeting of the Association, which occurred on the evening of June 8th.

New officers of the Association for 1956-57 were chosen in Montreal. They are: President: D. G. Creighton, Toronto; Vice-President: W. Kaye Lamb, Ottawa; English Language Secretary: D. M. L. Farr, Ottawa; French Language Secretary: A. Roy, Quebec; Treasurer: W. G. Ormsby, Ottawa; Editor of the *Annual Report*: John S. Moir, Ottawa; Associate Editors of the *Annual Report*: Father A. Pouliot, Quebec and Léopold Lamontagne, Kingston; Councillors (to retire in 1959): J. M. S. Careless, Toronto; Guy Frégault, Montréal; D. C. Masters, Lennoxville; C. P. Wilson, Winnipeg. Council accepted the resignation of Prof. P. G. Cornell, who after two years of arduous service felt obliged to relinquish the responsibilities of Editor of the *Report*. It was decided that the 1957 meeting of the Association would be held in Ottawa, where the Royal Society of Canada would be meeting for its 75th anniversary.

The year 1956 has proved to be another successful chapter in the continued growth of the Association. Membership at May 31, 1956, stood at 726, with 88 new members enrolling during the year to produce a net gain in membership of 47. Two more issues in the Booklet series were published: Marcel Trudel's *Le Régime seigneurial* and F. H. Soward's *The Department of External Affairs and Canadian Autonomy, 1899-1939*. The first appeared in March; the second in May. The revenue position of the Booklet series remained satisfactory, enabling the Association to plan additional titles for the coming year. In other areas as well the Association was able to extend its activities. At its own request

the former Archives Committee was transformed into an Archives Section, continuing to operate under the jurisdiction of the Council of the Association but enjoying the benefits of a more permanent and effective organization. The Archives Section gave serious consideration during the year to two projects: the establishment of an Archives Training Course for Canada and the preparation of a glossary of Canadian archival terms. The Local History Committee was active during the year in circularizing local historical societies about developments of interest in this field throughout Canada, and in making plans for a system of awards of merit for local historical groups. Another committee of the Association was considering the ambitious proposal of a summer study centre to encourage research and writing by Canadian historians. The widening range of the Association's interests illustrates a healthy awareness of its responsibilities for the promotion of historical scholarship in Canada.

D. M. L. FARR

English Language Secretary

Ottawa

September, 1956

The Treasurer's report for the period May 1—December 31, 1955, having been previously distributed to all members, will not appear in this *Report*.