

THE 1965 MEETING

by

SANDRA GUILLAUME

The 1965 business meeting of the Archives Section, Canadian Historical Association, was held in the Buchanan Building, University of British Columbia, Vancouver, on June 9th, Allan R. Turner presiding. After brief opening remarks, the chairman moved to the items on the agenda. On the motion of Douglas Bocking, seconded by Hartwell Bowsfield, the minutes of the 1964 meeting were approved as printed in the **Canadian Archivist**. As there was no business arising from these minutes, the Section moved to reports from the institutions represented. The following reports were received:

Provincial Archives of Quebec:

Bernard Weilbrenner reported an increase in staff of three archivists. The publication of a general inventory of the Archives' holdings in the fall of 1965 or the early part of 1966 was anticipated. 1,000 reels of microfilm, comprising the C 11A and C 11B series, CO42 and RG1 series had been purchased from the Public Archives of Canada. An exhibition consisting of documents, maps and illustrations, some on loan from the Archives Nationales and the St. Sulpice Seminary, as well as other institutions, had been opened June 2nd, and would remain open for one month in celebration of the tercentenary of the arrival of Carignan Regiment. An allocation of 10,000 additional feet of shelving was expected within a few months. The papers of Senator Bouchard and an additional 1,000 feet of Department of Education records had been accessioned. Laval University had not as yet confirmed offering an Archives Training Course because of staffing problems, but it was expected that an archivist would be brought from France to teach the course, which would be part of the licentiate.

Public Archives of Canada:

Wilfred Smith reported that because of the increase in size of the staff and the complexity of operations, it had been necessary to make changes in organization. All archival functions are now combined in the Historical Branch which includes the Manuscript, Map, Picture and Library Divisions. The Post-Confederation Section of the Manuscript Division had also been divided into Post-Confederation Manuscripts (Section Head: J. Atherton) and Public Records (Section Head: T. Regehr.) The Picture Division had also been divided into two sections: Paintings, Prints and Drawings, and Photographs.

The Picture Division had acquired approximately 50,000 photographs in several accessions and an increase on this figure was expected for the current year. The Map Division had acquired 150,000 foreign topographical sheets in one accession. During 1964, 1,349 researchers registered in the Manuscript Division alone, and the result of the increased volume of accessions and demand for research services included the addition of 67 new positions to the Archives staff, among them 15 new archivists in 1964 and 9 in 1965. The total staff now numbers over 200 and the appropriation for the current fiscal year is over \$1,000,000.

In connection with the Centennial project of the publication of the papers of Canadian Prime Ministers, Mr. Smith noted that over 10,000 letters of Sir John A. Macdonald had already been located. Another project had also been undertaken: the publication of brief biographies of all Canadian Senators and Members of Parliament. As information regarding many of them is difficult to locate, the co-operation of institutions having biographical files was requested.

Mr. Smith also noted a landmark in the field of records legislation. Since there had been a delay in the passage of the proposed Records Act, the provisions of this Act had been authorized by a Treasury Board minute, effective April 1st. The Dominion Archivist is now responsible for records and records management with power to approve all proposals to destroy records, to approve all proposals for the removal of records from the ownership of the Dominion of Canada, to approve all proposals to withhold records from public inspection for more than 35 years after creation, and to assess the adequacy of depart-

mental policies and practices in record-keeping. Departmental Records Coordinators will be appointed and the Public Records Committee will be replaced by an Advisory Council on Public Records to provide such advice as the Dominion Archivist may require. Mr. Smith suggested that a report on the effectiveness of the measure might be a suitable subject for inclusion in the 1966 meeting, and in conclusion noted that the first Branch Records Centre would open shortly in Toronto.

Glenbow Foundation, Calgary:

Hugh A. Dempsey reported that the Foundation had moved to a new location and that the Foundation's museum, which had relied extensively on the Archives for historical information, had also opened. Among the accessions during the year were the Slocum Howland papers, 1914-1921, relating to the oil industry. A researcher from the Foundation was in Great Britain checking fur trade, land and immigration papers, and the records of some 60 Land and Ranch companies.

Provincial Archives of Alberta:

Mr. Dempsey noted that no appointment had been made of a provincial archivist, but that the building was in the final stages of design before plans were approved. The Alberta Cabinet had passed an Order-in-Council regarding the destruction of government records. Orders for destruction must now be accompanied by a letter from the Provincial Museums and Archives Branch, and the Glenbow Foundation was acting in a consultative capacity. The appointment of an archivist was expected shortly; a number of unauthorized destructions had been prevented in the meantime.

Saskatchewan Archives:

Mr. Bocking reported that there had been no staff changes but that a new salary scale was now in effect. The Regina office was expected to have new accommodation in 1967. A large number of accessions were reported, among them the following: the A. W. Johnson papers, Richard Mason papers, P. H. N. Cumberland papers, the papers of Nurse Cotter and the records of the Public Service Commission. Finding aids to a series of ministers' papers and the liquor commission and licensing board were prepared, while the guide to the Department of Education records was revised. As centennial projects, the Saskatchewan Archives intended to republish a series of federal and provincial directories, and research was being done into Saskatchewan place-names. Mr. Turner mentioned that several incidents of interest to archivists had occurred during the year. There had been a Speaker's ruling regarding the status of papers found in waste paper baskets, and several debates about the status of ministerial papers. Records scheduling had been approved in the Legislature and the Cabinet and deputy ministers had heard the Archivist speak on records scheduling.

Union List of Manuscripts:

Robert Gordon reported that work was close to completion, with the exception of two key repositories. 15,000 units of entries had been received and 12,000 of these transcribed to the master index files. 10,000 cross-references had been compiled, and these returns were being constantly used by researchers. No subject indexing was being done, and it was hoped that the lists would be kept up-to-date.

Brock University:

William Ormsby reported that the University's archives had very few holdings as yet, but that they would undoubtedly grow with the University.

Department of External Affairs:

G. W. Hilborn reported that a meeting of political scientists and historians held to ascertain their views on exposure of records had not resulted in any great release of official files, partly because many were official British documents.

Vancouver Public Library:

Miss Elizabeth Walker reported that the library had set up its local history

collection in 1959, with a particular emphasis on British Columbia history. It was noted that a museum complex likely to include a municipal archives was scheduled as the city's centennial project. Miss Walker suggested that large public libraries might profitably be educated in archival functions.

Public Archives of Manitoba:

Hartwell Bowsfield reported that an appropriation had been made for a survey of the public records and archives systems of the province. Dr. Lamb was expected to visit the province during the month of July and other members of the PARC staff were also expected. Regular accessions of records were being received and it was hoped that a records centre might be feasible by 1970. During the year, it had been found necessary to limit research hours because of the great increase in research activity with no corresponding increase in staff. During the year, the Manitoba Historical Society had held a conference on Manitoba's historical resources in which the Archivist had participated. A finding aid had been prepared for the archives of the Ecclesiastical Province of Rupert's Land and an extended finding aid for the Church Missionary Society Records concerning the Red River Settlement churches. The chronicles of the Sisters of Charity for the years 1844-1918 had been received. The Archives was attempting to stimulate the preservation of school district records as consolidation occurred. Other accessions included Department of Public Works records, and Mines and Natural Resources records, among them those of the Surveys Branch and Land Titles office, also the manuscript and picture holdings of the Manitoba Historical Society.

Canadian National Railways:

John C. L. Andreassen reported that three-dimensional objects acquired through the C.N.R. were now being sent to the National Museum. He deferred the main portion of his report until the afternoon session's panel discussion.

Archives of the North-West Territories:

John Bovey reported that the Council minutes for the North-West Territories had been microfilmed by the Public Archives of Canada for the years 1921-1951. The papers of some of the deceased Council members had been acquired, but as these had proved very sparse, and there was a scarcity of written records concerning the Territory, an attempt was being made to record interviews on tape as part of an oral history project.

Historic Sites Division:

Mr. Sutherland reported that a collection of research reports on early buildings and architecture had been established by the National Historic Sites Division of the Department of Northern Affairs and National Resources. He noted that Mr. Bond of the National Capital Commission was making a collection of atlases, and newspaper information, and that over 500 files containing information on buildings, materials used in and methods of construction, etc., were obtained. Eventually it was hoped to have these files available to researchers.

McCord Museum:

Mrs. I. B. Dobell reported that work on the museum's centennial project, the collection of information on Canadian artists and artisans, was continuing and that the museum had acquired a complete set of silversmith's tools.

Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and the Yukon Archives:

Mr. Williams spoke briefly and invited those present to visit the Archives housed in the Anglican Theological College.

Ontario Archives:

Miss Sandra Guillaume reported that the staff of the Ontario Archives had increased to 32 permanent employees and 4 casuals, who were divided amongst three branches, the Archives Branch, the Historical Branch and the Records Management Branch. The Records Management Branch required a Supervisor and the position was being advertised at a salary range of \$8,200-\$10,000. Salary scales had been revised for all archival positions. The Archives was attempting to greatly increase its holdings, with particular emphasis on build-

ing up its collection of 19th century newspapers. As a result of the increases in holdings, new shelving had been added and more was planned, as well as physical rearrangement of the holdings. A great increase had been noted in the number of genealogical inquiries and the Archivist would be pleased to hear from other institutions having to deal with this problem, as to how it is being handled.

United Church Central Archives:

In the absence of Dr. G. Arthur Reynolds, Miss Guillaume reported that Dr. Reynolds was retiring as Archivist and the position of Archivist was as yet unfilled.

Dr. W. Kaye Lamb spoke briefly on progress of the new National Library and Archives building which is expected to be ready for occupancy by December, 1966. By the fall of 1968, the Records Centre complex in Tunney's Pasture would include 3 buildings, with 200 miles of shelving and over 1,000,000 cubic feet of capacity.

The meeting then moved to a discussion of the question of archives courses. It was mentioned that McGill University would be offering a course in the extension division. After discussion, the matter was referred to the incoming executive for such action as it thought appropriate.

The Section then heard a report on the **Canadian Archivist**. Among suggestions received were those regarding the contents and printing. Financing the publication was also discussed and it was moved by Mr. Bowsfield, seconded by Mr. Bocking, that the Section be authorized to send the **Archivist** to anyone not a member of the Canadian Historical Association on payment of a fee of \$2.00. Carried.

Andre Leblanc of the Centennial Commission spoke to the meeting. The Commission has been concerned with the question of repatriation of Canadian relics and documents and he wished to obtain an expression of opinion from the meeting as to whether there was any value in the Commission's becoming involved in attempting to stimulate interest in turning over archival material to archives. After discussion, it was moved by L. H. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Dempsey, that the Archives Section request that the Commission consider the support of a program of advertising to draw the attention of the public to the preservation of all types of historical records and encourage the public to notify the appropriate institution should the existence of such records be known, and that the Commission consider the preparation of a film on the work of federal and provincial archives. Carried.

It was then moved by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mrs. Dobell, that the incoming executive be empowered to appoint a sub-committee to look into all aspects of the question of archives training. Carried.

It was moved by Willard Ireland, seconded by Mr. Bowsfield, that the incoming executive appoint a committee to look into professional status of archivists and the Section's status. Carried.

It was moved by Mr. Dempsey, seconded by Mr. Bocking, that the executive position of Secretary-Treasurer be divided into the positions of Secretary and Treasurer. Carried.

The meeting then moved to the election of officers. The following were elected:

Chairman: Alan D. Ridge

Vice-Chairman: Douglas Bocking

Secretary: Sandra Guillaume

Treasurer: William Naftel

The questions of a directory of archival personnel and the mimeographing of reports and discussions at the meeting, as well as setting up a nominating committee for next year's meeting, were referred to the incoming executive for appropriate action. The meeting then adjourned.