

branches in due course. The remainder of the morning was devoted to a host of minor resolutions, most of which were passed without discussion.

Chief among these were:—

A resolution to consider the advisability of coming to some arrangement with the Canadian Bookman, whereby the Association, in return for certain privileges, would lend that Journal financial support;

A resolution to consider the advisability of raising the fees of Associate Members;

A resolution to the effect that the Association should create machinery to improve the business relations between authors and publishers, and especially to enforce the provisions of contracts as regards answering correspondents, payment of royalties, etc.

These resolutions, after being endorsed, were referred to the Executive for action. The last mentioned was moved by your delegate, seconded by Mr. Johnston, of Winnipeg. In moving the resolution your delegate explained that it was aimed, not at all publishers, but at some, and that while it was intended that the Association should effect the desired improvement by peaceful methods, it should yet create machinery with teeth in it which could be used, if necessary. Without mentioning names or identifying them, your delegate referred to a few of the cases discussed by him with Dr. MacBeth and Mr. Pound before leaving Vancouver, to illustrate his contention that the traditional wail of the author against the publisher was sometimes justified, and these examples created considerable impression on the Convention, which passed the resolution with an enthusiasm amounting to deep feeling. The President has promised, if possible, to send all branches copies of all resolutions passed by the Convention—hence they are not quoted in full in this report.

Before the session broke up, a report was received from Mr. Tremblay, who had just arrived from Ottawa to assume his new duties as Hon. Secretary, that the Copyright Bill had passed Second Reading in the House of Commons, but with certain amendments which would have the effect of, to a great extent, undoing the good work originally embodied in the Bill. After considerable discussion, the question of the policy to be followed in carrying on the fight for complete justice in this matter was left in the hands of the Copyright Committee. The meeting then adjourned.

The delegates and members had the honour and pleasure of being received by His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, and Mrs. Cockshutt, at Government House, from 4:30 to 6:30 that afternoon, tea being served and a large number of authors and their associates being present. In the evening the annual dinner took place at the Arts and Letters Club. This wound up the Convention most successfully.

At least 200 persons sat down in the congenial atmosphere of the Club and a delightful air of bonhomie prevailed. After dinner an allegorical skit, "Authordom," by Fred Jacob, Literary critic of the Toronto Mail and Empire, was presented by members of the Club, the play being a satirical survey of authordom as it is in Canada. A publisher who, for brutality and boorishness, could give pointers to the worst of his tribe, was depicted interviewing a Canadian poet and two Canadian novelists, the latter representing what the dramatist contended are the two outstanding schools of Canadian novel-writers, the "Up the Hill and Over To Visit Cranny" school, and the "Shooting Shysters on the sin-soaked Slopes of the Saskatchewan" school. The publisher instructing the poet in the art of writing 'best-seller' poetry, read, as an example of 'good stuff,' what he alleged was a rendering of 'The Blessed Damozel' by Robert W. Service—this a brilliant parody of the work of the 'Sourdough' scribe in his most livid moments. An interesting figure whose fidelity to fact many felt was not far out, was introduced in the person of Fame

in Canada, daughter of Publicity and Mediocrity, twin-sister of Notoriety, a bedraggled object with bobbed hair, chewing gum and a tin trumpet which she feebly sounded. The skit brought down torrents of good-natured applause.

Following the play and a short programme of music, the President, Mr. Stead, and the retiring President, Mr. Gibbon, delivered addresses which were warmly received. Mr. Stead's masterly summing up of the literary situation in Canada and of the responsibility of author, printer, publisher and book-seller to the public and to one another demonstrated that in him the Association has a worthy successor to Mr. J. Murray Gibbon. He struck a strong note when he reminded the audience that of the various individuals whose interests are bound up in literature, only two—the author and the public—are really indispensable—'there never was a book before there was an author'—and when he pointed out that Canadian authors have a vast work before them in keeping their country true to its old ideals, while his closing exhortation 'to keep an eye on the price of steers but not to forget the sunset' was very fine.

The dinner brought the Convention to a close.

In concluding this report, thanks must be tendered the many individuals and organizations who did so much to entertain and assist the visitors, especially His Honour, the Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Cockshutt, Mrs. John Garvin and the members of the Arts and Letters Club, who placed their quarters at the disposal of the Association, not only for the annual dinner but for other meals during the period of the Convention. These courtesies were immensely appreciated.



MR. STEPHEN GOLDER  
Hon. Secretary B. C. Branch Canadian Authors' Association.