

CANADIAN AUTHORS' ASSOCIATION

Report to British Columbia Branch by Mr. H. E. Steele.

Your delegate has the honor to report that he left Vancouver on April 14th, and (in the Army phrase) "proceeded the bounds" to Toronto, which he reached in time for the opening of the Convention.

The first meeting opened at 10 a. m. on Friday, April 27th, in the Reference Library on College Street. The President, Mr. J. Murray Gibbon, presided. Over 100 Regular and Associate Members were present, among them being such prominent figures as Mrs. Macdonald (L. M. Montgomery), Madge MacBeth, J. C. Stead, Sir John Willison, Victor Morin, Castell Hopkins, Hon. Justice Surveyor, J. L. Garvin, Candide of the Toronto Saturday Night (Mr. Deacon), and many others.

Mr. Gibbon opened the proceedings by delivering the President's annual address, in which he very ably spoke in support of fostering Canadian literature; detailed the success of Canadian Book Week for 1922; reported on the Copyright Act situation, at that moment at a climax in Ottawa; justified the action taken by the Executive in discontinuing the use of the Canadian Bookman as the official organ of our Association; and complimented the French section on the unselfish zeal with which it had promoted Canadian literature, both French and English—compliments which the delegates of the French section attending the Convention conclusively demonstrated by their subsequent activity, as fully justified.

Mr. B. K. Sandwell, the Honorary Secretary, delivering his report, as well as that of the Honorary Treasurer, who was unable to be present, informed the Convention that the total membership of the Association is now 887 and that receipts for the year totalled \$3,825, of which a sum had been expended that left a balance in the treasury of \$213.

Various resolutions were then passed, of which the more important were:—

Endorsement of the proposal to include in the Canadian orial to Louis Hemon, author of "Maria Chapdelaine."

Endorsement of the proposal to include in the Canadian Exhibition Train which is to tour France a selection of Canadian Literature, both French and English. Mrs. George Black and Mr. Louvigny de Montigny, of Ottawa, were appointed to supervise the selection of the literature to be thus exhibited.

Endorsement of the report of the committee on 'O Canada' which advised that it considered the R. S. Weir version most suitable.

Endorsement of the appeal from the authorities of Louvain Library for contributions of books with which to restore the library. This appeal included a request that members of the Association present copies of their own works to Louvain—hence it was endorsed with a little more than common enthusiasm.

As a result of discussion on the Copyright Bill, a telegram was sent to the Hon. J. A. Robb, Minister of Trade and Commerce, to demonstrate that the Association appreciated his efforts to put the bill through in a form satisfactory to the authors and to show that the members were solidly behind him in the fight then proceeding. It was drawn up by a committee consisting of Messrs. Gibbon, Sandwell, Morin, Stead, Gordon, Thompson, Hon. Justice Surveyor, and Mrs. Madge MacBeth, and it read as follows: "The Canadian Authors' Association assembled in annual general meeting in Toronto, have received reports of discussion on copyright in the House of Commons; they beg to extend their heartiest thanks to the Government of Canada for its efforts to secure fair treatment for intellectual workers and unanimously reaffirm their approval of Bill Twenty-four, as introduced by you, and strongly urge its

delegate to Third Annual Convention held at Toronto. adoption."

Reports from the branches were then read, beginning with that of the Vancouver Branch, as your delegate appeared for the most Westerly branch actually represented at the meeting. In what he modestly considered an able and vigorous speech he gave full details of the activities of the branch during the year, as supplied by Mr. A. M. Pound, and advised the Convention of the state of health of Mrs. Isabel Ecclestone MacKay, as well as of the regrets of other members of their inability to attend. The report was received with enthusiasm by the meeting, and numbers of people afterwards asked your delegate to convey their congratulations to the Branch on achieving a year of activity which made it conspicuous. This went further to convince your delegate that he had delivered his report with outstanding success, but such illusions were shattered by the subsequent discovery that none of the newspapers even mentioned it.

During the morning, the results of the balloting for President, Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer were announced, the members elected to these respective posts being Mr. Robert J. C. Stead, Mr. Jules Tremblay and Mr. L. J. Burpee, all of Ottawa, the names of whom were enthusiastically acclaimed. Suitable comments were then made by the retiring President, Mr. Gibbon, the President-elect and the retiring Secretary, Mr. Sandwell. Hearty thanks were tendered by Mr. Stead to Messrs. Gibbon and Sandwell for the fine work they have done for the Association, and his words were heartily endorsed. Mr. Sandwell in the absence of the Hon. Secretary-elect, had the unusual but pleasant experience of recording an appreciation of his own work in the Minutes of the meeting, and assured the Convention that he would record it in such terms as would immortalize him.

Breaking off for luncheon at 12:30, the members were photographed by still and motion picture cameras which were operated from every conceivable position, with the usual devastating results.

Business was resumed in the library at 2:30 p. m. and carried on till 4:30 when all attending the convention accepted the kind invitation of Mrs. John Garvin, 214 Russell Hill Road, to tea at her residence, and enjoyed an opportunity of pleasant conversation and much-needed refreshment.

In the evening, at 8 p. m., the delegates to the Convention, and others, attended a conversazione at the Royal Ontario Museum, by invitation of Professor Curolly, who was on hand to explain the exhibits. A record turn-out resulted and an enjoyable evening was spent in inspecting the Museum's splendid collection. It was interesting to speculate on the fact that here we beheld the most advanced leaders of Canadian thought—surely the youngest of schools—striking up an acquaintance with the representatives of the most ancient school we know of—the Egyptian, whose mummies spoke to the guests through the glass cases in which they lie. The exhibits include the finest collection of Chinese antiquities in the world, relics of all the better known civilizations of bygone ages, a gallery of arms and armour which particularly interested your delegate, and skeletons of such amiable creatures as the dinosaur, the memory of whose appearance is calculated to disturb the rest of the strongest-minded of authors for years to come. Bountiful refreshments rounded off an evening of peculiar interest.

On the following morning business was resumed at 10 a. m. The names of those elected to the Council were announced by the scrutineers. These will be sent to