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Dominion Association of Chartered Accountants

Membership Increased by Twenty-two—Bankruptcy Act a Great Benefit, says
G. T. Clarkson, But Operation Must be Kept Simple—President Reviews
Events of the Year as Affecting Accountants—Reports of Provincial Institutes

THE annual meeting of the Dominion Association of Chartered Accountants was held in Toronto on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week, with about 100 members in attendance. After a council meeting on Tuesday morning, a welcome was extended to the visitors by R. J. Dilworth, on behalf of the Ontario Institute. The president, A. C. Neff, of Toronto, conducted the meetings. In his presidential address Mr. Neff said in part:—

"Since we last met here, in 1912, great changes have come over the world, and, though peace has been declared in most countries, there is still an element of unrest in many of them. There is also such a change in economic conditions as few of us could have imagined a few years ago, such as the prices of commodities, the cost of living, the rate of wages and of rent, the rate of exchange and relative value of money, and, as important as any, the enormous increase in the national debt and obligations and the cost of government and the consequent burden of taxation in many new forms. With these has come a remarkable increase in evidence of wealth and gain.

"With it all, there is a heavy increase in our work and responsibilities, in which I hope we shall not fail to acquit ourselves with due credit to our profession, and that we shall bear a worthy part in the solution of the great problems of the day.

Increase in Membership

"Turning to our own affairs, the membership of the association, as shown by the last returns, is now 570, an increase of 22 over that shown last year, the details by provinces being as follows:—

Incorporated:	1919.	1920.	Increase or Decrease.
1880—Quebec	85	89	4
1883—Ontario	168	177	9
1886—Manitoba	80	80	.
1900—Nova Scotia	32	35	3
1905—British Columbia ..	62	62	.
1900—Saskatchewan	55	64	9
1910—Alberta	57	55	2*
1918—New Brunswick	5	5	.
1902—Members at large...	4	3	1*
	548	570	22

*Decrease.

Regarding the new Dominion Bankruptcy Act, the president said:—

"At last year's meeting there was a discussion of the desirability of all chartered accountants being registered as trustees under this act, and the president, in his address, mentioned the fact that, as appointments are made by order-in-council, it might not be practicable to appoint the members as a body. It is now hoped that chartered accountants

will be *prima facie* considered as sufficiently qualified for appointment on application to the governor-in-council, and so would be eligible for registrations wherever there is room on the panel of the district.

"It appears to me that there are a number of accountants who have no desire to practice in the Bankruptcy Court, and some of the partners in firms would not wish to carry the permanent bond for \$15,000 which, under the latest regulation, is required before registration.

"From my early enquiries, it appeared that the duty on accountancy books is regulated by Customs Tariff Act, and can be changed only by an amendment to the act. Books on law and medicines are under the same duty as those on accountancy, and the only effort which promised benefit was to lay our case fully before the tariff commission when it is making its enquiries this fall. However, within a few days I have learned that if accountancy books are placed upon the curriculum of a university in Canada, and registered by the departments, they will be entitled to free entry. As some of our institutes have affiliations with universities, this should be capable of arrangement by the universities.

Rulings on Dominion Tax Acts

"I wrote the commissioner of taxation pressing upon him the necessity for a pamphlet or book of these rulings, or some means by which accountants could become possessed of authoritative information on the subject, and recently added to the enquiry an invitation to him to meet us again, at this convention, and give us a further address, or talk, on the subject. Owing, no doubt, to his being extremely busy with the new legislation, I have had no reply from him. Meantime, the increasing difficulty of following the changes in the act accentuate the necessity for some reliable guide for the use of the profession and of the general public.

"When the announcement was made some months ago that an Association of Cost Accountants had been formed in the United States, under the auspices of the American Institute of Accountants, it was thought to be wise to take similar action here, and a Dominion charter was applied for by the presidents of the eight provincial institutes, who were the provisional directors or trustees. The organization has been carried to completion and the first annual meeting of the society will be held on Wednesday evening.

Legislation

"The chief legislation which has been passed this year affecting our work as accountants has been: Further amendments to the Income Tax Act and the Business Profits War Tax Act, and the act imposing a sales tax and luxury tax in addition to the former taxation. These all tend to increase the responsibilities of the profession, and call for increased vigilance in preparation and scrutiny of the financial statements of our clients."

(Continued on page 8)