

section should be established to cover this ground, or that for this purpose a sub-section should be added to each of the Sections I and II, and the number of members in each Section increased. There is much to be said in favor of having a separate Section for these subjects without distinction of language or nationality; but on the other hand, social and economic subjects benefit greatly if treated in connection with History. Either proposal, however, is better than the present system and would meet with my approval.

Yours sincerely,
ADAM SHORTT.

DR. LESUEUR.

Memorandum with reference to the proposition to create two new Sections in the Royal Society of Canada, one for Social Science and Economics and one for the Biological Sciences apart from Geology with which they are now grouped.

As regards the proposed new Section for Social Science and Economics, I incline to the opinion that, if Sections I and II were favorably disposed towards the consideration and promotion by their own efforts and within their own boundaries, so to speak, of these important branches of study, there would be no necessity, for some years to come, to create a special Section for the purpose indicated. Section I has the power, of which it has not yet availed itself, of increasing its number to 40; its present number is only 27. Section II has decided in favour of adopting the higher limit; but even with the additions to be made to its number this year it will still have little over 30 members. It would therefore be possible for both Sections, if they were so disposed, to elect, at the rate of four a year, for the next year or two, representatives of the special sciences referred to; and in my opinion it would be better, on the whole, to have economic papers read in a Section devoted to literary, historic and economic studies, than to have them read in a purely economic Section. Although economics call for a certain amount of specialization, the approach to them does not demand so elaborate a technical preparation as the approach to mathematics or chemistry for example; and there is some advantage, even to the economist, in making his appeal to persons of adequate intelligence and education who are not specialists in his own line of study. Section II already possesses a number of members who are interested in social and economic questions, and a slight addition to their number would afford a very fair representation to this branch of investigation.