TO STUDY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS

New Canadian Society Formed—Aims and Constitution

In the United States organizations have, for a quarter century, played a notable part in stimulating and clarifying discussion on political, economic and social problems. They include among their members many Canadians interested in common problems. Last December advantage was taken of the fact that an unusually large number of Canadians were in attendance at the joint meetings of the Economic, Political Science, Historical and Sociological Associations held in Boston, to discuss the organization of a Canadian society, and an association was formed, termed, for brevity, the Canadian Political Science Association, though including economic and social issues in its scope; the constitution, based on existing models, was drawn up, and two officers, Professor Adam Shortt, of the Dominion civil service commission, president, and Professor O. D. Skelton, Queen's University, Kingston, Ont., secretary-treasurer, appointed to undertake the preliminary organization. It was thought desirable to postpone the permanent selection of officers until the first general meeting, to ensure the fullest possible representation of all sections and interests of Canadian life. It is planned to hold this first meeting in Ottawa, probably in September, when a varied programme of papers and round table conferences of leading Canadians will be presented.

Best Sources of Information.

Difficulty is frequently experienced, especially by those who have not access to large libraries, in finding out what are the best sources of information on current Canadian issues. One of the objects of the association will be to issue, from time to time, annotated lists of the most convenient and authoritative references on these subjects. Meantime, any member will be entitled to send in a request for such information to the secretary, who will endeavor to furnish references if they are immediately available, or to enlist the good offices of some member who has made a special study of the topic.

Association's Constitution States.

The constitution of the association states that this association is to be known as the Canadian Political Science Association and its object is the encouragement of the investigation and study of political, economic and social problems. The association as such will not assume a partisan position upon any question of practical politics nor commit its members to any position thereupon. Any person nominated by two members and accepted by the executive council may become a member of this association. There shall be an annual membership fee of two dollars. By a single payment of fifty dollars any person may become a life member, exempt from annual dues. Each member will be entitled to receive a copy of all the publications of the association issued during his or her membership.

The officers shall consist of a president, three vice-presidents and a secretary-treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and of an executive council, consisting ex-officio of the officers above mentioned and of ten elected members, whose term of office shall be two years, except that of those selected at the first election five shall serve for but one year.

CANADIAN EXPORTS GROW.

As Canada and the United States are the only two countries which send any considerable quantity of flour to the United Kingdom, it is of interest to compare the relative positions which they occupied in this trade during the past five years. The progress made by Canadian flour millers, says Mr. J. M. Mussen, Canadian trade commissioner at Leeds, is particularly gratifying, as is shown by the following yearly imports of wheat, meal and flour:—

Year.	Imports from Canada. cwts.	Imports from United States. cwts.	Imports from all sources. cwts.
1908...........	1,529,122	9,958,839	12,969,855
1909...........	2,059,400	6,929,011	11,052,540
1910...........	2,783,701	5,123,780	9,960,491
1911...........	3,268,768	5,116,411	10,065,132
1912...........	4,003,877	4,212,604	10,189,476

RICHELIEU & ONTARIO APPOINTMENTS.

In connection with Richelieu & Ontario Navigation Company's reorganization, the following appointments have now gone into effect: Mr. James Playfair, as managing director; Mr. J. I. Hobson, as comptroller and treasurer; Mr. F. Percy Smith, as secretary; Mr. H. H. Gildersleeve, manager western lines, with headquarters at Toronto; Mr. Thos. Henry, manager eastern lines, with headquarters at Montreal; Mr. Gilbert Johnston, mechanical superintendent, with headquarters at Montreal; Mr. L. A. W. Doherty, freight traffic manager, with headquarters at Toronto; Mr. H. Foster Chaffee, passenger traffic manager, with headquarters at Montreal. Mr. James Carruthers is president of the company; Mr. William Wainwright and Mr. James Playfair, vice-presidents.

LIFE UNDERWRITERS OF TORONTO.

The Life Underwriters' Association of Toronto, an organization of life insurance agents, under the chairmanship of Mr. M. D. Johnson, has resolved to try a new departure as to its monthly meetings. Instead of holding them in the evening, they are to be held at 12.30 noon. The first one was held on Thursday when a complimentary address was presented to Mr. J. F. Weston, formerly superintendent of agencies of the Manufacturers Life Insurance Company, upon his promotion to the office of manager of the Imperial Life Insurance Company. Mr. Weston's brethren have a high opinion of his good qualities and feel grateful to him on account of his activity in promoting the welfare of their association and wish him success in his new field. He will hereafter occupy a seat at the board of the Life Insurance Managers' Association.

THE BRITISH AMERICA FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY.

It was an interesting resumé and budget that Mr. Brock had to present to his fellow-shareholders at the annual meeting last week of the British America Assurance Company. A feature which would naturally seize among the first upon the sensibilities of the proprietors was remarkable earnings of $146,578 during the year, more than 43 per cent. greater than the earnings of 1911. The net fire premiums were $1,775,483, a distinct increase over the preceding twelve months, while the losses were $975,751, a trifle less than 55 per cent. of the premiums.

We are to remember that the earlier months of last year showed particularly disastrous results to fire insurance companies from a greater aggregate of fires on this continent than a like period in either of the two previous years. Therefore the more favorable result of the operations of the whole year does the greater credit to the management of this company. It is difficult indeed to perceive why the enormous aggregate of fire loss in the United States and Canada, emphasized so often by publicists and statisticians through the newspapers and other means of information, does not seem to be grasped yet by "the man in the street." Every man, woman and child in Canada paid out of pocket $3.05 for losses by fire last year, while the people of England paid out only 53 cents per head. The comparison, if not the fact, ought to startle the Canadian people to do something to lessen this dreadful prodigality. People seem determined not to understand that it is they themselves, and not the insurance companies, who pay this sum.

In his last paragraph the vice-president scored the people and the governments of Canada for their apparent tranquil acquiescence in a fire waste of twenty million dollars a year by avoidable fires in the Dominion. And he approved, as an important step, the appointment of fire marshals, clothed with power to investigate every fire. The very great effect of the work of fire marshals in reducing the fire waste of Ohio and Massachusetts during late years ought to stimulate our authorities to appoint such officers.

Another feature of interest in the company's report is the passing of a by-law authorizing the undertaking of hail insurance. The general manager's explanation of his recommending this step, so important to the protection of farmers in western Canada, is that until such time as the governments of the western provinces undertake this duty, as they seem likely to do, there is need for some one to offer such insurance, and he thinks that it will pay, besides being a step in the custom the great underwriting companies of the world are now following. That is to say, of launching into a variety of classes of insurance, so that if one branch fails to give a profit in any one year there will be other branches to fall back upon.

The Mutual Life and Citizens Assurance Company, Limited, has been licensed to transact the business of life insurance throughout Canada. The chief agency of the company has been established at Montreal, and Mr. Wilfrid Bovy has been appointed chief agent.

At Stratford, Ont., the by-laws to guarantee the bonds of Farquharson-Gifford, Limited, to the extent of $20,000, provide a free site and a fixed assessment of $10,000 for ten years, and the by-law to guarantee the bonds of the B. F. Kastner Company for $10,000, provide free site and a fixed assessment of $6,000, were carried.

Alberta's financial statement for 1912, submitted by provincial treasurer Hon. Malcolm McKenzie, showed that the province has a surplus at the end of last year of $143,551, of which the telephone department contributed $77,428. The total ordinary receipts amount to $3,359,619 and telephone receipts to $680,731. The total debenture debt of the province amounts to $14,100,000, incurred in the construction of public works, including the parliament buildings and telephone construction.

The annual meeting of Steel and Radiation, Limited, was postponed from March 3rd to March 17th, on account of the rush of business during February, the amount of business of the firm for February, 1913, being almost three times that of February, 1912. The accountants and auditors did not have time to get the annual statement prepared in time for March 3rd, and the meeting had to be postponed. The indications are that 1913 will prove the biggest year experienced by Steel and Radiation, Limited.