

# THE BULLETIN

## of The League of Nations Society in Canada

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### GENERAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY

The General Meeting of this Society will be held in the Chateau Laurier Hotel, Ottawa, at 2.30 p.m. on January 30th, 1925, when the Report on the work of the Society will be submitted and the Officers and Committees for the ensuing year be elected. All members are cordially invited to be present.

### REPORT TO BE PRESENTED TO THE GENERAL MEETING.

Since the last General Meeting in June, 1923, real and permanent progress has to be reported in the activities, scope and influence of this Society.

While for local reasons a few of the old and new Branches have been comparatively inactive the great majority have become well established and have steadily increased their membership and influence.

The records show their strength to be:—

Halifax, .....	103	Cadomin .....	34
Montreal .....	1125	Moncton .....	111
Hamilton .....	63	Kingston .....	4
Brandon .....	88	Peterboro .....	125
Kamloops .....	10	Vancouver .....	101
Calgary .....	4	Grande Prairie ..	48
Saskatoon .....	7	New Westminster	9
Amherst .....	90	Edson .....	30
Ottawa .....	262	St. John .....	151
Winnipeg .....	117	Toronto .....	350
Moose Jaw .....	122	Regina .....	44
Windsor .....	28	Victoria .....	61
Edmonton .....	493		

and unattached 2,465.

The number of Corporate Members is now ninety-five and represents an affiliation of approximately 250,000 individuals.

Of the various memberships the corporate shows the greatest promise of being materially increased. The present total includes representative bodies of nearly every well known social organization in Canada and there is an indication of increasing interest among the Churches. Resolutions in support of this Society have been passed at several of the principal Church Conventions and Synods. A Dominion wide effort to secure corporate members would probably result in the addition of several hundreds.

The total of all members at this date is 5,250, of which 2,200 are paid up. Constant efforts are made to effect renewals of subscriptions but the results are not more

satisfactory than appeals by letter usually are.

While the active support of the Society leaves much to be desired the result of its work is, on the whole, cause for congratulation. There is a very real interest in the League of Nations and this is attributable in no small measure to the education given by speakers or publications. Several notable conversions to the League have occurred and the Government delegates to the Fourth and Fifth Assembly have thoroughly endorsed its work and organization.

Of the activities of the Branches mention should be made of the series of lectures arranged by the Vancouver Branch during the Winter of 1923-24 and 1924-25. Regina has also kept the educational side of the work to the front while in Edmonton over fifty addresses on the League have been given by members of the Extension Department of the University. Toronto Branch has been re-organized and has within nine months gained a membership of three hundred. Active work has been carried on and several prominent speakers have been heard at well attended meetings. The Victoria Branch has been active but its progress was seriously checked by the death of its Secretary who took a keen interest in the work. A capable successor has however been found and lost ground will it is believed be recovered. The Calgary Branch suffered almost at its inception by the departure from that city of its principal worker; it will be necessary here as in other centres to revisit them and infuse new enthusiasm. Winnipeg is an active and progressive Branch with a very capable administration. Saskatoon like Brandon has suffered a temporary set back but with a revival in commercial conditions can soon be placed on a firm basis. In Moose Jaw energetic officers are striving hard for support but depression makes it hard to arouse any response—a condition prevailing also in Amherst, Moncton and St. John. Halifax maintains its membership fairly well as does Ottawa. In Grande Prairie, Cadomin and Windsor small Branches have been established. Enthusiastic workers in these centres are anxious to receive a visit from headquarters.

While Montreal has no organized branch all calls made by the Society are responded to and every opportunity of putting forward the League is taken advantage of. In Hamilton, Peterboro and New Westminster and Lethbridge meetings have been held and some members acquired.

It is, however, essential that all Branches should be visited at least annually if interest

is to be maintained and a feeling of mutual assistance to be kept alive.

Between June and August the central office was busy preparing a comprehensive speaking tour undertaken by Sir George Foster and an organizing tour by the General Secretary. Sir George made his initial speech in Brandon, Manitoba, on August 25th and followed it with addresses in Regina, Moose Jaw, Vancouver, Victoria, Kamloops, Lethbridge, Calgary, Edmonton, Saskatoon, Winnipeg and Port Arthur. In each city he was received by large audiences, and, as the General Secretary either immediately preceded or followed him, the result was that Branches were formed or re-organized in all but three of the above named cities. Very representative organization meetings were held—in only one instance did the Mayor decline to preside.

Following Sir George Foster's tour, Doctor Fridtjof Nansen, who was due to speak in the United States on behalf of the League of Nations was brought to Canada in November 1924 through the generosity of Mr. Wm. Gleaves Doyle who had since the previous May been acting as special representative in Europe for this Society and who guaranteed the Society against financial loss on Doctor Nansen's visit. In the midst of the pleasurable anticipation of seeing Doctor Nansen news was received of the painfully sudden death of Mr. Gleaves Doyle who died in London, England as the result of a minor operation. Mr. Doyle had undoubtedly taxed his health very severely in his rapid journeys on behalf of this Society into Russia, Austria, Switzerland, France, Poland and other parts of Europe where he accumulated a wonderful knowledge of the work of the League of Nations for the benefit of the people of Canada. His death was a severe blow to this Society which has lost a staunch friend and generous supporter.

Doctor Nansen whose tour owing to limited time, was confined to meetings in Toronto, Hamilton, Ottawa and Montreal, made a remarkable impression on his audiences by his personality, world wide repute as an arctic explorer and the great work he had done for the almost countless refugees left destitute by the war. One result of his visit to Montreal was a splendid donation of \$500.00 by the Montreal Women's Canadian Club. In Toronto the Men's Canadian Club also contributed to the expenses of bringing our distinguished visitor to the Dominion.

In June 1924 Mr. Frederick Whelen, of the League of Nations Union in England, undertook a speaking tour on our behalf and in