

STATEMENT REGARDING THE 1924 MEETINGS OF THE
BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT
OF SCIENCE AND THE INTERNATIONAL
MATHEMATICAL CONGRESS

The British Association for the Advancement of Science meets in Toronto from Wednesday, September 3rd to Wednesday, September 10th, 1924. To defray the expenses of this meeting the Dominion Government has pledged \$35,000, the Government of Ontario \$25,000. Of the aggregate of \$60,000 a sum of \$50,000 is assigned to ocean transportation, leaving \$10,000 for the various local expenditures in connection with the meeting.

It is proposed to hold the International Mathematical Congress in Canada immediately antecedent to the meeting of the B.A.A.S.. For various reasons it would seem appropriate that the meeting place should be Montreal. A large proportion of the papers presented by continental mathematicians will be in the French language. The French deputation will be the largest from the continent and should also be the most distinguished of all the deputations in attendance.

The Congress besides being a great stimulus to the intellectual life of the country would bring prestige to Canada in general and to Quebec in particular. It would place our country on a higher level in the eyes both of the United States and of Europe. It would be incomparably the greatest event in the history of the mathematical sciences which has taken place in America. It would be one of the historic events in science on this continent and would be known as "The Congress of Montreal" as the preceding Congresses are known as those of Rome, Paris, Cambridge, etc.

It would seem just that the financing of the Congress should be on a parity with that of the B.A.A.S. It would be equitable to ask the Dominion Government to accord the same treatment to Montreal and the Congress as that accorded to Toronto and the B.A.A.S. It would be in place then to request the Federal Government to make a grant of \$35,000 for the Congress. If the Province of Quebec would contribute a like amount it would be possible to assign \$50,000 to subsidies for ocean transportation as has been done in the case of the British Association. There is, it may be pointed out, an estimated expenditure of \$10,000 for the printing of the more important papers presented at the Congress, there being no corresponding item of expense to be provided for in connection with the B.A.A.S.

It may be pointed out that when the possibility of selecting Canada as meeting place for the Congress was first suggested the Ottawa Government was approached with the request for \$20,000 as a minimum grant and gladly pledged itself to this amount. This left the way open to ask for a larger grant and there can be little