

Chartered Institute of Secretaries Holds First Meeting

At the first open meeting of the Canadian (Montreal) branch of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries of Joint Stock Companies and other Public Bodies, held Monday evening, in the hall of the Medico Chirurgical Society, 112 Mansfield street, an address on "The Aims and Objects of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries" was delivered by Mr. William Watkins, J.P., F.C.I.S., of London, England, past president of the institute.

Mr. Watkins was introduced to the audience by Mr. William MacInnes, A.C.I.I., A.C.I.S., chairman of the newly-formed Montreal branch, who stated that Sir Arthur Currie had been pleased to accept the presidency of the branch and that Dr. J. A. Nicholson, B.A., registrar of McGill, and Mr. Watkins, the lecturer, had been elected vice-presidents.

Mr. Watkins, after giving an account of the inception and progress of the institute in England and its branches in the British Isles, said that the great increase in the number of joint stock enterprises in recent years necessitated the training of secretaries to undertake professional secretarial duties in connection with these companies. When the institute was started in Great Britain men were found in secretarial positions who were not qualified in company law, etc., to render efficient service to the directors and shareholders whose interests they were there to guard. In Great Britain one found today that no self-respecting company was without a member of the Institute of Secretaries as its secretary and a chartered accountant as its auditor. The public now demanded that the affairs of companies in which its money was invested must be in the hands of trained professional men. Mr. Watkins instanced the work of the in-

stitute in England in promoting uniformity in the transfer of shares in joint stock companies. He explained that some years ago each secretary had his own ideas in this regard, and that stockbrokers and others were much perplexed in complying with each individual secretary's requirements, but by the compilation and issue of a standard text-book entitled "Secretarial Practice," published by the institute, uniformity had been attained, and that this text-book had since become the standard authority on the subject. The speaker pointed out that with the co-operation of prominent secretaries in Canada the work of the institute would be beneficial to the public at large, and that within a few years the institute would become established as a useful body of expert opinion as had the parent organization in Britain, many of whose members had been called upon from time to time to give expert evidence before Royal Commissions in matters affecting secretarial practice. Mr. Watkins expressed his satisfaction that Sir Arthur Currie had seen fit to accept the presidency of the Canadian branch, remarking that his great service to his country and the Empire had won the admiration of all members of the institute in Britain.

At the conclusion of Mr. Watkins' address the meeting was thrown open for discussion, and Mr. MacInnes, the chairman, explained in answer to questions that it was the intention of the local council to form a students' society, as the institute had provision for registered students, and also to arrange with existing educational authorities for courses to be held to enable students to study for the professional examinations of the institute, which will be held from time to time at McGill University. Enquiry forms would be issued to all those who desired to ascertain their eligibility for membership.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Watkins for his interesting address terminated the proceedings.

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