

Extracts from Mr. Hugh Wyndham's letter to Mr. Harkin in regard to re-organizing our group system.

November 26th, 1929.

The way we have dealt with the situation at Chatham House is to divide group meetings into two classes:- (1) Sectional Meetings. (2) Group Meetings.

Sectional Meetings. We circularised all members to find out what particular subjects or branches of international affairs they are interested in. We sent them a paper in which international affairs were classified either geographically or by subjects. For example, there is a "Near East Section", a "Far East Section", an "African Section", an "Economic Section", including one on "Reparations". Members were asked to state what sectional meetings they would like to receive notices of. I think about 400 replied and these 400 got notices of those sectional meetings on the subjects in which they declared themselves to be interested.

Group Meetings. This arrangement does not affect the holding of smaller study group meetings of say, 12 people. This is, I think, about the best number for a group studying a subject. Such small groups are generally organized by a member and the other members asked to them are those he desires should be asked. He is, therefore, the convener of the group, though the notices are sent out by the Institute and the group meets in Chatham House.

Could you not apply a similar system to Montreal and thus enable you largely to increase your membership? Say it were increased to 100. (1) All members would attend general meetings. (2) They could be divided into two or three sections according to the number of subjects for sectional discussions. (3) Any member would have the right to organize a study group of which he would become the convener, and to which he could ask anyone he wished, including if necessary non-members. Such study groups would, I suppose, generally be held in private houses. I think non-members should be asked to them with a view to getting them to become members. They ought to be if they are sufficiently interested to attend group meetings.

I merely put these suggestions before you as I put them before the Winnipeg Branch and as I discussed them with Tarr at Kyoto. In order to let you know what we did with the Winnipeg branch, I attach extracts from two letters I wrote to the Secretary at Chatham House, dated respectively September 29th and November 9th.

Yours sincerely,

H.A. Wyndham.

P.S. Chatham House will send you the same material that it sends to other branches of the Canadian Institute.