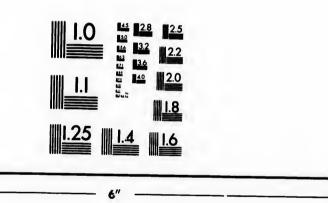


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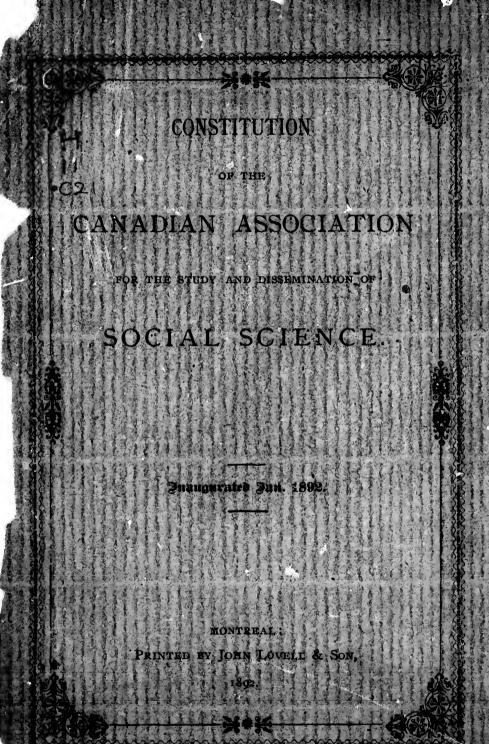
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CONSTITUTION

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OF THE

CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

FOR THE STUDY AND DISSEMINATION OF

SOCIAL SCIENCE.

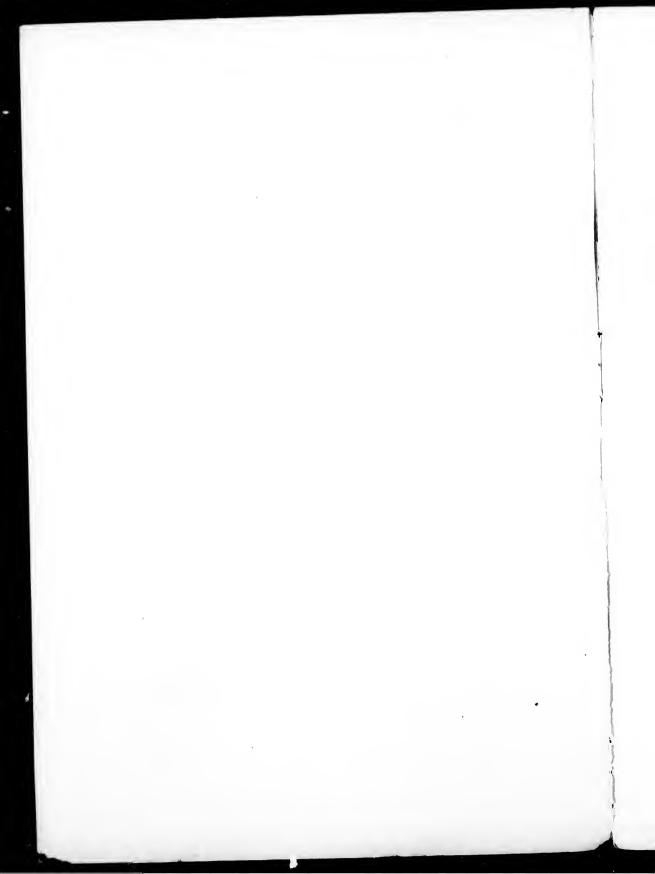
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ORIGIN

OF

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY AND DISSEMINATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

THE formation of an Association for the study of Social Science in all its aspects has been the subject of private conversation for some time among several gentlemen who had read of the importance of similar organizations in Europe and in the United States. These private meetings and conversations took a more practical form when the following gentlemen at the urgent request of Dr Larocque, Federal Statistician, who may be regarded as the founder of the Association, met together at the residence of Mr. James Baylis, 55 McGill College avenue, Montreal, September 17th, 1891: A. B. Larocque, M.D.; Louis Laberge, M.D., Medical Health Officer, Montreal; Rev. W. J. Smyth, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D.; James Baylis, Merchant; L. H. Pignolet, Advocate; J. L. Coutlée, N.P.; Ludger Gariépy, Merchant; L. E. Beauchamp, President of Merchants' Society; Ovide Dufresne, sen., Merchant; Léon Gérin, Advocate; F. X. Moisan, Merchant; Dr. S. Lachapelle, and Alderman N. A. Hurteau.

Dr. Larocque was called to the chair, and Rev. Dr. Smyth.

was requested to act as Secretary.

Dr. Larocque gave an elaborately prepared paper on the subject of Demography, and showed that there was great danger of sacrificing mental and moral progress by the undue attention that men give to material progress.

He entered largely into the necessity of building up a healthful and united nation by the spread of those grand principles of reform in political and social economy, and by bringing the spiritual to bear upon the material progress of the nation.

He also showed how that, by the study and comparison of our vital statistics, with those of other nations of the past and present, we could be better qualified to investigate our own position, and see whether we are tending towards national decline, or towards a higher and stronger existence.

Dr. Larocque also drew attention to the need of studying the habits of the people so that we might put into the hands of families, and into the schools through the governing bodies, such literature as would help the rising generation to understand physical laws and the natural penalty for breaking them; and to learn those principles of health, through the study of Hygiene and kindred subjects, which would tend to heir physical and intellectual improvement.

After an interchange of ideas on the part of all present, a Committee, consisting of Rev. Dr. Smyth and Dr. Larocque was appointed to consider the name of the association, set forth the objects, and prepare plans of procedure.

Subsequent meetings were held at the residence of Rev. Dr. Smyth, 385 St. Antoine street, and at the residence of L. E. Beauchamp, 265 Sherbrooke street, the outcome of which was the preparation of the following Circular; the adoption of the Constitution; and the formation of the Society by the appointment of the following officers:—

Hon. President,

President, A. B. LAROCQUE, M.D.

1st Vice-President, James Baylis, Esq.

and Vice-President, L. E. BEAUCHAMP, Esq.

Secretary, REV.W.J. SMYTH, M.A., B.Sc., Ph.D.

Assistant-Secretary, J. L. COUTLEE, N. P.

Treasurer, F. X. Moisan, Esq.

Council.

Ludger Gariépy, Esq.; Louis Laberge, M.D.; E.F. Ames, Esq.; Leon Gérin, Advocate; Wm. Drysdale, Esq.; Ovide Dufresne, Sr. Esq.; L. H. Pignolet, Esq.; Dr. S. Lachapelle and Alderman N. A. Hurteau.

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

FOR THE STUDY AND

DISSEMINATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

The promoters of the above-named Association do not consider it necessary to make an apology to the thoughtful people of this Dominion, for endeavoring to meet a great social need by forming a society for the study and diffusion of knowledge bearing upon social life in its physical, moral and national aspects.

The idea is by no means new, as both in Europe and the United States of America there have been many societies formed for the purpose of watching and diagnosing those conditions of society which are unfavorable to true national progress, and to advance such measures by the dissemination of scientific and economic knowledge, as shall, in a large degree, lessen the irregularities which mar the social order in our national life.

As a justification of the course we are now taking, it is only necessary to give the names of a few well-established organizations in Europe and America: The "Association Internationale pour le progrès de Sciences Sociales;" the "Congrès International de Statistiques;" the "International Congress of Hygiene and Demography," which met in London this year; the "American Association for the Promotion of Social Science;" the "American Association of Statistics." These are a few of the many societies at present existing. The extent of the ground covered; the character of the work done; and the alarming reports submitted by these societies, regarding the physical, moral, domestic and social conditions

of the nations represented, have had a large share in inspiring and guiding the promoters of the Canadian association for the dissemination of social science, in the inauguration of a new society.

It may be claimed by some, that in a young and prosperous country like ours we have nothing to fear from the moral and social disorders that are so formidable in European countries. At present we are indeed comparatively free from some of the morelvirulent forms of vice and moral disease that 'destroy nations. The time to be alarmed, however, is not when the evil has come, but before it comes, so that barriers may be erected to arrest its progress.

Separated as we are by an imaginary line, called the forty-fifth degree of latitude, from a nation whose laws relating to Marriage and Divorce are exceedingly lax and very varied in the different States, and whose sentiments respecting family responsibility are growing in an anti-christian and even criminal direction, we ought to give the most earnest heed to every abnormal indication, so that our country may be saved from the fate of some of the older civilizations of the world, and from the dangers that threaten the countries of Europe to-day.

There is no short path to the goal of national excellence. The road must be paved with scientific and moral teaching, and hedged by strong and christian leigislation.

Instruction should begin with the family, which is a divine institution. It is most essential and desirable that this first unit of social organization should be raised to the dignity which God intended it to possess, through pure moral environment and religious and useful instruction.

Where purely material progress and outward development only are made the goal of human life and energy, parental responsibility and filial duty are apt to be woefully depreciated. Hence, to the ennoblement of that sacred realm of human life in the family circle, shall the efforts of our Association be mainly directed.

The great and only safe basis on which all domestic, social and national greatness rest, viz.: on a knowledge of God and

of His revealed will, admits and encourages the spread of that knowledge which relates to physical, social and intellectual progress.

It is our opinion, therefore, that the study of domestic hygiene and domestic economy should be promoted in every family, and that it is the duty of the State and the Church to foster every movement and encourage every effort to disseminate a knowledge of these subjects among the people, either through special circulation by boards of health or through their introduction to public schools.

In the month of August of the present year the "International Congress of Hygiene and Demography" met in London, and was presided over by His Royal Highness, the Prince of Wales. The subjects discussed were: the prevention of communicable diseases; the science of bacteriology in relation to-communicable diseases; healthful homes for the laboring classes; the hygiene of infancy and childhood; the hygiene of houses and towns; the disposal of the dead, and the duty of the Government towards the nation in regard to health. All these subjects may very properly come before our Association for consideration as occasion requires; but as cur national conditions differ in some respects from the nations represented in "The International Congress of Hygiene and Demography," we shall probably differ in the subjects for discussion and in the modes of operation.

An important part of our work shall doubtless lie in the endeavor to secure improved and reliable returns of vital statistics. As mariners, usually, by heaving the log and the use of the sextant, are every day able to determine both the rate of speed and position of their vessel upon the sea, so we, through reliable statistics alone, can estimate our rate of speed, favorably or unfavorably, and determine our exact status among the nations.

At present the machinery for collecting statistics is very imperfect, chiefly due to ignorance and neglect on the part of parents. Much has been gained by the late publication of the compulsory registration law, but much remains yet to be done. By considerable trouble we can obtain the number of

marriages and deaths, but it is impossible as yet to secure correct returns of natality. The hands of our health-officers, our statisticians and our Government, are at present tied for want of a perfect municipal, provincial, and national system of collecting and comparing our vital and social statistical returns. It is only by the possession of such true returns that we can compare our social and national conditions with those of Europe and the United States, where evidences of approaching national decline are only too plain when mortuary and natal statistical returns are compared.

The population of the United States is rapidly increased by the steady flow of immigration; but according to the opinion of men who have investigated, the death rate in the native population is rapidly approaching the birth-rate.

This is alarming in a new country like America; but what shall be the story when the nation has reached the age of France, where it is stated that it is only due to the primitive virtue of some of the mining, manufacturing, agricultural and pastoral departments, such as, Le Nord, Le Pas-de-Calais, Le Morbihan, La Lozere, La Finstère, Les Côtes-du-Nord, La Vendée and others, that the death rate has not exceeded the natality rate.

Our young Dominion, as far as our imperfect statistics show, is not so censurable as many of the older countries of the Continent, in encouraging or practising those evils that are the worms that gnaw at the root of social and national vitality. But vice, like disease, travels fast, and already we are alarmed at the symptoms of encroaching infection, which, if permitted to spread, shall soon run riot through the arteries of our national life. The only remedy in the experience of the world is that of a sound, moral and scientific education. In the great campaign of self-protection, the quiet spread of scientific knowledge and truth has done, and shall yet do, more than the threatening ramparts of legislation.

To this holy task of leavening society with knowledge, the promoters of this Association have given themselves, in the hope of receiving that due patronage and confidence from the intelligent people of this Dominion, of which the cause is worthy. We have erected no walls to limit the subjects to be discussed but such as belong to the individual mind. We are no political society for furthering the interests of any party. Our sphere of labor is as broad as the nation and as deep as the human soul. We cannot avoid the study of political economy, because it grows out of domestic and social economy, and is identified with our national progress. In our Association there is neither Rouge nor Bleu, neither Liberal nor Conservative, for all are united in the great objects before us.

Our population is composed of the descendants and adopted sons of some of the noblest races and nations of the earth. As the French and Anglo-Saxon tongues gracefully blended after the Norman Conquest in England, and have left happy traces of such union in such words as honour and favour (which ruthless vandals have lately destroyed by the elimination of the historic letter u), so let the Anglo-Saxon and French-speaking peoples of this Dominion hopefully, peacefully and enthusiastically blend their interests and fortunes and energies to the rearing up of a nationality of strength and purity and durability of which our descendants shall have cause to be proud.

In our Association the matter of creed shall not be considered. We agree that "Godliness is profitable, unto all things, having the promise of the life that now is and that also which is to come," and we shall aim to encourage, and spread it. But each member shall have the liberty to worship God according to his own conscience. Our motto is union in all that concerns the building up of a strong nationality. All races can surely rally round such a standard as we propose, and work together for the physical, social and moral welfare of the people. We have the holy boldness to declare that our aim shall ever be to inspire and sustain that "righteousness which exalteth a nation," then we know that God will be honored, the nation benefited, and our own souls blest.

CONSTITUTION

OF

THE CANADIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE STUDY AND DISSEMINATION OF SOCIAL SCIENCE.

I. THE NAME-

The name of the Association shall be "The Canadian Association for the Study and Dissemination of Social Science."

2. THE OBJECTS OF THE ASSOCIATION-

(a) It shall be the first object of the Association, since we believe the time exceedingly opportune, to seek by every worthy means to promote the building up of a pure, strong and united Canadian nationality, irrespective of race or language.

(b) It shall be the second object of the Association to take special cognizance of our vital statistics, and endeavor to secure through the proper channels the fullest returns possible, so that our authorized statisticians may be able to approximate more accurately the ratio of our national progress.

(c) It shall be the third object of the Association to discuss questions which bear intimately upon the physical, intellectual and moral welfare of our people; to study the social status of the different nationalities inhabiting Canada, and the research of such reforms as shall promote the best interests of our common country.

(d) It shall be the fourth object of the Association to encourage and stimulate the dissemination of such literature among our families and public schools, as shall, instruct the rising generations in the laws that relate to physical health, and in those principles of moral and social order which shall make them good, reliable members of society, and help them, as required by God's Holy law, "to glorify God in their bodies and their spirits which are His."

3. Membership-

All members must be elected by ballot, after being nominated 'at a previous meeting. Associate members may be elected after notice being given, but such members cannot vote at any of the meetings. Honorary members may be elected at any time. The active membership fee shall be one dollar annually. Twenty dollars shall constitute a life member.

4. Officers—

The officers of the Association, who shall be elected by ballot, at the annual meeting, shall consist of a President, first and second Vice-Presidents, Secretary and Associate Secretary, and Treasurer, with an Executive Council consisting of 9 members. Should a vacancy occur, it may be filled at any regular meeting. An Hon. President may be elected at the annual meeting.

5. MEETINGS-

The annual meeting shall be held on the last Monday of September at 8 o'clock.

Regular meetings shall be held on the second Friday of every month at 8 o'clock.

Special meetings may be called by the President, or by the Secretary when requested by two or more members.

6. HEADQUARTERS OF THE ASSOCIATION-

The Association shall have its headquarters in Montreal.

7. LOCAL ASSOCIATIONS-

It is most important, and shall be the purpose of the Association, to form Local Associations in every City Town, Hamlet, or Municipality throughout the Dominion of Canada. These shall have the same objects; be governed by the same constitution; appoint their own officers; arrange their membership fee; elect a representative to the annual meeting of the Association; collect and classify and forward quarterly all matters bearing upon the objects of, and of interest to, the Association in Montreal. In large cities, where the population is mixed

national groups or sections or other departments may be formed, with the view of collecting information on the social or domestic status of the people, for the Local Association. In Montreal national groups, or sections, may report directly to the General Association.

8. Local representation shall be based on the principle of one representative for every 25 members, and on the payment to the General Association of \$5 for each representative by the Local Association. National groups, or other sections, may arrange their own affairs, subject to the approval of the Local Associations.

9. It shall be competent in each Local Association to form a class of students, or analysts of social phenomena, who shall be trained to observe and collect facts, thereby facilitating the comparison of the data furnished from several localities.

10. The Association shall maintain the most cordial relations with kindred societies, and shall co-operate with Munipal, Provincial and Dominion Authorities in securing the best statistical returns possible; in restraining social vices and promoting the best physical, social and moral conditions of the people.

11. Any alterations or additions to this constitution can be made only after due notice has been given—(at least one month previous).

