

# *The* AMERICAN HISTORICAL REVIEW

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## Your Business

IN other years the April issue of the *Review* has carried as its first article an account of the program of the annual meeting. To the news section has been relegated a condensed account of the reports of the officers and committees of the Association and the minutes of the Council and the annual business meeting. This year the three-day program for the annual meeting, one of the most interesting planned in recent years, was a war casualty due to the cancellation of the Columbus meeting at the request of the Federal transportation authorities. It has seemed fitting under these circumstances to give first place in this issue to the affairs of the Association. They are your business.

The loss due to the cancellation of the usual meeting was not total. The Executive Committee and the Executive Secretary had early abandoned a meeting in Washington, the original site. They transferred the sessions to Baltimore, where they found hotel space but were still on the Atlantic seaboard, which was out of bounds and in the path of the hordes of incoming and outgoing traffic focusing on Washington. The next flight was to Colum-

bus. After hovering over that city for some time, indeed alighting for a brief time, the meeting and the executive officers were shooed off their last perch. What next? There was business to be transacted, budgets to be adopted, reports to be heard, officers to be elected, and the presidential address to be delivered to somebody besides the editor of the *Review*.

The salvage was very considerable. The meeting that departed from Washington had a round-trip ticket. The Executive Secretary, who had seen it take passage with no hope of return for the duration, had the unexpected pleasure of attending a Council meeting, a business meeting, and an annual dinner with the presidential address, and all of this in Washington in buildings within sight from the windows of his office in the Library of Congress Annex. The forty-eighth annual meeting of the American Historical Association was really held and in due constitutional form. The circumstances that made a normal meeting abnormal should give to the affairs of the Association as here reported an unusual interest to those who hold that the preservation of cultural interests and ties is that part of a war effort which gives meaning and justification to all other efforts. Only by holding firmly to such a view can we lessen the perils of the peace that must follow the horrors of a global war and the spiritual wounds and weariness that are its aftermath.

The reports that follow do not cover one thing, the annual dinner. In the area of the District of Columbia there are now some five hundred members of the Association. Among those professionally interested in historical teaching and research there has been for some time a loose and informal organization which lunches together monthly and hears a paper and discusses it. This year the group is headed by Professor Donald Dozer of the University of Maryland. Professor Dozer and his associates invited Professor Arthur M. Schlesinger to read his presidential address to them at a dinner meeting on December 30. With the support and co-operation of your executive officer an effort was made to reach all resident members of the Association in order that the function might be a suitable substitute for the annual dinner at the Association meeting. The effort was very successful and some 225 members and guests sat down to the dinner in the Continental Hotel and later heard President Schlesinger read his address.

No one could deny that it was a fairly representative gathering, for the presence of historians from all over the country, now in Washington in war work, gave it a nation-wide coverage. Furthermore, the interest in the Association of some of those present spanned a goodly part of the Association's life. In the audience were such veterans as Dr. Victor Clark, Dr. Edmund C. Burnett, Professor Frank M. Anderson, and Professor James A. Woodburn.

In a photograph of the attending members at the fourth annual meeting in Washington in 1888, fifty-four years ago, Professor Woodburn is one of the few identifiable living members. If for no other reason, the presence of such as these made it a noteworthy occasion.