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The Association in 1945

THE last meeting of the American Historical Association under the conditions enforced by World War II was held in Washington, December 27, 1945. In August the Executive Committee had canceled a two-day meeting with program. Travel and hotel accommodations then, and materially unchanged later, justified their action. But the Association has business to transact and officers to elect and install. The alternative to a full program meeting was to repeat in 1945 the pattern of 1942, when the meeting was likewise scheduled for Washington. This meant one day of activity covering a meeting of the Council, a business meeting, and the annual dinner with the address of the outgoing president. This could be managed and was managed successfully.

One cannot quite report an annual meeting in a paragraph. Certainly a year of activity and the summary of the Council's business claim the interest of all members. In the following pages the year's work is reported and the minutes of the meeting of the Council and of the Association laid before the members who could not attend the record of the year's business.

There remains only one session for which no minutes were kept—that is, the annual dinner at the Willard Hotel. Three local reporters earned their dinners and part of their salaries by taking notes. Over two hundred members and friends were free to enjoy the program. Dr. Waldo G. Leland, director of the American Council of Learned Societies and secretary of this Association “in the old days,” was the presiding officer. Members present and members who attended the great dinner on the fiftieth anniversary of the Association, at which Dr. Leland presided, have had a common and most pleasurable experience. After recalling another annual meeting in the Willard in times more peaceful nationally and more militant in the Association, Dr. Leland prefaced his introduction of President Hayes by reminding the Association of its distinguished record in furnishing historians as ministers plenipotentiary or ambassadors. Before President Roosevelt pressed Professor Hayes into service as ambassador to Spain, the country had been served by such members as George Bancroft, Andrew D. White, James B. Angell, and William E. Dodd, and our president in 1921 was the resident ambassador of France, J. J. Jusserand.

The presidential address, which was printed in the January issue, was most warmly applauded, recalling to one member's mind the outstanding reception given Professor Cheyney's address in 1924 at Columbus on “Law in History.”

The dinner was notable for the announcement of the first award of the Watumull Prize of five hundred dollars to the author of the best book on India pub-

lished during the last five years. The prize was awarded posthumously to Ernest J. H. Mackay of London, England, for his volume *Chanhu-daro Excavations, 1935-36*. The members of the committee making the award were Professors Harry J. Carman, Robert L. Schuyler, and Taraknath Das.

The Beveridge Memorial Prize of two hundred dollars was awarded to John Richard Alden of the University of Nebraska for his book *John Stuart and the Southern Frontier*, with honorable mention to Harvey Wish of Western Reserve University for his *George Fitzhugh, Propagandist of the Old South*.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY AND MANAGING EDITOR FOR THE YEAR 1945

No one could regret more than the Council and your executive officers that this first postwar meeting of the Association is of necessity a truncated meeting without the usual program. The decision to cancel the program was made in August on the eve of the Japanese surrender. Everything that has occurred since has confirmed the wisdom of the decision in August. It is believed now that the Council and the membership can look forward to a resumption in 1946 of national meetings with program and joint sessions with our affiliated societies. The executive office is already in touch with some of the latter with a view to a full-scale session in New York a year from now. This is as it should be in a national association of scholars, all of whom should in some way bear responsibility for its activities. Had it not been for the work of some of the committees and the use of the mails for correspondence, plus the contacts with resident and visiting historical scholars, your Executive Secretary would have felt decidedly isolated in the Bedford stone towers of the Library of Congress Annex.

Despite these unavoidable limitations I am happy to report that the affairs of the Association and of its organ, the *Review*, are in a healthy condition. In every sense both have more than held their own. The treasurer's report reveals a financial condition such that we can consider the investment of a surplus in current balances in such a way as to increase the capital investment of the Association.

Equally encouraging are the statistics on membership. The Association now has the largest membership in its history, a total on December 15 of 3,812. This represents a gain of 184 over last year despite a loss by death, resignation, and dropping of 161 names. This means that we have had during the year an addition of 345 new members. A considerable part of this addition has come through discriminating solicitations from the office and helpful suggestions received from the membership. Three members have distinguished themselves by suggesting groups of names from their classes or interested individuals among their acquaintance. A larger number of members than usual have come wholly unsolicited, so far as I know, and indicate that interest in history or the *Review* have been quiet forces. Unless during the next year members take it upon themselves to help out the