

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

Session 1965 - 1966

104th Annual Business Meeting: October 12, 1965

The meeting was presided over by the President, Dr. C. R. Masson, who delivered the following address.

Members of the Institute were grieved this month to learn of the loss of one of our most distinguished members. Professor H. L. Cameron, head of the Geology Department at Acadia University, died on October 3, 1965. Professor Cameron was educated at Acadia University and McGill, where he received his M.Sc. degree in 1945. He was later associated with the Nova Scotia Department of Mines and was for a time assistant inspector of mines for the Province. He joined the staff of Acadia University as an assistant professor in 1946 and later became head of the department.

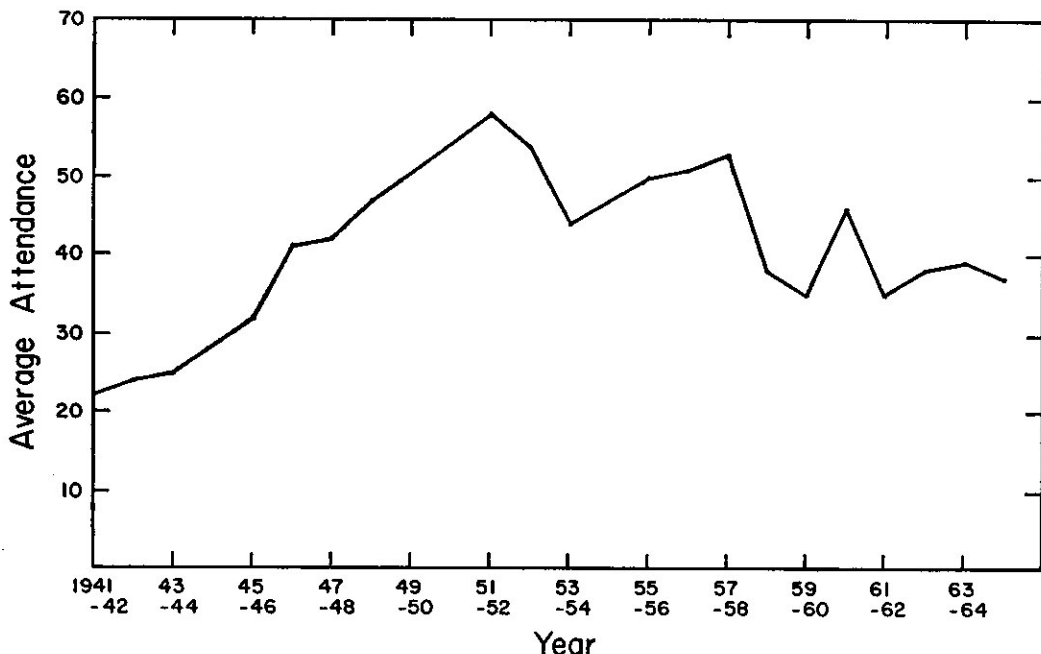
Professor Cameron performed extensive work in the photogrammetry department of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. He was closely associated with aerial magnetometric surveys of the Province and pioneered in the application of certain scientific devices in this field. In recent years he had been interested in high-level aerial photography, with particular emphasis on meteorological applications. He was the author of numerous scientific papers and frequently attended scientific conferences at both the national and international levels. The Institute is saddened by his loss and extends its deepest sympathy to his wife and family.

I am pleased to report that, at its meeting this evening, the Council elected Miss Evelyn M. Campbell to Honourary Life Membership in the Institute. Miss Campbell has been a member of the Institute for many years and has acted as our Librarian since 1936. It is fitting that her services to the Institute should be recognized in this manner.

It will be recalled that the practice of inviting speakers to address the Institute was instigated by the previous Council in an attempt to stimulate greater interest in the meetings by raising the general level of presentation as well as providing more adequate time for the speaker to develop his subject. In spite of the high standards of the papers presented at these meetings it is doubtful whether this experiment has led to any marked increase in the level of interest. The average attendance at ordinary meetings has remained about the same for the past four years.

In this context I wish to present a slide which shows the average attendance at ordinary meetings of the Institute over the period 1941-1965. For the preparation of the graph I am indebted to Dr. E. Gordon Young. The most interesting feature is the steady increase in average attendance up to the year 1951-2 and the levelling off, or irregular decline thereafter. The graph shows that the average attendance at ordinary meetings today is just about the same as it was twenty years ago. Paradoxically, the peak in the

curve at 1951-2 corresponds to a time when new research institutes were being planned or established in the Halifax area and the tempo of scientific activity in this region was accelerating. As a physical chemist, I have had to exercise considerable restraint in avoiding the obvious temptation to extrapolate the downward trend to zero! A rough projection of the ascending portion suggests that if the growth exhibited during the decade 1941-51 had continued, the average attendance at our meetings today would be of the order of 100.



Although numerical attendance at meetings is not the only criterion of success, it has nevertheless been of concern to successive Councils that attendances have continued to diminish during a period of scientific growth, so that today the Institute is supported actively by only a small proportion of its total membership. It was partly this situation which prompted a resolution at the last Annual Business Meeting that a committee be formed to consider the role of the Institute in the scientific community. The members appointed to this committee were Drs. R. G. Ackman, E. Blanchard, A. G. McInnes, W. R. Trost, and E. G. Young. The report of this committee is on the agenda this evening and will be presented by Dr. Ackman. I wish to take this opportunity of thanking the members of the committee for their valuable cooperation and for their time and effort in producing a constructive and thoughtful analysis of this matter. I hope this report will stimulate discussion and lead to further constructive comments from the members present at this meeting.

Without wishing to anticipate the views expressed in this report, I should like to elaborate on several points which seem

especially worthy of comment. The main problem which an organization such as ours has to face is associated with the diversity of interests of its members. As a previous President has remarked, this diversity may actually be a source of strength, although I doubt if we are at present utilizing this aspect of ourselves to the best advantage. With the multitude of specialized groups which now exist in the Halifax area, as well as at the national level, for the discussion of scientific research, it seems logical that the Institute should concentrate its main effort towards the presentation of papers which have a broader scientific appeal, or which cut across the boundaries of scientific disciplines. By this I do not mean to imply that we should attempt to sponsor what are commonly referred to as "popular lectures", but that rather we should provide a forum for scientists whose work has broad implications or is of such a nature that it has an intrinsic appeal to scientists in various fields. The Institute has a useful function here, which is at present served in some measure by the holding of extraordinary meetings. Perhaps we should enlarge this aspect of our activities by using both local and outside speakers, at the expense, if necessary, of a decrease in the number of our "Ordinary" meetings. The concept of invited speakers was a step in this direction, but some of the subjects were rather specialized. It is not surprising that our most successful meeting last year, at least from the standpoint of numerical attendance, was addressed by Dr. J. M. R. Beveridge of Acadia University on the subject "Diet and Cardiovascular Disease" - a reflection on both the reputation of the speaker and the general interest in his topic.

If the Institute is to expand its activities in this direction, particularly by introducing more speakers from outside the Province, it will be necessary to make arrangements for some of these meetings well in advance, probably during the summer months. With this in mind, it would seem desirable to hold the Annual Business Meeting in the late spring, rather than during the fall, so that the new Council may have an opportunity of arranging the fall programme in advance.

A further point which deserves comment, and which has been stressed by various Presidents from time to time, concerns the style of presentation of papers at our ordinary meetings. It is essential for speakers to bear in mind that papers presented at meetings of the Institute should differ in style from papers given before more specialized groups. At Institute meetings, the speaker is faced with the task of interpreting his work to a cross-section of the scientific community and in general this requires more skill, experience and judgment than is required for presentation of the same material elsewhere. It would be difficult, if not presumptuous, to attempt to define too closely the qualities required in the presentation of a lecture at meetings such as ours, but we can each recall good and sometimes outstanding examples of the kind of presentation which is desirable. Presentation of a paper at a meeting of the Institute should be regarded as a challenge by the individual concerned and he should make every effort to ensure that the essence of his material is conveyed to his audience in as clear and concise a manner as is consistent

with the nature of his subject. This should not be construed to mean that, in striving for simplicity, the speaker should compromise the scientific content or quality of his work. Many of the greatest ideas in science are, after all, simple in nature.

The Proceedings of the Institute have been the subject of discussion from time to time. I feel that the practice of publishing articles which deal with the natural history of the province and which, because of their local significance, might not be readily acceptable elsewhere, is logical and should be continued. I feel also that articles on the geology and mineral resources of the province should be encouraged. Perhaps we should solicit contributions on certain oceanographic topics. The publication of our Proceedings is intimately associated with our finances, so that care is required before any change in policy is advocated.

In conclusion, I wish to thank the members of the Council, who have carried on the work of the Institute during the year. It has been a privilege to have been associated with them.

The Treasurer, P. Odense, reported

Receipts.....	769.90
Expenditures.....	900.78
Permanent Fund.....	489.62
Total assets as of Oct. 12, 1965.....	\$4,370.42

The Editor, H. S. Heaps, reported it had not been possible to issue Volume 26, Part 2, of the Proceedings during the year but that it would be published in the near future.

The Librarian, Miss E. M. Campbell, reported an increased use of the Institute's journals by libraries and that an inventory of the Library was desirable before it was moved.

Officers elected for the year 1965-66 were

President.....	C. R. Masson
First Vice-president.....	W. J. Dyer
Second Vice-president.....	J. G. Retallack
Secretary.....	W. D. Jamieson
Treasurer.....	P. Odense
Editor.....	H. S. Heaps
Council - M. L. Cameron, H. B. S. Cooke, W. E. Jones, C. R. Mann, A. C. Neish	
Auditors.....	A. E. Cameron, J. R. Dingle

Meetings and communications during the year were as follows. *Extraordinary Meetings* in conjunction with Dalhousie University and the International Co-operation year, UNESCO. "The world's ocean basins" by Prof. J. Tuzo Wilson, Professor of Geophysics, University of Toronto.

Oct. 19, "The unknown half of the world"

Oct. 20, "Are they permanent?"

Oct. 21, "Scene of international co-operation"

1st Ordinary Meeting, November 15, 1965

"The mineral resources of Nova Scotia in relation to the geological history" by J. P. Nowlan.

2nd Ordinary Meeting, December 13, 1965

(1) "Reactions in non-aqueous solvents" by M. E. Peach,
(2) "Liquid water: broken-down ice or distorted ice?" by M. Falk.

3rd Ordinary Meeting, January 10, 1966

"Malthus revisited: the growth of theoretical populations" by P. J. Wangersky.

Extraordinary Meeting, January 31, 1966

"The international hydrological decade" (1) "Atmospheric water" by C. E. Stevens, Regional Meteorologist, Moncton, N. B., (2) "Surface waters" by E. F. Durrant, Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, Ottawa, (3) "Groundwater problems" by J. F. Jones, Department of Mines, Halifax.

4th Ordinary Meeting, February 14, 1966

"Molecules and the mind" by R. A. Heacock.

5th Ordinary Meeting, March 14, 1966

(1) "Amitosis and cytogenetics of lower organisms" by A. Ruthmann, (2) "The use of reflectance spectroscopy in the identification of amino acids" by R. W. Frei, (3) "The effects of darkening on host plant susceptibility to virus infection" by W. C. Kimmins.

Extraordinary Meeting, March 17, 1966

"The cell membrane" by Prof. J. Dainty, School of Biological Sciences, University of East Anglia, Norwich, England.

6th Ordinary Meeting, April 18, 1966 (with Valley Chapter)

(1) "Perturbation theory in quantum mechanics" by W. J. Archibald, (2) "10,000 Years of Nova Scotian pre-history" by J. S. Erskine.

7th Ordinary Meeting, May 9, 1966

(1) "Domain structure of piezoelectric ceramics" by R. F. Brown and R. Y. Nishi, (2) "Isoenzymes in fish" by P. H. Odense, T. M. Allen and T. C. Leung.

PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

(Valley Chapter 1965 - 1966)

1st Ordinary and Annual Business Meeting, October 4, 1965

Officers elected for the year 1965-66 were

President.....	J. S. Erskine
Vice-President.....	H. T. Stultz
Treasurer.....	Miss J. Herbert
Secretary.....	F. R. Forsyth
Councillor.....	J. Basaraba

"Climate and agricultural research - some observations from visitations to Northern European Research Institutions" by A. D. Crowe.

2nd Ordinary Meeting, November 1, 1965

(1) "Sea turtles" by J. S. Bleakney, (2) "Mucopolysaccharides of animal tissue" by D. Wood.

3rd Ordinary Meeting, December 6, 1965

(1) "Callose and translocation" by D. Webster, (2) "Moose disease - history and present status of the problem" by G. Parker, (3) "Bryozoa - marine invertebrates" by G. D. Crowell.

4th Ordinary Meeting, January 10, 1966

(1) "Dipole moments in molecular structure" by J. Roscoe, (2) "Stability of five boundary layers" by R. H. Magarvey.

5th Ordinary Meeting, February 7, 1966

- (1) "Arctic alpine flora of Nova Scotia" by R. W. Hounsell,
- (2) "Mendel Centennial in Czechoslovakia" by W. Lamoreux.

6th Ordinary Meeting, March 7, 1966

- (1) "Nontuberculous lung disease" by J. J. Quinlan, (2)
- "Chronic bronchitis and emphysema" by E. W. Crossan, (3)
- "The role of potassium in human health" by H. M. Quinlan.

7th Ordinary Meeting, April 18, 1966 (jointly with parent society)

- (1) "Perturbation theory in Quantum Mechanics" by W. J. Archibald, (2) "10,000 years of Nova Scotian pre-history" by J. S. Erskine.