

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
NOVA SCOTIAN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

ALAN E. CAMERON

90th Annual Meeting, October 22, 1951

Members of the Institute of Science:

In opening this annual review of the activities of our Institute, I should like to call your attention to the fact that we are entering the last decade of a century of activity. We are ninety years old tonight. Yet, as I hope to show, we are younger in spirit, and more vigorous in our activities than at any other time in our history. Moreover, we have a greater opportunity before us, a greater expectation of systematic production in more walks of scientific endeavour than our forefathers could have dreamed of.

First, let me briefly summarize the activities during the past year. It is pleasing to record that, to our knowledge, we have suffered no loss by death in our membership. The vicissitudes of professional life cause changes in habitat and it is natural that there should be changes in membership classification. We open this year with a total membership of two hundred and thirty-six, composed of:

Ordinary members	81
Associate members	62
Student members	67
Life members	14
Honorary members	7
Corresponding members	5
	<hr/>
Total	236

This is the highest membership on record and represents an increase of fifteen per cent over last year. This increase in membership has been accompanied by an increase in regular

attendance and an increase in the number of papers presented for discussion. We held eight ordinary meetings and one business meeting with an average attendance of forty-six and the presentation of twenty-five papers contributed by thirty-five authors.

I must pay tribute next to the other officers and to the council for their contributions to the Institute during the past year. Nine council meetings were required to handle the routine business and special problems. Reports from the officers will be presented shortly. All will be of interest; all represent conscientious and time consuming work. I call your special attention to the report of the corresponding secretary. Having brought the exchange list up to date, he turned his attention to an accumulative index of the proceedings of the Institute, and after two years' work, has it finished. This is the first of its kind, in our Institute activities and, when published, as it must be, it will be a valuable contribution to our proceedings. I know that in doing this piece of work he will have come across many interesting, historical items, and I sincerely trust that he, some evening, will give us a review of his findings.

You will be pleased to hear from the Editor that our proceedings are up to date with the 1949-50 Part IV of Volume XXII printed and distributed, and Part I Vol. XXIII for 1950-51 well in hand. When you learn that he has brought this work up to date during the same time that he and another member of the Institute have been busily engaged in final editing and proof reading of an important new text book in his own field, you will realize the sacrifice he made for Institute Affairs.

Last to receive special mention, but by no means least, is our recording secretary. To him goes the credit for keeping the Institute active and energetic. He retires tonight after five years of outstanding service and is fully entitled to all the thanks we can give.

May I now return to my earlier theme, that of present scientific activity as a promise to the future. In his Presidential Reports for 1949 and 1950, Dr. Weld outlined a coming expansion in research facilities in this (Halifax) area. He mentioned the Nova Scotia Research Foundation, the Fisheries Experimental Station, Naval Research Establishment of the Defence Research Board of Canada, the new laboratories of the Nova Scotia Technical College, the new Department of Metabolism at the Victoria General Hospital, and the new laboratories of the National Research Council on Dalhousie Campus. Each of these deserves more attention than I can give it now. The time is not far distant when special meetings will have to be called to permit the Institute members to visit and to inspect these new and growing facilities. By so doing we will become more than ever conscious of the growing influence science has upon our everyday life. Only a day or two ago, a number of those present had the privilege of visiting and inspecting the highly scientific but industrial plant of Cossor (Canada) Ltd. There, we saw the adaptation of modern physical science to industry.

The program of papers, although still largely from biological and medical science, showed the influence of the workers in these organizations. They contributed twenty-four per cent of the papers presented to the Institute. We welcomed papers on oceanography from the Naval Research Establishment, papers from the Fisheries Experimental Station, and papers covering results of investigations on Nova Scotia forestry and geology, the result of work done under the sponsorship of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. We can look forward with confidence, to further contributions from these active and fast growing services.

An outstanding innovation in Institute procedures was the holding of a regular meeting at Wolfville, where we were the guests of the local associate members. This scheme, first suggested by Past President R. J. Bean some years ago,

was undertaken in the Spring and was completely successful. A series of papers prepared by the local (Wolfville) members was followed by a social gathering where we renewed acquaintances and made new friendships and incidentally added new members. Without doubt, this innovation has shown a new way by which the Institute can give service to the scientific workers in the Province.

Ladies and gentlemen, the Institute has a vital part to play in scientific life of Halifax and the Province. It can and should supply the link of contact between workers in the various fields. It can and should be a vehicle for the distribution of scientific contributions from the workers in Nova Scotia. We may need more meetings. We may need sectional meetings. We certainly need to put forth every effort to see to it that the workers have an opportunity to present their problems, to express their opinions, to announce their findings.

These laboratories and institutions of Nova Scotia are, after all, a compact group of scientific workers, relatively isolated from contact with other workers in their own fields but, I am sure, capable of producing results that could make the name of the Nova Scotia Institute of Science known wherever scientists gather together. Let us all put our shoulders to the wheel so that at the end of the next ten years, when our own hundredth Anniversary comes around, people will flock to our centenary gathering from all corners of the world.