

The Canadian Immigration Historical Society La Société Historique De L'Immigration Canadienne

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C.I.H.S. BULLETIN S.H.I.C.

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1.S.B.N.

AN APOLOGY

For a number of reasons -- illness, a re-think of our publishing priorities in relation to the budget available for the 1988 - 89 financial year of the Society, and a change in responsibilities on the Board, -- there has been too long an interval between this Bulletin, and #4 issued last March. We are sorry not to have given members notice of the change of plan in our publication schedule, but issuing Bulletin #5 under the same cover as the first in the Society's series of Perspectives in Canadian Immigration to combine postal costs seemed to make sense as well as providing members with an earlier demonstration of the Society's progress in its publishing program and objectives.

THE SUPPLEMENTS

Supplement 'A' is a transcript of the remarks of our Honorary President, Jack Manion, originally made at the A.G.M. last May. Apart from the interest this will have for both our current membership, and those we hope will renew, or can attract, Mr Manion's contribution will be of particular archival significance, not only because of its content but, as well, the ideals which he, and many others of the same era, held regarding the importance of the immigration program.

Supplement 'B' forms the Annual Report of the Society and provides a summary of the business conducted and reports of officers presented at the last A.G.M.; we draw your particular attention to the report of the Membership Secretary.

PERSPECTIVES IN CANADIAN IMMIGRATION SERIES

Edited by Bernard Brodie and Gerry Van Kessel, Number One in the series is "A Man of Big Heart", the memoirs of the late Maurice Mitchell. By decision of the Board of Directors this is being distributed as a free issue to all paid-up members - a "thank-you" for your loyal support over the months it has taken to shepherd the Society from the drawing-board to a viable entity with a working program.

The Research and Publication Committee have already turned their attention and energies to Number 2 in the Series, as yet untitled. One of the founding members, and the first President of the Society, Fenton Crosman, began in Immigration as a male stenographer in 1930. working out of Ottawa on Immigration Boards of Inquiry. those days, Immigration was careful not to expose delicate female ears to this aspect of their program.) This was the start of a long and distinguished career in the service of Immigration, and advancement, rank by rank, both in the Maritime and Ottawa establishments. With remarkable faithfulness, Fenton kept a diary throughout this period, covering his daily role and his comments on the events and operations of the posts he was assigned to. Fenton's immaculate typescript is several hundred pages long, and in its complete form unquestionably represents a splendid archival document for later researchers.

The Research and Publications Committee is currently preparing an abridged version of the diaries intended to present the descriptive highlights of his work in Immigration in Canada over a span of more than forty years. This should be completed during our present financial year; the Board of Directors proposes that this volume will be offered at cost, a figure that will probably be somewhere between \$8 and \$10. You will find an order form for Fenton's book in the envelope. If you would return this as soon as possible, please, it will reserve your copy and permit us to do the production and cost estimates.

THE ARCHIVAL PROGRAM

Looking back at previous issues of "The Bulletin" we have to conclude that we may have fallen into the old Ottawa trap of assuming that everything the Ottawa Citizen reports about government operations is sure to be picked up across the land. The difficulties National Archives have been experiencing in the last several years are noted in the report by Bob Keyserlingk to the A.G.M. Dr Keyserlingk, a former Immigration Foreign Service Officer and a Professor of History at the University of Ottawa, has been "stroking" the people at Archives for the last several months. He has a meeting scheduled with officials of the National Archives for next month to exemplify and discuss the kind of material we hope to be able to deposit.

In the meantime, J. Allan Troy, who has volunteered to be the curator and interim custodian of the Society's archival material, artifacts, and memorabilia is sitting at home like the Maytag repairman, waiting for your contributions.

What do we want you to provide? When reading the Mitchell memoirs you might bear in mind the feat they represent. At the age of seventy-five, and without any training in journalist techniques, not always in good health, our late friend sat down and created entirely from memory a

fascinating document of importance in the record of the history of Canadian immigration. The document owes its origins to his persistency, determination and commitment to his role during his working life. Many of our members lived through equally momentous times, and while you may feel unable to create a document of the length of the Mitchell or Crosman efforts there are experiences or anecdotes, your own or the immigrants you have known, perhaps documents you have preserved, which will add to the record. As Bob Keyserlingk puts it, "You have in your heads, and your hearts, a wealth of memory and experience which can never be extracted from official files".

If the Society had not been established, or, a more sobering thought, if either Maurice or Fenton had been procastinators, their narratives might never have been written. They realized they have been participants in the singular developments in the history of immigration to Canada that have occurred in this century. We hope to imbue all our members with the same spirit; indeed, our whole program is dependent on member involvement.

For our part, the Board of Directors has begun to prepare the ground for the Society's 1989 - 90 program which, tentatively, will also involve two publications. The period to which we have given priority (for obvious reasons because our membership is aging and we have not yet established the administrative and financial structure which permits us really big bites at the whole pie) is from 1945 up until the Hungarian movement in 1956. This should not inhibit any member forwarding material from before or after that time since the archival procedures and the publications format we are adopting will permit a time sector approach.

Within the 1988 - 89 program precedence will be given to a third "Perspective", a treatment in depth of the involvement of Canadian Immigration, both in Canada and abroad, in the acceptance and settlement of Hungarian refugees, the first demonstration

by Canada of the acceptance of real humanitarianism in the selection of immigrants. The other publication will probably be the first segment of the "Chronicles of Canadian Immigration".

We are now at the stage where we need your suggestions, support, and participation. The Society urges all members to begin recording their experiences (all of us can identify episodes of lasting human interest in immigration operations and the movement of immigrants to Canada which live in our memories, no matter our age). This can be done in the permanent form of your choice, be it in writing or on audio tape. We have begun a preliminary oral history venture in the Ottawa area; we would like to hear from members elsewhere who have the equipment and an interest in this activity. Additionally, we hope that all of you will give wide circulation to this Bulletin, and the "Perspectives" of this program year, to present or former immigration colleagues, or others interested in preserving immigration history, including any students of your acquaintance who may be searching for a subject. Whether as members or contributors they should be made to feel the Society welcomes them.

-SUPPORT FROM EMPLOYMENT AND IMMIGRATION-

Since the last "Bulletin" the Hon. Barbara McDougall has written to the President in most supportive terms. In part, her letter reads as follows:

"Unfortunately, there are no funds within Employment and Immigration Canada from which a grant could be made toward the operating costs of the society. I feel, however, that the Society's objectives are worthwhile and, accordingly, that the Commission/Department should apply for a corporate membership. For this purpose, would you please have the appropriate forms sent to the Executive Director, Immigration, 10th Floor, Place du Portage, Ottawa-Hull, K1A OJ9.

"I am impressed with the progress that has

been made by the Society since the founding meetings of 1986 and I have a genuine interest in these activities. I understand that in the United States a major Immigration Museum will soon open on Ellis Island in New York Harbour. Over one and a half million people are expected to visit this museum annually. In this context your Society's role in the commemoration of Pier 21 in Halifax as an historic site is exciting. While I recognize that a museum on the Ellis Island scale is not necessarily appropriate in this country, your efforts are important in reminding us of the no less vital part which immigration has played in the building of Canada. would like to encourage you and your associates to continue the good work."

IDENTIFICATION AND DESIGNATION OF HISTORIC IMMIGRATION SITES

One of the members and an associate in the production of the "Bulletin" commented "Not Pier 21 again!" after the last issue. The change in the above heading is intended to put Pier 21 precisely within its proper context -- the important first phase of what can be regarded as an important national activity of the Society. We should certainly be thinking of Montreal, Winnipeg, and Vancouver, possibly Regina, Edmonton, and Victoria, and elsewhere when there is community interest, a site, and allied organizations giving support.

Pier 21 has all these requirement already in place. The President, Bud Clark, has been handling our approach to Government personally and to bring you up to date we cannot do better than quote from a letter he wrote to the Hon. Stewart McInnes, the former local Member for Halifax and former Minister of Public Works:

"I understand from Mr John LeBlanc that you are well aware of a proposal of the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia to develop Pier 21 in Halifax as a 'national memorial of trans-Atlantic immigration to Canada, and as a viable focus for multiculturalism, tourism, ethnic business,

food services, and retailing. Mr LeBlanc, besides being a joint author of 'Pier 21 -The Gateway that changed Canada", serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Canadian Immigration Historical Society and as our representative in Nova Scotia. He has indicated to us that there is a considerable and increasing support for this project, and my purpose in writing is to inform you that our Board of Directors has passed a resolution strongly supporting, in principle, this proposal of the Multicultural Association of Nova Scotia (MANS). It is our intention to continue to support to the fullest extent possible this initiative of MANS and the other individuals and organizations who are developing this project.

"That widespread interest exists was demonstrated in considerable measure at the 60th Anniversary Celebration of the opening of Pier 21, held in Halifax on March 7 - 8 of this year. Representatives of the Government of Canada, the Government of Nova Scotia, the City of Halifax, and numerous other organizations, including our own were present. Of particular note was the attendance of a delegation from Greenock, Scotland, led by Sir Simpson Stevenson, the Provost of Greenock.

"A project of this kind is of great interest to our Society. Pier 21, at Halifax, was the gateway to Canada for over 1,500,000 immigrants who have made a most remarkable contribution to our country. Many of these people visit Halifax to see the place where many years ago they were enabled to begin a new and successful life. In this age of multiculturalism it would be most appropriate to have a suitable historic site and museum. Moreover, there is an evident trend in all parts of Canada, as well as in the National Capital, to preserve and display our accomplishments of the past, and we strongly believe that a historic site and museum of the kind proposed would be another asset to the City of Halifax and to the nation at large.

"It is realized, of course, that the accomplishment of such a project would, in the long term, require the interest and

support of many individuals, organizations and levels of government. It would seem, however, that the first essential steps are some assurance that the Pier 21 property would be earmarked for such a purpose, that a favourable recommendation is forthcoming from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, and that the project has your own kind approval and support."

Concerning the reference to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board, no decision on the Society's request that Pier 21 be designated has yet been received. We have had an informal indication that the Board is reluctant to take what they consider an ad hoc decision on one possible site in advance of the Board adopting a policy principle which can apply generally to post-1914 immigration. An interesting development, and perhaps particularly to members in Western Canada, was the enactment of "The Heritage Railway Station Act" last August on a private members bill (Mr Gordon Taylor, Bow River). received strong support from Heritage Canada, and defines a heritage railway station as one so designated by the Historic Sites and Monuments Board. Are there any old railway stations around that we could hang our shingle on?

We have included in our package to you an order form for "Pier 21 - The Gateway that Changed Canada" and trust that members will want to show support. Joint author with John LeBlanc was Trudy Duivenvoorden Mitic of whom we tell you more in the item following.

IN THE BOOKSHOPS

Because of shortage of space we can only include one review. We could not fail to salute the first book of one of our members.

The reviewer, <u>Gerry van Kessel</u>, a member of the Board of Directors, came to Canada from Holland by ship as a child and was landed at Pier 21. The similarity of

his background to that of the author's particularly qualifies him to do the review.

CANADIAN BY CHOICE - Lancelot Press, P.O. Box 425, Hantsport, N.S., BOP 1PO, paperback, 147 pages, \$6.95, by mail.

"In the early 1950s thousands of young Dutch families immigrated to Canada. They crossed the Atlantic in overcrowded small passenger vessels, arrived at Pier 21 in Halifax and headed to points west on a rickety and uncomfortable train. Many families were destined to Canadian farmers to work as farm help. My own parents (and I) were part of this movement as were Gerard and Sjaan Duivenvoorden.

Canadian by Choice is the story of the Duivenvoorden's first years and experiences in Canada, as told by their daughter from her mother's perspective and language. The mother explains their life in New Brunswick. Their first employer was stingy, distant and difficult. There was hunger, isolation, loneliness, uncertainty and homesickness. The winters were overwhelming, the accommodation totally inadequate. Yet, the couple found a better employer, made friends, had children, and slowly their fortunes improved. As is the case in many immigrant stories, there is a current of optimism and hope and a growing sense of belonging to their adopted country.

The author has written an interesting and inspiring story about our recent history when life was simpler and harder. For those of us whose parents arrived in those years, it is a useful reminder of what they went through in their first years in Canada.

G. Van Kessel

The publisher's notes on the author are as follows:

<u>Trudy Duivenvoorden Mitic</u> grew up in Jacquet River, N.B., a rural area on the Bay of Chaleur overlooking the mountains of

Gaspe. The second oldest of eight children, she thrived on the stories her parents told of their immigration to Canada. When Dutch relatives came to visit, the talk went on for hours and hours.

"Even as a child, Trudy remembers feeling that these stories were important, that someone should write them down and remember them. Three years ago she began to write, and now we have <u>Canadian by Choice</u>, the first book of a startlingly good new Maritime author, whose vivid writing style enables her to completely transport her readers into the world of Canadian immigrants in the 1950s.

"She has several articles published in the Novascotian. She received her BA from Concordia University in Montreal and her MPE in Recreation from the University of New Brunswick. Trudy and her husband Wayne and their two children live in Fall River, N.S."

The Society thanks Trudy for her work and her example.

ANOTHER IMMIGRATION MILESTONE

On October 21st the Social Affairs stream of External Affairs put on a farewell party for those of its members retiring this year, or who had retired in the last two years. Present from this group were Charles Rogers, Elsa Amadao, Maurice Benoit, Jack Armstrong, Ron Dube, Larry Baillargeon, and Jacques Denault. They, and many of the approximately 120 other guests, a number from out of town, made up a group very representative of the "old" Foreign Service of Immgration. It was a good evening -- minimum formality, good food, and lots of time for circulating and reminiscing before the speeches.

Gavin Stewart, now Director General of the Consular and Immigration Affairs Bureau at External, gave the official valedictory, and then called on Joe Bissett, Executive Director of Immigration, CEIC. Waxing

eloquent, Joe compared the two "generations" of those in the group retiring: first, those whose university was a World War whom he described as a group "of whom much was expected" and, second, those from the earliest group of officers University recruited in the 1950s, a generation "to whom much was given". He spoke of the way they had complemented and learned from each other and the great things for Canada they had done together.

Bernard Brodie, the Vice President, had arranged that each of the retirees present would receive a proof copy of the Mitchell memoirs since many of them had been close associates. When thanking the Society for this gesture Mr Bissett spoke warmly of the work of the Society and urged all present who cared for Immigration to give it support.

GEORGES MAURICE MITCHELL (1911 - 1988)

Maurice Mitchell, a founding member died at Montreal on July 20th,1988. Perhaps we cannot pay any better tribute, to him, and to his generation, than quote extracts from a La Presse column, August 5th, 1988, by Jacques Hovsépian, under the title "Un Missionaire".

"Pour des milliers d'immigrants entrés au pays depuis environ un demi- siècle, Georges Maurice Mitchell pouvait bien être le premier Canadien qu'ils rencontraient dans leur vie. Pour ma mère et moi, il l'etait certainement. En 1962, il nous avait ouvert, à nous aussi, les portes du Canada, à partir de l'ambassade de son pays au Caire, où il nous avait convoqés pour l'entrevue d'usage en réponse à notre demande.

"Vingt-six ans après, par un hasard bien triste, je tombais sur son name dans un nécrologie. Et dans le souvenir de ceux et celles qui pleuraient autour de son cercueil, je retrouvais ce premier nouveau compatriote tel que je l'avais aimé et admiré sans le connaitre davantage.

"En fait, la petite demi-heure qu'il nous avait consacrée avait été révélatrice

pour moi également. Le respect d'autrui et le esprit de efficacité semblaient habiter tout entier cet officier d'immigration.

"Et c'est avec des égards tout a fait inattendus que ma mère et moi avions été accueillis dans le cabinet de cet homme au grand coeur, le samedi 13 janvier 1962, a 10 h du matin, a l'ambassade du Canada au Caire.

"Pour des gens ordinaire comme nous, presque apatrides, en tout cas incertains de l'avenir dans un Egypte engagée de plus en plus avec Gamal Abdel Nasser sur la voie d'un nationalisme exclusif, l'attention que nous accordait le représentant d'un pays aussi prestigieux que le Canada donna de l'assurance.

"Ma mère, une rescapée de l'incendie d'Izmir en 1922, ayant connu plus d'une fois les affres de l'humiliation et de la vie de réfugée, etait quelque peu intimidée d'être ainsi reçue par quelqu'un à qui nous demandions asile en fin de compte. N'ayant jamais été à l'école par surcroit et ne sachant ni le français ni l'anglais, elle se plaça sur une chaise en retrait devant le bureau du haut fonctionnaire. Celuici se leva, s'avança vers elle et, le visage éclairé d'un sourire aussi radieux que l'était la pièce par ce soleil d'Egypte en janvier, il la pria de s'approcher. Lorsque je lui expliquai qu'elle était gènée de ne pouvoir participer a notre entretien, il s'excusa tout simplement de ne pas pouvoir s'exprimer lui-même en arménien ou dans les autres langues que parlait ma mère. Cette anecdote, peu importante en soi, tradusait cependant un état d'esprit auquel nous n'étions pas habitués. On pourra deviner comment se déroula la petite demi-heure restée pour nous inoubliable.

"Les temps ont changé, les politiques d'immigration aussi. Celles-ci sont modelées certes suivant les intérêts et les problèmes de l'heure, et si les récentes législation heurtent bien des consciences, c'est qu'elles ne reflètent plus ce fond généreux qui caractérise le Canadien. Qui caractérisait aussi Georges Maurice Mitchell."

Supplement "A" to C.I.H.S. BULLETIN No. 5 December, 1988



Canadian Historical Immigration Society REMARKS BY MR. JACK MANION ON HIS ENTRY TO A PUBLIC SERVICE CAREER IN IMMIGRATION

Recorded on September 21, 1988

I am delighted to be asked to reflect on my days in the immigration service. I joined Immigration some 35 years ago. At that time, we had a new Immigration Act. The economy was strong. Canada clearly needed people, and the government was favorably disposed toward a positive immigration program.

I came to Immigration because I was fascinated by the idea of immigration after studying the history and tragedy of Irish immigrants to Canada. I liked the idea of immigration's role in nation-building. I hoped to be part of a big, generous, national immigration policy, which in fact we have had only spasmodically in the years since then.

I joined the Settlement Division in 1953. At that time, Settlement was a world within a world in the Immigration Division. It was full of very kind and helpful people who believed passionately in the mission of settling immigrants in Canada. I remember Arnold Paul, Ben Corriveault and Doris Hutchison, all of whom met tragic or untimely death soon afterward. I remember as well Du Ebens, Tommy Reeves, Ross Winter, and later, Alex Morrison.

A year or so later I ventured into the Administration Division with Les Voisy, Don Sloan, Edith O'Connor, Roy McGrath, John Dobson, Moe Benoit, the formidable Irene Fogarty, and later, Bud Muise.

From there I was persuaded to apply for the Foreign Service. I almost got to Hong Kong in 1955 before the street riots there. It resulted in the powers that be deciding to send someone else; Moe Benoit, I believe. In the meantime, I came to know Georges Benoit, Gene Beasley, who became my friend and mentor for the rest of his life, Wally Hickman, Val Latour, and Bud Currie.

In 1955, I was assigned to work in the office of the Minister, Jack Pickersgill, for a memorable year and a half, in many ways, the most interesting and useful experience in my career. I recall very well as I was leaving for the Minister's

office being called in and lectured by both Stan Smith, the Director of Immigration, and Laval Fortier, the Deputy Minister, about the importance of remembering that while I might be working for the Minister, I would be coming back to work for them later on and to be guided accordingly.

By late 1956, the Hungarian revolution brought the exciting days of one of Canada's most unselfish international acts and one of Immigration's most extraordinary accomplishments. I was asked to head up the Special Hungarian Refugee Co-ordinating Unit. We set off on a mad six-month roller coaster. Earl McCarthy and Alex Morrison were in the unit, with Earl in the critical post of "transportation czar" moving thousands of people, literally overnight.

There followed several years working in the immigration policy area; relatively stagnant years, as I recall, although working for one of my favourite and most supportive ministers, the Honourable Ellen Fairclough.

Then came the great reawakening under Dick Bell when he decided overnight to reopen the immigration movement. Joe Bisset and I were involved in what was probably a major policy decision of government taken ministerially. As I recall, Mr. Bell announced the resurgence of immigration in the belief that this had been approved by Cabinet, when in fact Joe and I had prepared a Cabinet document which had never gone forward.

The change of government in 1963 resulted in a bewildering series of ministers. Don Reid was Acting Director of Immigration during a long period of time. And in fact, as I recall, almost everybody in the Immigration Division was in an acting capacity at one time or another. It seems to me someone established an "actors' guild" to commemorate this period. After Don, we had Wally Baskerville as Director. He brought a long period of stability to our work.

In 1960, I began my one and only service in a region, in the Province of Quebec. At that time, believe it or not, it was possible for an anglophone who spoke virtually no French to work throughout the province without too much difficulty. How times have changed. In those days, Bill McPhail was Regional Director; Lou Lefaive was his assistant;

Johnny St. Onge was in charge of enforcement, and Gerry Lambert ran settlement for the province.

In 1963, I finally arrived in the Admissions Division, or branch, as we called it then, to replace Fenton Crossman. I met the likes of Dalt Collins, Charlie Dagg, Ken Davidson, Art LePitre, Leona O'Connor, Marjorie MacFarnale, later Marjorie Baskerville.

In the 1960s I began travelling abroad, and meeting the extraordinary people who served Canada and the immigration service overseas; people such as Morris Mitchell. Many of them, of course, came back to work in Ottawa: Joe Swales, Harry Cunliffe, Ron McDougall, Art Ewen, and others.

By the mid-60s immigration and the department were caught up in the dramatic changes of that era. The old department was swept away and immigration became part of a big and complex one of manpower, technology, and ever-growing constraints on the discretion and flexibility so necessary to a positive immigration program.

A year or two later along came collective bargaining and the beginning of the end of the old immigration family atmosphere.

As I look back beyond 1965, my memories are ones of, first of all, the people, many of whom have stayed my friends ever since; the family atmosphere I mentioned; the work ethic, unfortunately, most people working too long hours and, of course, no overtime; the many good times, maybe too many good times by today's standards; the immigration cases, crazy and funny. In fact, they get funnier as the years go by.

I remember George Christian Hanna and how much difficulty we had over his strange journeys. I recall "the case of the passionate pascha", which was a cause of hilarity in the Enforcement Division of the Admissions Branch for months. I recall the crooks trying to get into Canada, many of them succeeding, and our feeble efforts to keep them out or throw them out. Of course, I recall the worry about communism and the real and imagined "reds" such as Spencer, Sibley, Munsinger.

I recall the battles over the law and policy. In fact, Joe Bissett and I became involved

in many of these. When I joined Immigration in 1953, one of my first tasks was to review the new act which had just been passed. I became involved with another new act in 1976. I again became involved (behind the scenes in this time) in the emergency immigration legislation in 1987 which took until 1988 to get passed.

I recall trying to tighten up the sponsored movement, which seemed to be a preoccupation for many years. Joe Bissett and I thought we had it fixed with Ellen Fairclough in 1960 when regulations were passed, only to be rescinded a few days later when Mr. Diefenbaker had second thoughts.

I recall the immigration "roller coaster years". We moved dramatically up into enormous numbers from 1953 through 1957, and then swung down from 1958 to 1962, then up again, and so on.

I recall the crises, the Beirut shoot up; the Chinese comic opera close up and down the border with Moe Benoit and Detroit cops in full pursuit during the 1976 Olympics.

I recall many very, very good things about Immigration: the incredible flexibility and adaptability of the old days; the refugee movements; the UK air bridge; the opening up of Immigration in 1963.

I recall some tough times too, although none seem more difficult than the last decade or so.

The regret I have is that perhaps with more foresight and courage, particularly political courage, we could have built a better, more productive immigration program and avoided many of the problems we face today.

Looking ahead: I have no doubt that Canada is beginning to recognize that we need good people from abroad, and that we need a sound and healthy immigration program. I hope it will be one in which we rely on good-quality trained immigration staff who are given the authority and the resources to do an important job for Canada's benefit.



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CANADIAN IMMIGRATION HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL REPORT

1 May 1987 - 30 April 1988

GENERAL

In most respects, 1987 - 88 was a good year for the Society, much being accomplished albeit in unspectacular fashion. Progress can be reported in terms of program activities, relations with the Immigration oriented Departments, and contacts with the academic community; we cannot be so buoyant in respect to the establishment of our administrative base nor improvement in our capacity in both official languages.

The Society thanks Ms Cathy Sabiston, Editor of PANORAMA, the national monthly for employees of Employment and Immigration Canada for the space given to the Society, and its interests, in the April edition. The Society's aims and objectives were clearly stated; our membership application form was reproduced and resulted in several new members.

An Evening with Dr Freda Hawkins

On Tuesday, November 3rd, 1987, on rather short notice and through the courtesy of Dr Gertrude Neuwirth, of Carleton University's Centre for Immigration and Ethno-Cultural Studies which co-sponsored the event, the Society held a very successful meeting to hear Dr Hawkins give a preview of her new book, "Critical Years in Immigration - Canada and Australia Compared". (This and a revised edition of her previous work. "Canada and Immigration, Public Policy and Public Concern" were scheduled for publication by McGill-Queen's University Press this Spring but we have not yet seen a sales announcement.)

Pier 21

Public recognition was given at Halifax on March 9th, 1988 to the 60th Anniversary of the beginning of operations of the Immigration complex at Pier 21, from 1928 until 1971 the landing point of some 1,500,000 immigrants, including the war brides, and the port of departure and return of the thousands of troops and airmen who served overseas in World War II. The Society continues to hope its representation to the National Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada will result in Pier 21 being designated as a historic site, and that these facilities will become a lasting monument to their important role in Canadian immigration history. The April edition of

"PANORAMA", under the headline "Canada's Ellis Island Celebrates 60th Anniversary", gave excellent coverage of the event, with pictures, including a profile on Fenton Crosman who attended the anniversary observance on behalf of the C.I.H.S. Board of Directors at his own expense. John LeBlanc and other members of the Nova Scotia C.I.H.S. group were also highlighted in the anniversary story; they have done much to raise the Society's profile.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Second Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on May 28, 1988, at the Department of External Affairs, with some thirty plus members attending. The night before, with a number of out of town members attending, for old time's sake and at least one observation of the 80th Anniversary of the Border Service, a larger group met for dinner at Nate's, "The Place Next Door".

The paragraphs following summarize the business conducted. Detailed minutes, and the reports of the Membership Secretary, Treasurer, and Audit Committee are available to members on request to the Secretary.

Following welcoming remarks by the President, M.G. Clark, the minutes of the First Annual General Meeting, held on June 13th, 1987, and circulated as Supplement 'A' to Bulletin #3 (Nov - Dec 1987), were adopted.

The President, the Committees and appropriate officers then reported.

Archival Program

Bob Keyserlingk, Chairman, Research and Publications Committee, gave the meeting an overview of the situation at National Archives, and the space and physical difficulties they have experienced over the last several years. Notwithstanding the moratorium Archives had felt it necessary to impose – and the fact that at least 100 other organizations were waiting to become depositors – Archives have given encouragement to the C.I.H.S. proposal but have cautioned that there is no likelihood of their being able to accept material from the Society before the latter part of this year. There was general agreement that the Society should now begin a comprehensive and energetic canvass of members and others to develop an ongoing acquisition program to be ready for submission to National Archives when their situation permits.

Membership Secretary

The Membership Secretary, Kingsley Beattie, distributed a written report and indicated that as of May 26th, 1988, the Society had a total of 113 members in good standing, 29 life, 1 patron, 10 sustaining, and 73 annual. He mentioned with regret the high level of lapsed memberships which preparations for the annual meeting had disclosed and urged all members to proselytize for the Society, to urge renewal of memberships to friends who have not done so, and to seek members from those known to support the Society's objectives, although outside the ranks of former Departmental officers.

A number of those present entered into the discussion that followed and a number of suggestions were offered. Summarizing, Bud Clark, the President suggested that membership was an area in which the outgoing Executive had perhaps been remiss and suggested strongly that it should be a high priority for the new Executive Committee.

Mr Beatty also presented C.I.H.S. Regulation and Procedural Rule 5 for ratification. This has the effect of confirming the membership policy adopted by the Board of Directors that subscriptions are payable in advance (before the A.G.M.) and that the category of Patron membership be reserved for award by discretion of the Board of Directors, without fee. The latter provision is intended to provide for any special circumstances or individual contributions of members, as well as to secure the involvement of present and former Ministers, Deputy Ministers, and General Directors of Immigration in the programs and promotion of the Society.

The Membership Secretary's Report and Rule 5 were adopted unanimously.

Treasurer's Report

The Treasurer, Harry Cunliffe, included in his written report a Statement of Operations and a Balance Sheet as at year end for the two program years of the Society's operations, 1987 - 88 and 1986 - 87. (In this document the 1986 - 87 figures follow 1987 - 88 in brackets.) As at year end, Total Income was \$4,162.93 (\$741.00) and Total Expenses \$2,042.00 (\$758.84), giving a Surplus/Net Loss of \$2,042.87 (\$17.84). He suggested that the Executive could pride itself on good financial management but emphasized that the comparatively large 1987 - 88 income was directly attributable to the pre-paid memberships from the previous year as well as the very fine support the Society had received from additional members taking out life membership. For these reasons, and the fact that the Society would henceforth be required to expend 80% of its annual income in program costs in order to meet the requirements of Revenue Canada for tax exempt organizations, the Board of Directors had evolved a five year amortization policy for life memberships. This and formal financial authorities for the Society had been articulated as the Financial Rules and Regulations (Regulation 17-1). In addition to the life membership amortization procedure the Regulation provides that the President and/or the Treasurer may authorize normal, ongoing expenditures of less than \$150.00, prior authority required from the Executive Committee for special needs or requirements of amounts up to \$150.00, and prior authority of the Board of Directors required for expenditures of amounts over \$150.00. Also, express authority for reimbursement to the Directors for minor out-of-pocket expenses was included. The Treasurer assured the members that administrative expense would continue to be kept to a minimum.

The Treasurer's Report and the Financial Rules (17-1) were carried unanimously.

The Auditors' Report

The Auditors' Report by Messrs A.B. Bourgeau, E.F. Muise, and B. Pflanz, in the generally accepted form, was read by the President and unanimously accepted.

Nominations and Elections

The President handed the Chair to Fenton Crosman to conduct the election. There being no nominations from the floor Bud Clark was re-elected President unanimously.

The following were nominated as Directors and unanimously elected:

Kingsley Beattie, Bernard Brodie, Fenton Crosman, Jim Cross (Victoria), Harry Cunliffe, Al Gunn, Bob Keyserlingk, John LeBlanc (Halifax), Maurice Mitchell (Montreal), Bud Muise, Viggi Ring, Gerry Van Kessel, George Varnai (Vancouver).

Messrs Bourgeau, Pflanz, and Brennan were proposed as the Society's Auditors for the coming year and unanimously approved.

Speaker

The "mystery speaker" turned out to be Jack Manion, our Honorary President. He spoke of his own early interest in immigration, and of the changing ways in which immigration had been viewed. He spoke of his early days with the Hon. J.W. Pickersgill, the Hungarian Refugee movement, and some famous occurrences such as "The Case of the Passionate Pasha" and "The Chinese Comic Opera". In a more serious vein, he spoke of the excellence of the old Settlement Division and the dedication and effectiveness of its staff, and of the flexibility and short cuts in immigration work in earlier years that now seemed lost. He expressed optimism about the future, the demographics of Canada demand a healthy and functioning Immigration program. The President thanked Mr Manion.

Closing Remarks by the President

Bud Clark mentioned that he intended to pursue Corporate Memberships in the coming year but stressed that it was not a shortage of funds but a shortage of participants that the Society might experience. The programs of the Society as they developed would require the more active involvement of members. He thanked Fenton Crosman and Harry Cunliffe for their great assistance to him and to the Society, and Ruby Crosman and Connie Pflanz for their refreshments for the A.G.M. and declared the meeting adjourned at 11.30 A.M.

Bernard Brodie Secretary 1987-88