

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER

By
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Last year, Alan Ridge, then Chairman of the Archives Section, and your Editor inaugurated a tradition of having a letter from the Chairman appear in the *Canadian Archivist*. It falls to my lot to try and uphold the custom so ably inaugurated by my predecessor in office.

The year had scarcely begun when the Secretary elected at the June meetings, Andre Leforte, submitted his resignation. His reason for resigning was that he had decided to enter McGill University to continue his studies and would be unable to carry the duties of the office of secretary. Our Treasurer, Bill Naftel, agreed to assume the additional office of Secretary until new elections are held during our June meeting.

Following the recommendations made at our last meeting a Committee was established to prepare recommendations for archival training courses. The Committee is chaired by W. I. Smith and includes as members Bernard Weilbrenner and John Archer. The Committee has been studying various training courses for archivists and will be making a recommendation to the Section on the content and length of future archival training courses. It is hoped that it will be possible to organize a new archival training course for the summer of 1968.

As a result of discussions with representatives of the Council of the Canadian Historical Association following our business meeting last year, it was decided to try to resolve some of the problems facing our Section by developing a constitution. This proposed action was approved by both Council and the General Meeting last June. Hugh Dempsey, in consultation with members of the Executive, has undertaken to draft a constitution for presentation to the Section at our June meeting. When approved by our membership, the constitution will then have to be submitted to Council and to the General Meeting of the Canadian Historical Association.

During the year I received some complaint from our membership regarding the new directory of state and provincial archives published recently by the Society of American Archivists. The directory gives very little information on Canadian archives. It is difficult to establish just what happened in this particular case but it does emphasize the need for closer liaison between our Section and the Society of American Archivists. It appears that our Section will have to seek ways and means of establishing a closer liaison with the Society of American Archivists so that more information is made available to the Society on the various member agencies of our Section.

There are very important decisions to be made at our June meetings and I hope all of the members that can will attend the meetings and participate in making these decisions. We have to recruit more members to the executive and I hope you will give earnest consideration to the problems of finding and electing suitable members to your executive.