

steering committee was appointed: A. W. Tickner, Senior Archival Officer, NRC; Professor Bruce Sinclair, Director, Institute for the History and Philosophy of Science and Technology, University of Toronto; and panelists Ball, Franks and Guédon. Committee members Ball, Franks, Guédon and Tickner met at Queen's University six weeks later to begin planning for a national conference and workshops on the history of science and engineering in Canada. It is tentatively scheduled for Kingston in the autumn of 1978, and will deal in part with archival resources.

Norman R. Ball
Science and Engineering Archivist
Public Archives of Canada

History of McGill Project

The History of McGill Project at McGill University has produced a computerized subject listing of the papers of Sir John William Dawson, educator and naturalist. Dawson, born at Pictou, Nova Scotia, in 1820, served as Superintendent of Education for the Province of Nova Scotia from 1850 to 1853, and as Principal of McGill University from 1855 to 1893. A prominent geologist of his period, he published more than five hundred books and articles on scientific subjects. He served as first president of the Royal Society of Canada and as president of both the British and American Associations for the Advancement of Science. Throughout his career he corresponded with leading scientists in Canada and abroad. He died at Montreal in 1899.

The subject listing will facilitate the work of researchers in the field of the history of McGill University, of education and of science. The listing has been designed also to serve other interests ranging from the development of Montreal and the implications of Confederation for English rights in Quebec to the growth of railways, and the evolution of nineteenth-century social life.

A copy of the index may be consulted by researchers in the McGill University Archives, 3459 McTavish Street, Montreal, Quebec H3A 1Y1, where the Dawson papers are stored. A complementary chronological listing is also available and an author-recipient listing to the Dawson letters is being planned for the near future.

John King
McGill University

FOCUS: The British Columbia Credit Union Archives

The Depression of the 1930s brought about a growth in co-operative organizations to provide members with services not available from local governments. One such co-operative was the Common Good Co-operative Association organized in British Columbia by a group of Burnaby residents and containing units for groceries, market gardening, lumbering and so forth.

In 1936, a member of the Common Good Co-op, Mildred Osterhout, learned about credit unions during a visit to Antigonish, Nova Scotia, and on her return, suggested that a unit be established by the Common Good Co-op. Credit union legislation was lacking in BC at this time and, fearing that it would be illegal to use the term "credit union," the members called the new organization the Common Good Co-operative Credit Unit No. 1. Because of a lack of capital, the initial unit grew very slowly and plans for expansion were dropped.

Co-op members and credit union "study groups" were meanwhile putting pressure on the province's Liberal government to introduce credit union legislation. Dorothy Steeves, a Co-operative Commonwealth Federation MLA, introduced private