IT is obvious that the projection of long-time plans and policies for the Pennsylvania Historical Association can not be done hurriedly if these are to be in line with sound procedure and are at the same time to provide a broad basis for future development in accordance somewhat at least with the opportunities that lie before us. It is equally clear that all such plans must be made in light of present commitments and matters of immediate concern to the Association. Each advance, it is to be assumed, will be consolidated before another is made and there is to be avoided any overexpansion of activities at any stage of our development that may result in a set-back.

In tracing the brief history of our Association certain achievements can already be recorded. The decision to hold the annual meetings at different places rather than at one center is undoubtedly sound in viewing in retrospect the results so far obtained. There is little doubt that this practice is having the effect of bringing the activities of the Association to the sympathetic attention of an ever widening group of people, for as a rule the papers and addresses have been competently prepared and well presented and are helping to develop among the people of Pennsylvania a greater interest in serious historical work. It may, however, be regretted that a greater effort has not been made in this connection to enlist the active support of the Association on the part of a larger number of individuals, especially of those residing at the places where the meetings are held.

Again, the decision to bring the annual programs home to the teachers in the secondary schools by combining with these programs, conferences on the problems involved in the teaching of the social sciences may be noted with gratification, holding out as it does the possibility of improving the quality of instruction in these subjects in the public schools and especially that in the field of Pennsylvania history. Nevertheless, it is quite plain that the
machinery is still to be set up that will operate so as to create a keener desire on the part of those within this group to take advantage of the opportunity to attend the meetings.

The launching of our quarterly, *Pennsylvania History*, must be considered a major achievement and its maintenance and importance will doubtless be the object of the most solicitous attention at all times on the part of those responsible for carrying out the policies of the Association.

There will probably be little dissent on the part of the membership of the Association that the steps already taken are wise and that no changes not in harmony with a continued emphasis upon these are to be contemplated. However, the question arises, Is the Association to confine itself, at least for the present, to the above forward movements and the consolidation of these? If not, what then should be the direction of our next advance?

In order to canvass the more active members of the Association for the purpose of ascertaining their ideas respecting future undertakings of the Association, the circular letter that follows was sent out by your special Committee on Future Plans and Policies with the request that suggestions be made as concrete as possible:

As you are well aware, a committee of our *Pennsylvania Historical Association* has been created for the purpose of formulating plans and policies to furnish proper objectives for the Association. It was agreed to have a meeting of this committee at the same time that the Federation of Historical Societies holds its annual meeting at Harrisburg. This will occur, I believe, within the next few weeks. I am directing this letter to you and to others whose views should naturally carry great weight in the adoption of any program for our Association. Would you not kindly formulate with some little care your ideas respecting our future plans and policies? These may well include any desirable improvements in our quarterly; the possibility of publishing a monographic series; the preliminary steps that should be taken in laying the groundwork for a really great history of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and the possibility of sponsoring the publication of original documents and other source materials relating to the history of Pennsylvania.

I am assuming that any undertaking to which we commit ourselves may be such as will in no way seriously
encroach upon any well-established undertaking of such bodies as the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.

Will you not kindly, give careful consideration to the above suggestions and then at your leisure submit to the chairman, Lawrence H. Gipson, Lehigh University, your reactions as to those that appeal to you particularly and attempt to place them in order of preference as embodying your best judgement as to what the Association should progressively undertake in the extension of its services to the cause of Pennsylvania history?

Although the replies to the above were not so numerous as was hoped, nevertheless, these indicate the great possibilities for future high achievement in a number of related fields of endeavor. In presenting them herewith it has seemed best to classify them according to the specific objectives that have been recommended to the consideration of the Committee, giving in each instance the sentiments in the exact words of the writer.

**THE MAGAZINE: PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY**

"The immediate and urgent need of the Association is to increase its membership as much as possible in order to secure funds for publishing and enlarging its journal. To this end the membership committee should be prodded into activity."

"The enlargement of Pennsylvania History, and the allotment of a stated portion of the space regularly to material of interest and use to high school teachers is to be recommended. An assistant editor might be added to the staff, preferably a high school teacher, to supervise this department."

"I believe that the magazine should be substantially enlarged as soon as we are able to finance it with the idea of publishing longer articles, expanding the document section, and perhaps the book review section. More attention might perhaps be paid in it to the various research projects being conducted in the state in order that members may be able to keep in touch with what is actually being done as well as planned. This would entail the services of an editorial assistant on a part-time basis. Perhaps in the future when we are much better off financially we may be able to provide a full time salary to a combined editor-secretary."
"As regards the quarterly, I wish a few really eminent historians might be invited to contribute while the magazine is still young to give it prestige and set a very high standard. I do not mean to minimize the importance and high standards of the quarterly to date, however, when I make the above wish. Here, as in all work of a local historical society, I believe there is serious danger of maintaining a point of view that is too provincial. I mean that writing Pennsylvania history for the sake of writing Pennsylvania history is to be avoided. No doubt all historians would agree, but it is a principle which stands repetition and emphasis."

"I have often thought that it would be interesting and useful to have abstracts of the theses and dissertations submitted for the master's and doctorate degrees printed once a year in the magazine. I am sure the librarians of the universities affected would cooperate. Only those which touch on Pennsylvania history, of course, might be considered."

**Publication of Sources for Pennsylvania History**

"That a committee be appointed to consider the matter of publishing a series of volumes of documents relating to the history of Pennsylvania."

"It is exceedingly difficult to secure information on the economic development of Pennsylvania in the national period, partly because so little research has been done on it but also because it is difficult of access if, indeed, it is available at all. I feel that the State Archives and the Commission should be asked to publish the state documents while our Association should publish private source collections, especially material of social and economic significance of the nineteenth century. Perhaps we could publish some volumes of documents of outstanding industrial concerns whose history is peculiarly significant for the state."

"That an attempt be made to interest some wealthy individuals in providing funds for endowing the publication of source materials as well as monographs."

"I think that the publication of source materials and the reprinting of certain documents that are now too rare to be available to the ordinary student, should have priority over any plans for a comprehensive history of the commonwealth."
"A careful survey and analysis of what has already been written about Pennsylvania might well precede any ambitious plan for an extensive history of the state."

"I believe that the chief purposes which were in the minds of the organizers (of the Pennsylvania Historical Association) can be promoted most effectively if steps are taken immediately to create a really great history of the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. By this I do not mean that the work be planned right now to consist of six, or eight, or ten volumes, and that a contract be entered into with a publisher to issue these volumes on specified dates at a stated price per volume. I rather mean that this be set as the major objective for the ensuing five or ten years, and that the interests and efforts (so far as they relate to Pennsylvania history) of the members be encouraged and directed to that end. This, of course, will mean the creation of some sort of editorial organization immediately and will, in time, require the organization of a full-time staff. Such elaborateness, however, need not develop very soon. For the present a planning staff could survey the subject, outline the work, and begin the selection of contributors. If such preliminary work were well done it is entirely likely that ways and means could then be found to develop the work through underwriting. Some one might object to the 'grand idea' as presented above, and say that such a work would lie too heavily upon a few persons who are specialists, with established reputations and whose present interests consume all their time and energy—the university teachers. To this I answer that there is available for service a large supply of trained students of history, skilled in its techniques, but without reputations and with time and energy ready to be utilized if called upon—the college and high school teachers of history."

"A practical suggestion—a planning staff should, by some means, find out what individuals are already working on, or would like to work on. The staff should not commit the common fault of selecting only those who have already published material, using their work on what they already have done, and then dividing the remainder among them. This seems to have been the error in planning the Dictionary of American Biography."
"Your committee might get in touch with the Pennsylvania Historical Commission with a view to formulating a plan for publishing an authoritative, scholarly, and comprehensive history of the commonwealth."

**AN HISTORICAL INDEX**

"The function of the Pennsylvania Historical Association is largely one of coordination, as I see it, and it seems to me that an excellent opportunity is offered, challenging its best efforts, in the preparation of an index of Pennsylvania similar to the Swem index for Virginia. Could not the Association dedicate itself to the task of arousing enthusiasm for such a project in the next few years and enlist the support of various institutions? There may be individual movements on foot which could be brought into this larger project; for instance, we are definitely planning to prepare an index to the sixty volumes of the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*. Could not the Association call upon such organizations as this, the one at Pittsburgh, The American Philosophical Society, The Pennsylvania German Society and have each cooperate by raising a proportionate share of the total amount of money required to index all of the historical periodicals of the state? The accomplishment of this object may be a long way off and the Association may be able to do nothing more than promote an idea and instill in the minds of those in charge of local publications the necessity of leaving a highly technical job to professional technicians. One of the great values of the Swem index is the amount of attention paid to social history in its subject index and if a similar enterprise is undertaken here, it seems that we ought to imitate the Swem methods as closely as possible. I believe Dr. Sioussat, of The American Philosophical Society, will look with favor upon such a project for Pennsylvania and I believe that the Philosophical Society might be counted upon to do its share. There are many phases of the problem that will need discussion, but I shall not take up your time at the present moment to analyze them."

**A MONOGRAPHIC SERIES**

"I think it is especially evident to anyone who has worked in the history of the commonwealth that although there has been a
great deal of writing on political and military matters, there is a scarcity of scientific writing on economic and social history. Certainly here is a large uncultivated field. To me there is an opportunity for the Association to coördinate some of the available material. We know that the histories of the Friends, of the Germans, and of the Scotch-Irish have been written as though they all lived on different planets and not in the same neighborhood. Unfortunately, much of the local history has been equally detached. There does not seem to be any agency to coördinate this material, unless the Association should assume responsibility for doing this.”

“I have read Dunaway’s history, and have concluded that much is left to be done on economic and social history in colonial Pennsylvania and especially on such matters as immigration, religion, rural developments, and agriculture.”

“I place the monographic series as the second objective (after that of the enlargement of the magazine) which we should keep in view. Because of the difficulty of getting scholarly works published I feel that we might encourage research in the field of Pennsylvania history if we could hold out some prospect of publication to graduate students and more advanced scholars. The success of the American Historical Association in this field is one which we might draw valuable ideas from.”

“If funds were available, I would approve of publishing carefully selected monographs, monographs which would have a significance, and therefore a reading public, far beyond Pennsylvania.”

“We should start a series of publications just as soon as it is possible for us to finance the undertaking. The state archivist ought to be able to point out some worth-while materials that we could begin on. I am wondering if we could obtain a subsidy from the state?”

“Looking further into the future, an attempt ought to be made to secure from wealthy individuals funds for an endowment, the proceeds of which could be devoted to the publication of monographs and of source materials relating to the history of Pennsylvania.”