

ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

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IN SPITE of wartime exigencies many members and friends of the Pennsylvania Historical Association gathered at Harrisburg on October 30 and 31, 1942, for the eleventh annual meeting. The two-day session opened with a luncheon, presided over by Miss Frances Dorrance. Mr. I. D. App, president of the Dauphin County Historical Society and county superintendent of schools, gave a hearty welcome. Since Mr. J. Cutler Andrews, now on active duty with the United States Navy, had been unable to obtain a leave to attend the meeting, his paper on "A Century of Urbanization in Pennsylvania, 1840-1940," was read by Miss Anne M. Dever. The importance of natural resources such as coal, oil, and lumber as factors in urbanization was stressed, and the problems arising from rapid increase in population were considered. It was not until the turn of the present century, according to Mr. Andrews, that any thought was given to municipal planning. Until the new constitution of 1873 went into effect, one of the greatest existing evils was special state legislation granting valuable tracts and monopoly charters to private corporations.

At the afternoon session, which was presided over by Mr. Arthur C. Bining, were read papers by Mr. George F. Dunkelberger of Susquehanna University, Mr. George Haines IV of the University of Pennsylvania, and Mr. Bernard Levin of the Gettysburg National Military Park. In Mr. Dunkelberger's paper, read in the absence of the author on account of illness by Mr. William A. Russ, Jr., General Jacob S. Coxey was presented as a much-misunderstood man, regarded variously as a fanatic, a radical, and a crank with a socialistic following. Intimate contacts had brought the writer to know his subject as a sincere and modest but militant advocate of the right according to his beliefs. Coxey has maintained his personal moral integrity by consistently standing for certain principles for nearly half a century since his

famous march to Washington in 1894. "At the age of eighty-nine he is still a happy warrior in promoting his convictions of our whole national economy."

The second paper, "The Pattern of Pennsylvania Quakers' Response to War," by Mr. Haines, was an excellent survey of the Quaker attitude throughout all our conflicts, making it clear that the Quakers have been divided in their reaction from the days of the American Revolution. "Although pacifism is one of the tenets of the Quakers, some have fought in all of our wars." The divisions that arose during the Civil War were especially sharp, but the Society of Friends gave important aid to the freedmen. A great deal of effort was then spent on international conciliation, but the first World War brought the same split. All, nevertheless, supported the valuable work of the American Friends' Service Committee. In the present war some young Quakers have enlisted, while others are in camps for conscientious objectors.

The last paper of the afternoon by Mr. Levin, dealt with "Pennsylvania and the Civil War." In it attention was called to the great manufacturing activities within the state for aiding in the war effort. Especially significant was the advancement of the Pennsylvania iron industry, in which many new plants and mills were built; eighty per cent of the pig iron of the North came from Pennsylvania. Mr. Levin drew some interesting parallels between the Civil War and the present struggle. He stated that during the Civil War the ordinary citizen had fewer contacts with the federal government than he has now and that the Civil War was responsible for breaking down many provincial attitudes.

At the close of the afternoon session the audience went to the auditorium of the William Penn High School to witness the production of "Ephrata," a stimulating one-act play written by Frank S. Neusbaum and Kathryn Popp of the Pennsylvania State College as an experiment in the use of Pennsylvania historical themes in the drama. The play, presented by the William Penn Players under the direction of Mr. Joseph F. Reuwer, was well staged, and everyone in the audience was impressed with the possibilities it suggested.

The annual dinner of the association was held in the ballroom of the Penn-Harris Hotel with President Gipson acting as toastmaster. The main address was delivered by Joseph Hergesheimer, distinguished American novelist.

On Saturday morning two excellent papers were heard in the session presided over by Mr. Alfred P. James of the University of Pittsburgh. The first was by Mr. Philip S. Klein, Pennsylvania State College, now in the United States Navy, who spoke on William Maclay, United States senator from Pennsylvania 1789-1791, whose journal is used by many historians for evidence of early legislative proceedings but whose bitter and sarcastic remarks about men and measures of his day are usually dismissed as expressions of a warped personality. Mr. Klein pointed out that Maclay's persistent attacks on and suspicions of his colleagues and their proposals emanated not so much from a warped personality as from a sincere belief in a set of political ideas which the senator felt were being undermined and destroyed in the Senate. Maclay was an earnest supporter of revolutionary tenets which were by 1790 outmoded or altered by new conditions; hence he found that the political principles he had always taken for granted were ignored, ridiculed, or reversed by those about him.

Mr. Nathan D. Shappe in his paper on "A Steel Town in the First World War" vividly portrayed wartime life in Johnstown. Because of the polyglot population the effects of the industrial boom were quite marked. The Johnstown *Tribune* printed food notices in four languages—Italian, Hungarian, Polish, and Russian. As a result of the war naturalizations were greatly increased in number. While many aspects of life and work in Johnstown were the same as they are now, not a few differences were noted. Of significance may be considered the tremendous rise in prices and the outstanding organizational work of Miss Florence Dibert, who has since become an active member of our association.

At the Saturday luncheon meeting, sponsored by the Dauphin County Historical Society, the Harris Ferry chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, and the Harrisburg chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, Mr. A. Boyd Hamilton, formerly president of the association and now Secretary of the State Council of Defense, presided. Another past president, Mr. Roy F. Nichols of the University of Pennsylvania, who is a member of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission, read a paper on "The Wartime Activities of the Pennsylvania Historical Commission." He stated that the commission began its great work immediately after the United States entered the war, for it met on the Friday after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Upon

being designated the War History Commission its first task was to keep accurate records. More important, however, was to make these records mean something, and so steps were taken to disseminate throughout the state the knowledge gathered. The next step was to take measures to preserve these records. Mr. Nichols observed that with the coöperation of the Pennsylvania Committee on the Conservation of Cultural Resources valuable records are being microfilmed. The commission is trying to build morale through increasing the use of history by means of broadcasting dramatic presentations such as the play "Ephrata" and is considering the possibilities of using moving pictures to depict important historical episodes. Lastly, it is making an attempt to stimulate and widen interest in history in the schools by means of extra-curricular as well as classroom activity. In this connection it has secured the services of Miss Avis Cauley to organize history clubs in the high schools.

The final session convened at two o'clock with Mr. J. Orin Oliphant of Bucknell University presiding. The subject was "The New York *Times* Report on the Teaching of American History: Reflections and Reactions." Mr. Clement Eaton, Lafayette College, spoke "From the College Point of View," while Mr. Oliver S. Heckman, adviser, Department of Public Instruction, spoke "From the Public-School Point of View." Mr. Eaton gave the background of the survey made by the New York *Times* and summarized the reasons for the small enrollment in courses in American history. In the high schools poor teaching, often done by football coaches, and overloading the schedule with vocational courses are responsible, while in colleges neglect of the art of teaching because of pressure for research in narrow fields in order to obtain promotion is blamed. As a result of the survey and the ensuing discussion some colleges and universities have already made courses in American history compulsory. Mr. Eaton mentioned arguments for and against requiring students to take such courses. Mr. Heckman evaluated the report from the point of view of practices in the Pennsylvania schools, stressing the excellent textbooks now available in American history, the improvement of school libraries, the use of visual aids in teaching history, and the emphasis on classroom discussion rather than the old stereotyped question-and-answer method of presentation. At the end

of the session there was a most interesting discussion in which many high-school and college teachers participated.

At three o'clock the Dauphin County Historical Society gave a reception and tea in its splendid historic home, the old John Harris mansion, which contains a fine collection of relics, antiques, books, papers, and documents. Many members of the association took back to their local societies valuable ideas for increasing the effectiveness of their local work.

The annual business meeting of the association was held on Saturday morning with President Gipson in the chair. The reports of the secretary and the treasurer showed the affairs of the organization to be in sound condition. The secretary reported, however, that the membership had decreased because of enlistments in the armed forces, resignations, and the dropping of some members for nonpayment of dues. The report of the nominating committee was then made and elections were held. The following officers were elected: Mr. Arthur C. Bining, president; Mr. S. K. Stevens, first vice president; Mr. J. Paul Selsam, secretary; and Mr. Ross Pier Wright, treasurer. For three-year terms on the council Mr. Robert Fortenbaugh, Mr. Paul H. Giddens, Mr. Asa E. Martin, and Mr. J. Bennett Nolan were chosen.

Miss Frances Dorrance then reported for the archives committee. She said that the first step should be the erection of a building, although her committee felt that nothing could be done until after the inauguration of the new governor. It was agreed that the association should continue its work with the committee, and Messrs. Nichols, Stevens, and Martin were appointed its representatives. An extensive progress report was given by the standing committee on publications, of which Mr. Richard Shryock is chairman. Mr. John B. Wilkinson, the compiler of the Pennsylvania bibliography, told about his work, stating that the compilation would be ready in January. Mr. Soule, manager of the University of Pennsylvania Press, remarked that while the Pennsylvania Lives series is not receiving the financial support anticipated, he had hopes for its ultimate success.

Mr. S. K. Stevens spoke about the renewed activity of the Independence Hall Association, especially the drive to make the State House and Carpenter's Hall national shrines. A resolution was adopted commending Judge Lewis and the Independence Hall Association for their efforts in this matter. Another resolution

setting forth the importance and value of this proposed step was sent to the National Park Service.

In view of the present emergency no action was taken in regard to the next annual meeting. The council empowered the executive committee to consider the matter. Resolutions of thanks were voted to the Penn-Harris Hotel, Mr. S. K. Stevens and his committee on local arrangements, Mr. Paul H. Giddens and his program committee, the Dauphin County Historical Society, and the dramatics department of the William Penn High School. Appreciation was expressed for the splendid work of Mr. Lawrence H. Gipson, the retiring president, who had served the association untiringly and ably, giving unstintingly of his time, and under whose administration the organization took many steps forward. The Pennsylvania Historical Association has every confidence in its new president, Mr. Arthur C. Bining, whose indefatigable work for eight years as editor made PENNSYLVANIA HISTORY nationally known.