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General

THE ACADEMY IN 1948-1949 THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

WALTER A. KENYON

The purposes of the Minnesota Academy of Science were well stated a year ago by President Breckenridge in his annual report, and at that time a brief summary was given of the organization's growth and achievements during its first sixteen years. The Academy affords opportunities for friendships and personal contacts as well as stimulation in research and teaching. The Academy has sponsored certain projects of far-reaching importance to the people of Minnesota. These include the setting apart of selected areas of the state for preservation of natural conditions, selection of promising candidates to receive A.A.A.S. research grants, sponsorship of the Junior Academy, and beginning last year, the Minnesota Science Talent Search under the leadership of Mr. O. A. Nelson. The membership of our Senior Academy is now about 600, and the Junior Academy about 250 with some twenty high schools represented.

In an excellent statement designed to acquaint members of our state legislature with the work of our Academy, Dr. Essex listed thirty-five educational and research institutions that are represented in our membership. Twenty-four of these are colleges and universities. Among the other institutions are the Department of Conservation, the State Historical Society, Mayo Foundation, several State Experiment Stations, and General Mills Incorporated. The names of these institutions suggest something of the importance of the services which our Academy should perform. As the Minnesota Academy of Science is the only organization affording a common meeting ground for scientists throughout the state, it should and could play a very important part in promoting scientific work and interests in Minnesota.

We are passing through a critical period in the life of our Academy partly due to the war with resulting inflation, and partly due to the growth of the Senior and Junior Academies to the point where the burden of work is too great to be carried on entirely by officers holding full time positions elsewhere. A great need exists for a secretary with full time, or nearly full time, to promote the interests of the Senior Academy, to adequately supervise the work of the Junior Academy, and to extend the movement throughout the state. This will become obvious as we take up the various items of the year's work and hear reports of special committees.

Concerning the work of the Academy during the past year; I refer you to the *Ad Interim Action* listed on the Docket prepared by the secretary, who has thoughtfully included a paragraph statement on the more important items.

Since the 1948 annual session, four meetings of the Board of Directors have been held. At this point I would like to give recognition to our Board of Directors for the extensive time and loyal effort they have given to the work during the year. Attendance at our meetings has been almost perfect, although some members had to arrive the previous night to insure their presence at the morning sessions. Since their names are not listed on either our Docket or program, I shall read them to inform new members and to remind old members of our Board of Directors personnel. The Academy officers are: Dr. Essex, Vice President; Mr. Lewis, Acting Secretary; Mrs. Moore, Acting Treasurer. The Council members are: Dr. Lakela, University of Minnesota, Duluth Branch; Dr. Croxton, State Teachers College, St. Cloud; Dr. Rodine, Gustavus Adolphus College; Dr. Upgren, of the Minneapolis Star Journal; Dr. Wissink, State Teachers College, Mankato; Dr. Breckenridge, Minnesota Museum of Natural History. The Junior Academy Officers are: President, Mr. Molkenbur and Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Mulrean. I should also mention Mr. O. A. Nelson, Senior Academy, sponsor of the Junior Academy, and Chairman of the Science Talent Search Committee, who has contributed much time to these activities.

Regarding the summer meeting, the Board in May accepted an invitation extended by Dr. Lakela to meet in the Duluth area and then formulated tentative plans for the meeting there. After receiving information that many of our members would not be likely to attend because of the unusual occurrence in late summer of annual meetings of scientific societies together with the A.A.A.S. Centennial Celebration in Washington, D.C., the Board reconsidered its action and voted unanimously to defer holding a summer meeting until 1949.

The Board has given much of its time this year to a consideration of the needs of the Junior Academy. The problem of discovering and encouraging boys and girls of real scientific ability, our tomorrow's scientists, is one of nationwide importance. As one means of achieving this end, we have supported the Minnesota Science Talent Search. You will hear of further progress in this movement shortly from Mr. O. A. Nelson, chairman of this important committee.

One of the high spots of our Board meetings was the forenoon session of our January meeting when Dr. John W. Thomson, Chairman of the Wisconsin Junior Academy of Science, discussed with us how Wisconsin in five years has built up its Junior Academy to a membership of over 1100 and has expanded related science club membership to over 3,000. This has been done through providing a

scientist from the staff of the University of Wisconsin, paid to devote full time for the first three years and half time after that to the Junior Academy and science club work in Wisconsin. In Minnesota we have had an active Junior Academy since 1937, but so far no more than twenty of our high schools are represented with a membership which does not exceed two hundred fifty. How can this movement be adequately administered and extended to high schools throughout the state? One answer would be a full time Academy secretary who would devote the major portion of his time to promotion of Junior Academy work. If we could find the right person for this position, I can think of no similar expenditure which would be likely to yield more fruitful results for the future of science in Minnesota.

As stated in the Docket, a small shelter building has been established on the Cedar Creek Forest Area. Base and aerial mosaic maps have been prepared, and several scientific studies of the life of the area are under way.

Since no *Proceedings* of the Academy had been published since the 1944 edition, an inherited migraine and major problem of the Board of Directors was what to do about publication of *Proceedings*. Enough money was on hand to publish one full annual volume. Three alternatives were presented. We could publish the 1945 *Proceedings* in full, the 1948 *Proceedings* in full, or do the 1945, '46, and '47 in mostly abstract form. We decided to do the latter, and a contract has been awarded to the Lund Press, which was by far the lowest bidder at six hundred forty-five dollars. We are greatly indebted to Mrs. John Moore and to Mr. Lewis for their extensive work in contacting the many authors of papers to be published and in assembling the material to be edited for publication. The Board of Directors this morning recommended that the Academy seriously consider setting up a special editorial board to engineer future publishing of the *Proceedings*.

The four year delay in publication of the *Proceedings*, the need for a full time secretary with facilities to extend the work of the Junior Academy and to carry on in a larger way the secretarial work of the Senior Academy emphasize our great need for funds. Dr. Essex, Chairman of our committee to seek financial aid from the state legislature, will report on the carefully planned attempt this year to get state aid and make suggestions as to future steps.