RANDOM NOTES FROM THE SECRETARIAT

This is the year of our quadrennial congress and our hosts at the University of Montreal are doing a great deal of careful planning. We hope that there will be a large attendance at both the seminar and congress and that it will be as successful as such meetings have been in the past.

There are usually many problems to consider and this year is no exception since there will be a discussion of a constitution, a draft of which has already been sent to each member. The setting up of such a document has been discussed many times in recent years but this is the first time that one has been put in written form. A constitution will outline more clearly to our members the administrational coordination of all our activities and it should be a unifying element in our organization. In the past there has been a flexibility in the administration which was conducive to the promotion of all our activities and this has been preserved to some degree in the proposed constitution. There is also a further consideration. We may need to purchase property at some time in the future in order to provide a permanent head office for the Congress, but in order to own property we would need to be incorporated and incorporation requires a constitution. Incorporation would also free members of the executive from personal liability by limiting financial obligations to the assets of the Congress. All these problems occupy a great deal of time but we hope that within a year or two we shall have them reduced to a minimum and can put more time on the essential job of promoting mathematics.

The meeting of the Congress as part of the Conference of Learned Societies in June proved to be successful. About thirty members were present including sixteen members of the Council. At the morning meeting on June 3, W. T. Tutte gave an interesting lecture on "Some Enumeration Problems in the Plane". This was followed by the presentation of other papers which were completed in an afternoon session on Saturday and another on Tuesday morning, June 6. The following is the list of these papers, which were of an exceptionally high order:

Orthogonal mapping of groups
   by Diane Johnson and N. S. Mendelsohn, University of Manitoba

Topological H-surfaces
   by H. G. Helfenstein, University of Ottawa

On some methods for computing the roots of polynomials
   by James Lucien Howland, University of Ottawa

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An alternative to the Epsilon-Delta technique
      by A. H. Lightstone, University of British Columbia

On the history of a differential equation first studied by Descartes
      by C. J. Scriba, University of Toronto

Concerning commutativity in higher dimensions
      by M. W. Al-Dhahir, University of Toronto

Mathematical techniques in value engineering and management
decision-making
      by Carlos Fallon

On perfectly semi-associative and completely semi-associative
systems
      by Volodymyr Bohun-Chudynviv, Morgan State College,
      Baltimore

A solution of Chandrasekhar's integral equation, and the G and H
functions as symmetrical Fourier kernels
      by Charles Fox, McGill University

Unitary dilations of contractions
      by Israel Halperin, Queen's University

On the osculating hyperplanes of curves in projective n-space
      by Peter Scherk, University of Toronto

An algorithm for the term rank of a matrix and for the canonical
decomposition of an $n \times m$ bipartite graph
      by A. L. Dulmage and N. S. Mendelsohn, University of Mani-
      toba

On the idempotents of a Φ-algebra
      by B. Brainerd, University of Toronto

A rank number for a class of polygons
      by Douglas Derry, University of British Columbia

On the Laguerre co-efficient problem
      by P. G. Rooney, University of Toronto

Matrix orthogonal polynomials
      by F. V. Atkinson, University of Toronto

Council meetings were held on Saturday afternoon and evening and
again on Wednesday morning, June 7.

Nearly 2600 high school students entered the mathematical com-
petitions conducted or sponsored by the Congress this year in six
provinces. These competitions could not be carried on without the
assistance of the committees in these provinces and we hope to be able
to report tangible results from their efforts. Detailed reports on
these prize and scholarship programmes will be given later. Suffice it
to remark here that a great deal of interest has been aroused among

students and also among our contributors.

In the previous issue of the Bulletin an account was given of our sources of income. Unfortunately, the city of Vancouver and the names of those who assist us there were omitted and an apology is given to Professors James, Derry and Divinsky for this omission. They have been instrumental in building up the Vancouver contribution.

We are beginning this year the policy of publishing in the Bulletin a summary account of the audited statement of our various accounts. We have changed the end of our fiscal year from November 30 to December 31, and the following summary covers the period from December 1, 1959 to December 31, 1960.

EXPENSES

1.	Administration, Supplies and Overhead (including travelling expenses for the Executive Secretary and other members to promote the various activities)	$29,349.59
2.	Scholarships, Bursaries and Prizes	21,308.98
3.	Summer Research Institute	30,000.00
4.	Canadian Journal of Mathematics	13,069.50
5.	Seminar and Summer School Costs	7,603.36
6.	Books and Publication of Proceedings (net)	1,694.15
7.	Set aside for 1961 Congress and Seminar	7,000.00
8.	Set aside to aid mathematicians to attend the 1962 International Mathematical Congress	1,100.00
9.	Canadian Mathematical Bulletin	1,837.46
10.	Grants to Mathematicians for Individual Study and Research	3,482.60
11.	Membership Fees in Organizations	492.00
12.	Set aside for new brochure on Opportunities in Mathematics	2,000.00

118,938.64

CONTRIBUTIONS

1. Business and Industry (270 contributors in Canada . . . $ 45,090
2. National Research Council 47,500
3. Provincial Governments 2,500
4. Atlantic Provinces (50 contributions from business and industry to Scholarship Fund) 7,195
5. Anglo-American Corporation and Associated Companies for the South African Scholarship Fund 1,860
6. Canadian Universities (for the Journal). 5,950
7. American Mathematical Society (for the Journal) 1,100
8. Province of Nova Scotia (for the Summer School) 2,000
9. International Nickel Company (for the Summer School) . . 5,000
10. Membership Fees 1,123
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       Not included in the above summary is the statement of the Canadian Journal of Mathematics Sustaining Fund. At the moment current grants and subscriptions are sufficient to meet current costs, but this fund was set up to ensure future publications and contributions are still being received.

Balance remaining in the Sustaining Fund as at November 30, 1959	$ 3,185.90
Amounts received for credit to fund	106.00
Balance at credit of Fund as at December 31, 1960	3,291.90

       The items covering the Summer Research Institute show income and disbursements of $30,000 each, which is meant to imply that the grant is used for no other purpose. The actual statement for 1960 is as follows:

Income	$ 30,000.00
Disbursements	23,079.72
Balance	6,920.28

This surplus will be used in 1961 to cover disbursements which

will far exceed the grand of $30,000 since there is a substantial increase in the number of fellows at the Institute this year.

L. F. S. Ritcey