

**ADMA,
Governor of Bermuda,
salute John Lefroy**

Although very different in size, flora, scenery and economy, Canada and Bermuda have much in common, not the least being the shared memory of a notable scientist, administrator, meteorologist and author.

Among other things John Henry Lefroy is famed for being head of Canadian meteorology in its early years (1841-53), discoverer of the Exact position of the magnetic North Pole (1844) and governor of Bermuda (1871-77).

While running the British government's Magnetic and Meteorological Observatory in Toronto, Lefroy also found time to write a couple of books based on his experiences and a journal, all highly prized by scientific and general historians. He continued writing after leaving Canada and taking up his post as governor of Bermuda.

Last year the Bermuda Historical Society and the Bermuda National Trust decided to issue a limited edition reprint of his two volume book, "Memorials of the Discovery and Early Settlement of the Bermudas," and it seemed appropriate to invite assistant deputy minister Jim Bruce head of AES and Lefroy's modern meteorological equivalent, to go to Bermuda for a special ceremony presided over by the island's present governor, Sir Richard Posnett.

At a presentation ceremony at Government House, February 18, Mr. Bruce received two copies of General Lefroy's Bermuda volumes, printed by the University of Toronto Press. The ADM subsequently presented one set to the National Library of Canada in Ottawa and the other set to Mary Skinner, head of the AES library in Downsview.

Mr. Bruce's visit to Bermuda was the first by a head of the Canadian weather service since Dr. Andrew Thomson, di-

rector of the Canadian Meteorological Service, then part of the Department of Transport, went there in 1958 in search of some Lefroy memorabilia. While in Bermuda, Mr. Bruce also gave a talk on the history of Canadian meteorological services from Lefroy's day to the present to the governor, his staff, members of the Historical society and many others. He also spent considerable time talking about current AES services as well as future developments and he emphasized the meteorological interests that Canada and Bermuda have in common: hurricane tracking, marine weather services and acid rain to name a few.

Lefroy who came to Canada with the rank of Captain, but who later became General Sir John Henry Lefroy, was born

and died in England. His wife, however, was a Toronto girl, daughter of the chief justice of Upper Canada and one of his sons became a well-known Toronto constitutional lawyer.

When Lefroy took over the Toronto observatory, it was one of the first magnetic and meteorological stations in the British Empire. Less than a year after his arrival in the city, he set off on his famous expedition in search of the magnetic North Pole. While on the journey through North West Canada he explored thousands of square kilometres of unknown terrain, and travelled thousands of kilometres on snowshoes and by canoe. In the area of Fort Good Hope and Fort Chipewyan, with just a single aide, he took meteorological and magnetic observations at hourly



This presentation ceremony at Government House in Bermuda shows assistant deputy minister Jim Bruce, fourth from left, receiving a copy of Gen. Lefroy's book from Sir Richard Posnett, Governor of Bermuda, centre. Also in the picture are Air Canada representative Ralph Webber (left), Joyce Hall, deputy president, Bermuda Historical Society and Sir Edwin Leather, former Governor of Bermuda (right). Bermuda News Bureau

intervals for six months, despite the fact that temperatures were sometimes so cold, the mercury froze in his thermometer.

The donation of the Bermuda "Memorials" to the AES library adds to a growing collection of Lefroy works. The library already possesses several prized books, articles and other documents by and about Lefroy. These include the extremely rare *Diary of a Magnetic Survey of a Portion of the Dominion of Canada* by General Lefroy (published by Longmans, London, 1883) and *In Search of the Magnetic North*, published by MacMillan in 1955. Both books give detailed accounts of Lefroy's famous expedition as well as other fascinating biographical details.

Assistant head AES librarian Jan Glover says that she is currently attempting to find another copy of the latter, long out of print work for a return presentation to the Bermuda government. She is also looking for a copy of General Lefroy's autobiography, edited by his second wife for private circulation in 1895, five years after Lefroy's death.

Miss Glover who has taken a special interest in the life of the early soldier-scientist, says she hopes to obtain other Lefroy material to add to the library's rare book collection.

As evidence that the Bermuda gift is appreciated Canada-wide as well as within AES, Guy Sylvestre, the national Librarian in Ottawa wrote to Mr. Bruce telling him "I should appreciate it if you would extend the expression of my gratitude to the appropriate authorities for making this fine publication available to us for research in Canada. It is indeed a fine publication." □