



December 28, 1972

C.M.S. NEWSLETTER NO. 2

In the following, some of the business items are reported to you which were transacted by the C.M.S. Executive in a meeting held Monday, December 18, 1972. Besides Toronto executive members, Dean Hitschfeld was present which gave the meeting increased depth and flavour. Furthermore, the chairmen of both standing committees of the Society were also at hand delivering their respective reports in person. No councillors-at-large attended this meeting.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

SCIENTIFIC AND PROFESSIONAL MATTERS

Professor Boville, as you may know, is a member of SOMAS, the Subcommittee on Meteorology and Atmospheric Science. This is a Subcommittee of A.C.G.G. (Associate Committee on Geodesy and Geophysics) which, in turn, serves N.R.C. In this capacity, SOMAS had to concern itself with deliberations leading to scientific positions on problems of vast significance to all of us, such as pollution or effects of weather modification. They were also the organizers of the national effort channelled into GARP. Recently, the N.R.C. has decided to phase A.C.G.G. and its subcommittees out over the next two years, which means that SOMAS and the collective expertise and know-how of its members will cease to exist by 1974. SOMAS now has offered to convert itself into a scientific committee of the C.M.S.; what this would mean to C.M.S. is both an increased role in Canadian and international meteorology as well as increased responsibilities. The financial aspect amounts essentially to supporting the semi-annual meetings of the new committee which will bring members together from all over the Nation. In the past they used to meet

at N.R.C. In future, it might be a good idea to hold one meeting in conjunction with the Annual Congress and the locale of the other meeting might be moved around in response to invitations received to host the group of experts involved. All this will have to be discussed in more detail and decided in due course.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC INFORMATION

Mr. H. Kruger reported that Winnipeg and Vancouver have not named committee members. We hope that this has been looked after by the time this will reach you. If not, please act on it as soon as possible.

The executive agreed that Herb should try to have a note published in "Science Forum" on the SOMAS takeover by the C.M.S.

Mr. J. R. Hendricks submitted the suggestion that the C.M.S. should award a citation or a prize to individuals or groups who have made an outstanding contribution to help solve or alleviate the problem of pollution in Canada. The S.C.P.I. was charged with the preparation of recommendations for guidelines for such awards. Consensus was that recommendations should come from Centres, while evaluation leading to decisions should be the concern of the National Executive. Two suggestions for award winners were brought up almost immediately: Ted Munn for his background study on air quality, published recently as a report of the Science Council of Canada and Dr. D. V. Bates of U.B.C. for his excellent book "Atmospheric Pollution" which came out earlier this year.

Mr. Hendricks, furthermore, has agreed to put his mind to work on a specific plan for C.M.S. initiatives in puncto "Metric Conversion". He has come up with interesting designs for nomograms converting $^{\circ}\text{F}$ to $^{\circ}\text{C}$ and miles to kilometres. Such nomograms could be easily reduced in size to fit onto a business card for which one might be able to find a sponsor. Any suggestions that you can make that would help along these lines would be greatly appreciated.

The possibility of a Weathercasters' Conference is being considered. It was felt that planning should start now to organize this conference to meet during the 8th C.M.S. Congress in ^{Toronto} Halifax in 1974. You will be kept informed on the progress of this interesting idea.

APPLICATION FOR N.R.C. GRANT

When you read this it is probably on its way. Keep your fingers crossed for, with this application, the fate of the Society will be determined for the future. If granted as requested, it would provide the financial means for increased activities at the Centre level, also the assimilation of SOMAS and the start of our own Journal of Meteorology, to name only the more important items. ADMA kindly agreed to present the submission on behalf of the C.M.S., thereby giving it the support of the A.E.S. Let us hope that it will be successful!

CENTRE ACTIVITIES

VANCOUVER CENTRE

Earlier this year, in response to the financial plight of the C.M.S., the chairman initiated a questionnaire to the members in the area. You may remember that the results of a similar venture were presented at the 1972 Congress at Edmonton. Although the financial crisis is a thing of the past, at least for the time being, some aspects revealed by this poll are of lasting and widespread interest to the membership in general. It is not surprising to find that a majority of members is against an increase in membership fee to \$17.00 for various reasons, but to take into consideration the stopping of publication of Atmosphere in order to balance the C.M.S. financially certainly is. Most members would be satisfied with "Congress Proceedings" supplemented by a newsletter: 22 found this idea "acceptable", none unacceptable, 2 had no opinion on the subject. There was no lack of suggestions on how to improve the financial situation of the C.M.S.: increase membership - C.M.S. to act as consultant to private industry - increase fees (?) - go after advertising revenue and corporate membership more vigorously - reduce or curtail publication of Atmosphere - obtain support from N.R.C. or A.E.S. or an OFY grant - sell relevant publications on meteorology to bookstores and educational libraries. Most members concur that the C.M.S. should become more involved in community and national affairs and that C.M.S. members should speak out on issues of national concern. Of course, issues would have to be carefully selected to avoid getting embroiled in internal dissention or, perhaps, invade A.E.S. territory.

The reason for being of the C.M.S. is not questioned, although some members (about 30%) harbour doubts about it in some way or another.

Members seem to feel that C.M.S. should primarily remain a forum for meteorologists; in this regard, more money should be made available to local Centres to help meet expenses of visiting speakers, public lectures, science fairs, etc. On the other hand, some feel that we should sponsor Informational series such as lectures, TV and radio programs and press releases. Priority should be given to discussion and lectures on the local Centre level rather than to prestigious publications. These are a few of the more significant results of this questionnaire. The C.M.S. council thanks Dave Faulkner for taking the initiative at this crucial time.

TORONTO CENTRE

As pointed out in the last newsletter, the Centre is planning to produce and publish a textbook on meteorology for high school students. The expertise certainly is present in the membership in abundance; let us hope that the willingness to cooperate will equal it. This venture certainly merits our efforts because of the potential good such a publication can do. Not only would it fill a gap in the literature aimed at a very impressionable age group but, at the same time, it could establish a closer rapport between the weatherman and his future users. Great care must be taken to present the latest scientific attainments in a manner both modern and easy to comprehend - a true challenge for our best writers! Clearly the scope of this undertaking transcends the local level; thus the call goes out to every C.M.S. member, every meteorologist, to actively support Mike Newark, the Toronto Centre chairman, by indicating to him your readiness to assume a certain task in the production of this book.

NEW MEMBERS

Applications for membership in the C.M.S. were presented by the Secretary on behalf of two Student Members and four General Members.

MEETINGS OF THE C.M.S. EXECUTIVE

The next meeting of the C.M.S. executive is planned for 10 a.m., Wednesday, January 31st, 1973. There will also be a C.M.S. Council meeting in February 1973. The date will be announced later. The Secretary would like to receive any suggestions of agenda items for the latter meeting as soon as possible in early January.

All the best for 1973!

R. A. Treidl,
Editor.