

## WILLIAM ALEXANDER CARROTHERS, 1889-1951

W. A. CARROTHERS, who died at Victoria, British Columbia, on August 29, 1951, was born at Brookeborough, Fermanagh, Ireland in 1889. He was educated at the Methodist College in Belfast and subsequently at Wesley College, Winnipeg, receiving his B.A. degree from the University of Manitoba in 1915. As for so many others the war marked a turning point. He served first in the Canadian Army and then in the Royal Air Force and had a distinguished war record. After the war he continued his studies at the University of Edinburgh where he lectured in Political Economy and received the degree of Ph.D. in 1921. He then returned to Canada and was appointed Professor of Economics at the University of Saskatchewan. In 1928 he spent a sabbatical year in post-graduate work at the London School of Economics, and wrote his book on *Emigration from the British Isles*, which was published in the following year. In 1930 he joined the staff of the University of British Columbia.

It was the onset of the depression which led to a change from an academic to a practical career. When an economic council consisting of business and professional men from various parts of the province was set up by the Government of British Columbia in 1934, Dr. Carrothers was granted leave of absence by the University to enable him to act as Chairman. In this difficult position of intermediary between the public and the government he succeeded in commanding the confidence of both parties. Dr. Carrothers rejoined the staff of the University in 1936 and endeavoured to combine university teaching in Vancouver with the duties of adviser to the Government at Victoria. It was in the latter capacity that he prepared an important brief stating the position taken by the Province of British Columbia before the Rowell-Sirois Commission.

In 1938 Dr. Carrothers resigned his professorship to assume the post of Chairman of the Public Utilities Commission. When his appointment expired ten years later, he was reappointed for a second term. Dr. Carrothers' colleagues speak in the highest terms of his work during this period.

From this short sketch of his life it is clear that Dr. Carrothers was held in high esteem both as an academic economist and as a practical administrator. Of necessity much of his work in the latter capacity was anonymous and is to be found only in government publications. The list which follows is therefore incomplete. [H.F.A.]

### PUBLICATIONS

- Emigration from the British Isles*. London: P. S. King & Son Limited. 1929.  
*Social Insurance and Assistance in Great Britain*. Victoria, B.C. Nov., 1934.  
"Problems of the Canadian Federation" (*Canadian Journal of Economics and Political Science*, I, no. 1, Feb., 1935, 26-40).  
"The Barter Terms of Trade between British Columbia and Eastern Canada" (*ibid.*, I, no. 4, Nov., 1935, 568-77).

*Activities of the Research Department, Economic Council of the Province of British Columbia.* Victoria, B.C.: Economic Council, Research Department. 1937.

*The Japanese Canadians.* By CHARLES H. YOUNG and HELEN R. Y. REID; with a second part on "Oriental Standards of Living," by W. A. CARROTHERS; edited by H. A. INNIS. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1938.

*The North American Assault on the Canadian Forest.* By A. R. M. LOWER; with studies of the "Forest Industries of British Columbia," by W. A. CARROTHERS. Toronto: The Ryerson Press. 1938.

*The British Columbia Fisheries.* With an introduction by H. A. INNIS. Political Economy Series, X. Toronto: University of Toronto Press. 1941. Pp. xvi, 136.

*Report of the Rural Electrification Committee as of January, 1945.* Victoria, B.C.: King's Printer. 1945.