

IMPORTANT TASK FACING WRITERS OF THE COUNTRY

Authors' Duty to Inform
Soldiers of Ideals
Behind Fight

GIVE GREAT HELP

Ste. Anne de Bellvue, Que., Aug. 24.—(CP)—Canadian writers have the "clear and definite duty" of keeping the democratic ideal constantly before the nation's eye, Madge MacBeth, of Ottawa, said to-day in her presidential address before the first war-time convention of the Canadian Authors' association.

"This is not a time to stop writing," she told the gathering of about 100 Canadian literary folk attending the association's 19th annual meeting at MacDonald college here. "Our duty is to keep telling our heroic youth—and those who stay at home—what they are fighting for."

There were thousands of boys in the front lines who didn't know, who were "giving themselves to this war with a sense of bewilderment and confusion," she said.

"We can help. We can show them that they're fighting for a proud and honourable past . . . for a mad fantastic present when we are thoughtlessly enjoying the fruits of the labour of those who built and dreamed for us . . . for a future chastened by the weight of this experience, a future of better balances."

Hamilton Man Speaks

Other speakers scheduled to address the opening session were Louise Sillcox, delegate of the Authors' League of America; Jean-Charles Harvey, of Montreal, editor of Le Jour, and Prof. W. Kirkconnell, of McMaster university, Hamilton, Ont.

Miss MacBeth said Canadian authors had a real part to play in "the drama of Canada" and "national service" called them as never before.

"We have our place in the battle front. We have a spiritual boundary to defend, and I know that, determined and united, we can be an important factor in winning this war. Our association ought to be listed at the head of the natural—or national—resources."

She described the organization as "almost the only link" stretching from coast to coast in Canada and uniting east with west.

Comparing the position of Canadian writers with those of certain other countries, she said they had everything in their favour. Elsewhere the "shadow of the censor" lay across the profession and prevented the production of great books, forcing creative impulses to "writhe within fixed limits."

AUG 24 1940

RECEIVED
SPECTATOR

100-881-812