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- (b) The Chairman of the Western Division shall submit a report to the Society at each regular meeting.
- (c) The Secretary of the Western Division shall submit a report to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Society at each regular meeting.

REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE WESTERN DIVISION

PAUL R. NEEDHAM

At the St. Paul, Minnesota, meeting in 1946, the writer made a motion at the concluding business sessions that a committee be appointed to study the matter of setting up a western Division of the parent Society. This motion was seconded by Dr. H. J. Deason and passed unanimously. At the Denver meeting in September, 1947, a committee of six was appointed to establish a Western branch of the AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY. The committee appointed consisted of Fred A. Thompson (Chairman), A. C. Taft, W. L. Reavley, Dr. J. S. Hart, M. J. Madsen, and myself. By mutual agreement among members of this committee, plans were made to meet with the Western Division, Western Association of Game and Fish Commissioners, at their Salt Lake City meeting held in June, 1948. Consent was arranged for such a joint meeting through Mr. Ross Leonard who at that time was President of the Western Association. This meeting lacked the sanctity of legality for the parent body had not at that time changed its constitution authorizing the establishment of regional divisions. However, the necessary changes in the Constitution were completed and the meeting held in Seattle in June, 1949, was the first official one to be held under Article VI of the Constitution of the parent body that authorizes the establishment of regional divisions. We much appreciate the continued opportunity of meeting with the Western Association of Game and Fish Commissioners and believe that the union will prove a happy and profitable one and one which will contribute materially to our understanding of western fish management and stocking problems.

At the Salt Lake meeting held with the Western Association in 1948, the nominating committee recommended the following slate of officers: Dr. John L. Hart, Vice-Chairman, Mr. Fred A. Thompson, Secretary-Treasurer, and myself as Chairman. Election was unanimous and the Western Division was launched and under way.

For the Seattle meeting last June, again held in conjunction with the Western Association of Fish and Game Commissioners, I appointed

the following committees: Program committee: Clarence Pautzke, Chairman, Don McKernan, Dr. Richard Crocker, Mr. Fred A. Thompson, Ray Hess, and Dr. Ferris Neave. To Clarence Pautzke and the other members of his committee, we owe a large vote of thanks for their efforts in arranging the program for that meeting. Last but not least, it was necessary that we have a Constitution and By-laws drawn up for the Western Division and to meet this need I appointed the following committee to prepare these items for presentation at the Seattle meeting: Mr. F. R. Butler, Chairman, A. C. Taft, A. W. Yoder, A. V. Green, and J. C. Simpson. This group prepared a tentative Constitution and By-laws which were read and discussed at the business sessions. Since a few changes seemed desirable, this Committee is continuing its work and will present a re-drafted version, for consideration of our western members at the Winnipeg meeting.

New officers elected for the Western Division at the Seattle meeting were: Dr. John L. Hart of Canada, Chairman, and Mr. James Simpson, Idaho, Vice-Chairman; Mr. Fred A. Thompson of New Mexico was re-elected Secretary-Treasurer. As the retiring Chairman, I would like to thank both our officers and members for their splendid cooperation and help in getting the Western Division under way. Two individuals need to be mentioned specifically here. These are Seth Gordon and Fred Thompson.

I would like to add a little to that, that Mr. Seth Gordon was a tremendous help in our first recognized meeting of the Western Division in Seattle. He, like a fond father watching the children keep out of trouble, did not bother them until they came screaming to him for help. We had to rely on Mr. Gordon a few times to straighten out some of our problems. Mr. Gordon luckily happened to be in California while the Western Division was getting under way and we owe him much for the sound advice and good help he gave us from time to time. Fred Thompson had worked hard on Western Division matters and he likewise deserves much credit for the successful launching of the Western Division.

At the Salt Lake City meeting, we had an attendance of some 43 fisheries workers. In Seattle a year later attendance of fisheries workers jumped to well over 100 and I think it may be said that we are on our way now toward setting up an efficient, smoothly-operating organization and one that will be well-fitted to serve members of the AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY living in the Western United States and Canada. Our problems in the west are different from eastern and mid-western problems, and distance to national meetings precludes the free exchange of ideas that would be desirable through local meetings such as this one. I am confident that the Western Division of the AMERICAN FISHERIES SOCIETY can do much to forward progressive fisheries management programs and policies in western areas and in so doing greatly strengthen the effectiveness of the Society as a whole on a national basis.