Abstract of Proceedings

9TH MARCH, 1942

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting was held in the Society's Room, Tasmanian Museum. The President, His Excellency the Governor, presided.

The following were elected Office-bearers and members of the Council for 1942:—Mr. A. L. Meston was elected Vice-President in the place of Mr. E. E. Unwin, who retired under Rule 12; Mr. N. P. Booth and Dr. H. D. Gordon were elected in the places of Dr. A. N. Lewis and Dr. V. V. Hickman, who retired under Rule 21; Treasurer, Mr. S. Angel.

Mr. H. J. Exley was appointed Hon. Auditor.

Mr. T. A. Gepp was elected a member of the Society.

Dr. W. L. Crowther read a paper entitled 'The Life of Dr. Fordyce Storey in Tasmania, 1829-1885', which was prepared by Mrs. J. A. McElroy.

13TH APRIL, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date. Mr. Henry Allport, Vice-President, presided.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Mrs. E. A. Charles, Miss L. van Gooch, Mr. J. C. Bennett, Mr. M. Bennett, Mr. F. C. Wolfhagen.

Mr. E. E. Unwin delivered an illustrated lecture entitled 'The Voices of Animals', of which the following is an abstract:—

> An inquiry into the purposeful sounds produced by animals as a means of communication, illustrated by slides and pictures, as well as gramophone recordings of animal voices. Some attempt was made to describe the sound recording apparatus as well as the sound producing—for hearing sounds is as important as making them.
>
> The lecture covered the following aspects:—
>
> Tapping sounds.—Spiders, Booklice, Deathwatch, Beetles, Termites.
> Buzzing sounds.—Blowfly, Mosquito, Bees, and Wasps.
> Stridulating sounds.—Beetles, Waterboatmen, Moths, Ants, Locusts and Grasshoppers, Crickets, Cicada.
> Sounds made by fishes.
> Vocal cords and air.—*(a)* Frogs and Reptiles; *(b)* Birds (syrinx); *(c)* Mammals (larynx).
> Reasons for sound producing.
> The development of a language of words in man.

11TH MAY, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date. The President, His Excellency the Governor, presided.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Ordinary Members, Mrs. C. H. C. Hebblethwaite, Mr. C. H. C. Hebblethwaite; Associate Member, Mr. P. Crowcroft.

Mr. W. T. Dowsett delivered a lecture entitled 'Social Services and their importance in War-time and Post-war Period', of which the following is an abstract:—

1. *The Nature and Purpose of Social Services.*

To indicate the effects that a state of war may reasonably be expected to produce upon the social services, and to suggest any desirable developments in them after the war, the purpose of social services must be realised. Examination of the type of services given in such classifications as the Drage Return (1921) and the Political and Economic Planning Report (1937) indicates that their object is 'the enhancement of the personal welfare of individual citizens of the community'. History shows that the motives behind their inauguration all accepted the existing social and economic system without intention to change it. Furthermore, while in the nineteenth century the growth of the services was haphazard, in this generation the aims of consistent application and unified purpose are appearing.

Social services may thus be defined as that unified body of services, undertaken or supervised by the State, which accepts the existing social and economic system without seeking merely to preserve it or, alternatively, to change it, but which for motives of social or economic efficiency, endeavours to assure to each individual or family unit all those requirements of a reasonable living standard that the system may otherwise fail to provide. In a community with an arbitration system aiming to secure for each employed worker what is conventionally called a living wage, the following would be the chief fields of such social service structure:—*(a)* employment (including exchanges, re-training agencies, and employment insurance); *(b)* health (involving hospitals and public medical services, inspection and health insurance); *(c)* full education (including with schools and universities such institutions as playgrounds, museums and state theatres); *(d)* old-age and invalid pensions, provided as far as possible on the insurance principle.

2. *Social Services in War-time.*

Since social services accept the system, their pattern must be changed to recognise the conditions of total war. Three conditions are involved:—since war means community sacrifice the general level of the services must fall; but, since the change in the economic pattern impinges disproportionately upon different groups, certain specific services will need actual extension; and some services may expand as part of the war organisation of the community.

Two factors will produce the changes:—increased man-power needs, and curtailed customer demand. The former will stimulate the employment function, developing new machinery for transfer across industries. It will expand physical education and vocational training, but depress other educational services generally. Other services will expand to meet the needs of dependents of men in the forces, but will otherwise tend to contract.

The curtailing of consumer demand will call for some extension of relief services, for the burden of the war will bring increasing numbers in low income groups nearer the breaking point. Moreover, food deficiency, overstrain, and the risk of epidemic will tend to extend the public health function.

3. *Social Services after the War.*

The post-war period will be concerned with the transfer of industry from war to peace, and industrial adjustment to the emerging new international trade conditions. Thus, while there will be a call to restore services contracted in war-time, the chief extensions will occur where increased employment is involved. Re-training agencies will be strengthened. Education should be extended to find new administrators, to meet possible enforced leisure, and to stimulate the movements towards more tertiary employment. New hospitals will provide employment for builders and doctors. Playgrounds, beside involving construction, will find openings for trained supervisors.

When a degree of equilibrium is reached, welfare should become the chief objective. This will necessitate an all-round extension of social services, but the most important problem will then be the devising of administrative machinery capable of producing the ideal unified body of services that we have failed so far to obtain. Since all these tasks are urgent, the great need is for immediate research and planning. The blue-prints should be ready before the war ends, for only immediate application can prevent disaster.

8TH JUNE, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date. The President, His Excellency the Governor, presided.

Mr. E. T. Emmett delivered an illustrated lecture entitled 'Frenchman's Cap', of which the following is an abstract:—

It is not known who named Frenchman's Cap. The mountain is mentioned by Jorgensen in his explorations of 1827, and the name appears on maps of 1830. Surveyor-General Sharland climbed portion of the mountain in 1832. The cairn was erected during Surveyor-General Sprent's surveys, about 1850. On a small piece of wood near the cairn are carved the names of Tully, Glover, and Spong, who ascended the Cap in 1859. A track was cut to the summit in 1910 by J. E. Philp by way of the Barron Pass, but this became overgrown. It has been re-opened, and this is the route now followed, starting by the Jane River track from the Hobart-Queenstown road, turning off at a point in the Loddon Plains, where Philp's direction board still remains. The distance is not much more than twelve miles from the Queenstown highway to the summit, but the country is extremely rough and it is a good two-day journey. The scenery is highly spectacular, with a sheer wall of white quartzite rising for nearly 1500 ft. from Lake Tahune. On the route are forests of extraordinary beauty. The lecturer suggested that it would be profitable after the War to have the track made easier and two or three camping huts provided, for the magnificence of the area would attract quite a large traffic. About 38 square miles round Frenchman's Cap has been proclaimed a National Park.

13TH JULY, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date. The President, His Excellency the Governor, presided.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Miss B. B. Adams, Mr. H. J. King, Mr. Roy Smith.

The Secretary announced that Mr. C. E. Radcliff had presented a copy of the two-volume work of Erasmus Darwin 'Zoonomia' to the Society's Library, and the books were laid on the table for the inspection of members.

Photographs of old Hobart were also displayed on the table. These were taken by Mr. W. H. Craig, Architect, of Melbourne.

Mr. G. P. Whitley, Ichthyologist of the Australian Museum, Sydney, delivered an illustrated lecture entitled 'Sharks', of which the following is an abstract:—

Mr. Whitley began by dispelling some popular delusions. Most sharks, far from being ferocious man-eaters, were harmless fish-eating animals. It was not necessary for them to turn over on their backs to take their food, neither did they always show the dorsal fin above water. Both white and coloured persons have been attacked by man-eaters. No authentic case of shark attack in Tasmanian waters was known to the lecturer.

Recently, a shark fishery had sprung into prominence in Victoria, where sharks were required for food and as a source of oil: they also yielded leather and fertilizer. The fishing methods and disposal of the catch were described. The need for biological research on sharks was stressed so that depletion of a valuable industry could be guarded against. Correct classification of the species was of prime importance, followed by a stabilising of the vernacular names. Investigations into the numbers and sizes of sharks caught, their growth, food, sex-ratio, and breeding habits were discussed. Sharks had recently been marked and liberated for the first time in Australia, in the d'Entrecasteaux Channel, by means of celluloid tags inserted in their bodies. It was hoped that the tags would be recovered by persons cleaning the sharks when recaught and thus data on migration and growth would be secured.

24TH AUGUST, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date. Mr. Henry Allport, Vice-President, presided.

The Secretary intimated that, until further notice, the Library hours would be as follows:—

Mondays: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesdays and Fridays: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Also at 7.30 to 8 p.m. on the evenings when a General Meeting is held.

The Secretary tabled a paper entitled 'The Phreatoicoidea', by Professor G. E. Nicholls, which had been submitted for publication in the Society's Journal. It was agreed to submit this to the Standing Committee.

Dr. J. B. G. Muir delivered an illustrated lecture entitled 'The present position in North China and Manchukuo'.

21st September, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date. The President, His Excellency the Governor, presided.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Mrs. N. I. Stewart, Dr. E. T. J. Ick.

Dr. J. C. Jaeger delivered an illustrated lecture entitled 'Charcoal, its Properties and Production', of which the following is an abstract:—

A discussion of the properties of charcoal and of their effects on its performance in gas producers was given. In this work charcoal is regarded as being composed of volatile matter, ash, and carbon. The volatile matter consists of combustible gas, together with a small proportion of condensible vapour or tar. A high percentage of volatile matter is desirable, provided excess tar is not present; charcoal of over 25 per cent volatile content usually contains too high a concentration of tar, and that from partially carbonized wood almost certainly does so. Charcoal of high ash content also is undesirable, but no Tasmanian timbers have been found to give an abnormally high ash content. Bark, however, has a high ash content and thus must be removed before carbonizing.

The quality of charcoal is greatly influenced by the rate at which the wood is heated during the burning process; if the heating is rapid a friable, low volatile charcoal is produced, while slow heating gives a hard, high volatile charcoal. Large pieces of wood may heat rapidly in their interior because of the heat given out by the wood when carbonizing, and thus the charcoal from large pieces of wood may be inferior to that from small. Charcoal made from green wood has a flakey structure, except in the outer layers, due to the shrinking of the wood when drying.

The requirements of a satisfactory process of charcoal burning are firstly that there be an adequate control of the draught, and secondly that the draught should not pass through burnt charcoal. Charcoal is normally burnt in open or closed pits, or in kilns. The open pit method is not very satisfactory as there is little control over the draught and the burning is very hot, giving a light, soft, low volatile charcoal. The reverse draught closed pit has a simple but adequate draught control and should be capable of producing almost as good charcoal as steel kilns; in the latter very careful regulation of the draught is possible. The latest advance is the Kurth kiln which provides a continuous process, wood being fed in at the top and charcoal removed from the bottom; the recovery of valuable by-products is possible with this kiln.

26th October, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date. Mr. Henry Allport, Vice-President, presided.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Mrs. O. Cornell, Mr. W. Baulch, Mr. E. A. Elms.

Mr. A. L. Meston delivered a lecture entitled 'Place Names in Tasmania'.

Miss Travers lent her copy of the illustrations to Péron's Voyages. This was laid on the table, and was examined by members after the meeting. These maps gave some of the old French names.

The following is an abstract of the lecture by Mr. Meston:—

Place names may be classified into three groups. First there are those given in honour of some person, place, or event; secondly those given to commemorate some incident; and thirdly those descriptive of the physical features they name.

Tasman's Frederick Henry Bay and Maria Island, Hayes' Ralph's Bay and the River Derwent, Flinders' Waterhouse Island, Point Hibbs, Mts. Zeehan and Heemskirk are examples of the first group; Storm Bay, Bay of Fires of the second group; and the great number of names bestowed along our northern coast by Flinders in 1798, such as Low Head, Round Hill, Table Cape, Rocky Cape, Circular Head, Cape Grim of the third group.

Many Tasmanian place names have wandered from their original location. Two prominent examples are Frederick Henry Bay, which by an error of Furneaux was transferred from a bay on the east coast to a bay near the mouth of the Derwent, and the Eldon Range, which has been applied to a range much farther to the south than that so designated by Hellyer in 1829.

Many place names on the coast of south-east Tasmania are the result of famous French expeditions, those of Bruni D'Entrecasteaux in 1792 and 1793 when Huon Kermandec was second in command, and that of Baudin in 1802.

Colonel Paterson named Launceston and the River Tamar in honour of Governor King who was born at Launceston, England, and the high mountain clearly visible from Launceston he, as a good Scot, named Ben Lomond.

To Governor Macquarie, who visited the island in 1811 and 1821, we owe names such as Lachlan, Macquarie, Elizabeth, Campbell, wherever found. The latter two in honour of his wife. To him, also, we owe the names Sorell, Perth, Oatlands, and Corra Lynn, to mention only a few. He also gave the appropriate name of Mt. Nelson to the marine signal station at Hobart. Governor Sorell who had served in the Peninsular War bestowed on the mountain which forms such a magnificent background for Hobart the name of Mt. Wellington.

Mt. Roland a prominent mountain in the north of the island affords an interesting example of the way a name is altered by the carelessness of mapmakers. In 1824 Captain Rolland an officer of the regiment stationed here determined to make his way from the coast near Port Sorell and ascend the mountain. After enduring hardships and encountering difficulties which nearly cost him his life, he was forced to return, defeated. From this circumstance the significant name Rolland's Repulse was bestowed. Under the misguided hands of cartographists, first the word Repulse was changed to mountain and later an 'l' was dropped.

Explorers, such as Kelly, Frankland, and Gould have given us many names. To Kelly we owe Port Davey, Sarah Island (in honour of Mrs. Birch, wife of Thomas Birch, merchant of Hobart, who backed Kelly), and the Gordon River (in honour of James Gordon, of Pittwater, who lent Kelly the whaleboat for his voyage). To Frankland the classic names of Olympus, Ida, Pelion, as well as Lake St. Clair, Manfred, Cuvier, Petrarch. To Gould Sedgwick, Lyell, Owen, Huxley, and Jukes.

Many of the names of the features of the N.W. Coast we owe to the V.D.L. Co.'s officers. Among them are Mersey, Forth, Emu, St. Valentine's Peak, Cradle Mt., and Barn Bluff.

In later years recourse has been had to native names, some of which are quite appropriate. Of these Conara (black), Emita (sand), Parattah (frost), Powranna (a snake), Waddamana (a large river) may be mentioned; but others such as Marrawah (one), Moorina (indolent), Narrawa (yes), Kaoota (dusk), Magra (a day) have no significance.

25TH NOVEMBER, 1942

A meeting was held in the Society's Room on this date to celebrate the Tercentenary of the Discovery of Tasmania by Abel Janzoon Tasman. The President, His Excellency the Governor, presided.

The following papers were laid on the table, and taken as read:—

1. Early Town Planning in Hobart, by Dr. C. Craig.
2. On some new Hadrotarsidae (Araneae) with Notes on their Internal Anatomy, by Dr. V. V. Hickman.
3. Studies in Tasmanian Plants: I. Variation in Pultenaea juniperina, by Miss W. M. Curtis.

After introductory remarks by His Excellency, in which he drew attention to the importance of the occasion, Dr. W. L. Crowther gave an illustrated lecture on Abel Janzoon Tasman, of which the following is an abstract:—

In this address, the background to the life and exploits of Abel Janzoon Tasman was briefly reviewed and stress was laid on the important part played by the Spanish and Portuguese in the discovery and opening up of the new worlds of America and the East Indies and the steady rise of Holland as a great sea power.

Attention was called to the coincident unfolding of the great maritime development of England and its association with such navigators as Francis Drake in the America's and Middleton in the East Indies.

Here a fitting tribute was paid to the historical work done for this Society towards the end of last century by James Backhouse Walker; his most important contribution being a description of the career and discoveries of Tasman, especially in relation to Tasmania. This monograph with the great work of S. Heeres has been the source from which local historians have hitherto drawn. To illustrate this address, pictures of areas of the Tasmanian coast associated with Tasman's expedition were shown, as well as maps, etc.

In conclusion, it was stated that, owing to world conditions, it had not been practicable to systematically examine new material relating to Tasman's landfall, anchorage, and landings. Such sources included Huydecooper's Journal and his maps of Visscher, both that of Tasmania and his general map showing the day-by-day course of his ships. Gilsemans' map and R. Posthumus Meyojes work on Tasman and Visscher were also mentioned as throwing new light on Tasman's landfall and the watering place at Blackman's Bay.

Finally the decision of the Tasmanian Government to re-name Green Island 'Visscher's Island', was welcomed, and the hope expressed that, to celebrate the Centenary of the Royal Society, research on Tasman's discovery to be undertaken by a qualified historian.

Mr. W. H. Hudspeth read a note on a chart by Gilsemans, Supercargo and Draughtsman on the 'Zeehan', a copy of which has recently been acquired by the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

Dr. J. A. Boot, formerly Netherlands Consul in Tasmania, then gave an address dealing with the background of Tasman's early life and with his discoveries.

The following gentlemen gave short talks on the subject of Tasman's discovery of Tasmania:—Mr. H. Allport, Mr. A. L. Meston, Mr. W. N. Hurst, Mr. E. T. Emmett, and Mr. H. O'May.

Afterwards a conversazione was held in the Art Gallery, when coffee was served

---

Northern Branch

Annual Report, 1942

Meetings of the 1942 Session, other than the Annual Meeting and Public Lecture, were held in the Lecture Room at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

18TH MAY, 1942

Annual Report and Public Lecture

The Annual Meeting for 1942 was held in the class-room, Public Library, at 7.30 p.m.

Mr. F. Smithies presided. The following were elected officers for 1942:—

President: Mr. F. Smithies.

Council: Mr. F. Smithies (Chairman), Mr. F. Heyward, Mr. W. R. Rolph, Mr. V. D. Allen, Mr. G. McKinlay, Hon. Tasman Shields, Mr. J. R. Forward, Mr. J. E. Heritage, Dr. R. A. Scott.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. O. G. Scott.

Hon Auditor: Mr. J. R. Forward.

The Annual Report and the Statement of Accounts, which showed a credit balance of £31 18s. 10d., were read and adopted.

The Annual Meeting was followed, at 8 p.m., by a Public Lecture 'A Naturalist with a Cine-Colour Camera in Tasmania', by Mr. H. J. King. The lecture was given in the Public Library Hall, there being an attendance estimated at about two hundred and thirty.

The most important section of the films formed a continuation of the series of Nature-study films made by Mr. King in connexion with the educational programme of the Museum, and a series of bird studies was of particular interest. An interesting section of the film showed the development of the Common Fowl, and before this was screened the Honorary Secretary gave a short account of the various embryological phases of the Common Fowl, which he illustrated by means of a rough model in clay.

Mr. King alternated his series of natural history films with films of Tasmanian scenery.

8TH JUNE, 1942

The President, Mr. F. Smithies, presided.

Mr. G. P. Whitley gave an illustrated lecture on 'Sharks' (see p. 166).

20TH JULY, 1942

The President, Mr. F. Smithies, presided.

Dr. R. A. Scott, of the Department of Agriculture, gave a lecture on 'Tasmanian Potato Problems'.

Dr. Scott pointed out that, though to a layman the question of growing potatoes for food might seem a relatively simple problem, actually the subject is a very complex one, and problems raised in connexion with it involved several distinct departments of Science.

The speaker first discussed the problem of potato diseases. Different types of diseases were specified, and a distinction drawn between those more intimately involved with the organism, and those that were more or less incidental characteristics of the environment. This distinction led to a brief consideration of the modern Russian experiment of growing potatoes from seed.

The main part of Dr. Scott's address was devoted to a consideration of the problem of what constitutes quality in a potato, and to an account of methods adopted in an attempt to find measurable factors determining, wholly or largely, the apparent rather elusive characteristic of quality. A brief historical survey of work along these lines was given, with particular reference to the outstanding results of the Edinburgh School of Investigators.

Attention was called to the differing starch content of various varieties of potato, and to the character of the starch content curve, plotted against time, in the case of the individual tuber. This section of the address was illustrated by a practical demonstration of specific gravity, as used by Dr. Scott in his own researches.

The address was followed by a general discussion, in the course of which Dr. Scott, in answer to inquiries, gave some most interesting information.

31st August, 1942

The President, Mr. F. Smithies, presided.

Mr. P. H. Bond gave a lecture on 'Synthetic Rubber'.

Mr. Bond commenced by stating that Natural Rubber was first obtained in the Americas, and was known as Para Rubber. It was a monopoly of American interests. Rubber seeds were then taken to the East Indies and Malaya, which became the chief rubber producing centres, but over-production resulted, and prices fell below economic level; however, after the last war prices were stabilised. There are other sources of natural rubber besides the rubber tree, for example, the Russian Dandelion, Morton Bay Fig (related to the rubber tree), and other starch-producing plants.

Synthetic rubber did not exist as such, being incapable of synthesis, so that a better name would be artificial rubber. There are three hundred and thirty-three processes for making rubber, but only three so far were successful for making large quantities, namely the Buna, Neoprene, and Butyl. During the present war, America has been producing practically the whole of the Allies' supply of artificial rubber.

The only way in which Tasmania could produce rubber would be by the Neoprene process; all the material required for such an industry is available locally and is plentiful.

Mr. Bond concluded his address by observing that the day will come when synthetic rubber would play a bigger part in industry, and after the war it would outdo natural rubber.

The lecture was followed by a discussion, in which several members participated.

Council Meetings

Council Meetings were held on the 24th April, 18th May, 26th June, and 7th September.

H. H. Pimblett, Government Printer, Tasmania.