

Obituary.

R. M. JOHNSTON, I.S.O., F.S.S.

Robert Mackenzie Johnston was born at Connage, Inverness-shire, Scotland, in 1845. Of humble parentage, but possessed with a keen desire for knowledge, he left home early in life in order to make his way in the world. He obtained employment in the Scottish Railways, and while there devoted his spare time to study. As a young man he resolved to come to Australia, and eventually arrived after an adventurous passage. He crossed to Tasmania in 1870, and was employed organising the accountants and audit branch of the Launceston and Western Railway. In 1872 he transferred to the Government service, and in 1880 was appointed chief clerk in the Auditor-General's office, and two years later he obtained the position of Registrar-General and Government Statistician, which position he held until his death.

On several occasions Mr. Johnston had opportunities for improving his position by obtaining high appointments on the Mainland, but he preferred to remain in Tasmania.

In addition to his official duties, Mr. Johnston served the State in many ways. In 1882 he was appointed a Commissioner to inquire and report upon the fisheries of Tasmania, and was also a member of the several boards relating to fisheries. In 1888, the Government published Mr. Johnston's standard work, "A Systematic Account of the Geology of Tasmania."

Mr. Johnston was President of Section F, "Economic and Social Science and Statistics," at the meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science in 1890, was an honorary fellow of the Royal Statistical Society, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of Australia, a fellow of the Linnean Society of London, and for many years one of the most prominent members of the Royal Society of Tasmania.

List of Papers contributed to the Royal Society of Tasmania by R. M. Johnston, I.S.O., F.S.S.

1871.

1. Regarding the composition and extent of certain Tertiary beds in and around Launceston.

1874.

2. The Launceston Tertiary Basin.

1876.

3. Further notes on the Tertiary Marine Beds of Table Cape.

1878.

4. Further notes on the Freshwater Shells of Tasmania (with a description of new species).
5. Notes on certain Tertiary and Post-Tertiary deposits on Flinders', Barren, Badger, and other Islands in Bass's Straits.

1879.

6. Note on discovery of the Habitat of *Ammicola* (*Ampullaria*?) *Tasmanica*—Tenison-Woods—with a new description of *Helix*.
7. Note on the discovery of *Spondylostrolus Smithii*, and other fossil Fruits in the Deep-lead drift at Brandy Creek Goldfield.
8. Table of the distribution of the Fossil Flora of Australia, Tertiary Period.
9. Third contribution to the Natural History of the Tertiary Marine Beds of Table Cape, with a description of 30 new species of Mollusca.
10. Notes on the distribution and variability of Tasmanian Land Shells.
11. Table showing the general distribution of Tasmanian Land Shells, compiled from the collections made at various times by W. Legrand, W. F. Petterd, Capt. Beddome, T. R. Atkinson, the Compiler, and others.
12. Notes on the relations of the yellow Limestone (Travertin) of Geilston Bay, with other Fluvial and Lacustrine deposits in Tasmania and Australia, together with descriptions of two new fossil *Helices*.

1880.

13. Description of a new species of *Helix* found fossil in a calcareous sandstone deposit at Kent's Group.
14. Description of two new species of Fishes (*Trachichthys Macleanyi* and *Mendosoma Allportii*), caught in the estuary of the Derwent.

1881.

15. Notes showing that the estuary of the Derwent was occupied by a fresh-water lake during the Tertiary period.
16. Description of a species of Sea Bream (*Girella tricuspidata*), from Southport, Tasmania.

1882.

17. General and critical observations on the Fishes of Tasmania; with a classified Catalogue of all the known species.
18. Note and description of the first discovered representative of the genus *Pupa* in Tasmania.
19. Note on *Clinus despicillatus*—Richardson and *Bovichthys variegatus*.
20. Description of a new species of Fish caught near Emu Bay, Tasmania.

1883.

21. Notice of recent additions to the list of Tasmanian Fishes.

1884.

22. Description of a new species of *Vitrina* from the Travertin Beds, Geilston.
23. Additions to the list of Table Cape fossils, together with further remarks upon certain fossil shells supposed to be identical with living species.
24. Discovery of *Entomostraca* in the upper members of the Travertin Beds, Geilston, and a description of a new species of *Cyprus*.
25. Discovery of a Cone, probably of a species of *Lepidostrobus*, in the sandstones of Campania.
26. Description of a new species of *Odar*.
27. Description of a new fossil Shell from the Eocene beds, Table Cape.
28. Description of a new species of *Crepidula* from the Eocene Beds, Table Cape.
29. Notes on the discovery of two rare species of Ferns new to Tasmania.
30. Remarks on the observed periodicity of the Death-rate, with suggestions as to its possible relation with the periodicity of solar and other super-terrestrial phenomena.
31. Observations on six rare Fishes recently captured in Tasmanian waters.
32. A Rejoinder to Mr. A. B. Biggs' criticism on observations made in respect of the "Observed Periodicity of the Death-rate," etc.
33. Notes regarding certain Fossil Shells occurring at Table Cape, supposed to be identical with living species.

1885.

34. Fresh contributions to our knowledge of the character and relationship of the Upper Palæozoic and Mesozoic formations of Tasmania, and the associated diabasic rocks.
35. General observations regarding the classification of the Upper Palæozoic and Mesozoic rocks of Tasmania, together with a full description of all the known Tasmanian Coal Plants, including a considerable number of new species.
36. Description of some Fossil Leaves from Mt. Bischoff.
37. Note regarding the Silurian Fossils of the Gordon limestones, with generic descriptions and a specific list of the organisms already named and classified.
38. Descriptions of new species of fossil leaves from the Tertiary deposits of Mt. Bischoff, belonging to the genera *Eucalyptus*, *Laurus*, *Quercus*, *Zamia*, etc.

1886.

39. Contributions to the Palæontology of the Upper Palæozoic Rocks of Tasmania.
40. Notes on the Geology of Bruny Island.
50. Reference List of the Tertiary Fossils of Tasmania.
51. Remarks regarding Coal Seam opened out by Mr. Brock at Compton, Old Beach.
52. Fresh Contributions to our Knowledge of the Plants of Mesozoic Age in Tasmania.
53. Table Showing Approximately the Known Distribution in time of Genera of Plants occurring in the Upper Palæozoic and Mesozoic Rocks of Australasia.
54. Notes on the Geology of the King River, with a brief account of the History of Gold Mining in Australasia.
55. Notes and descriptions of *Crinoidea* from the Upper Palæozoic Rocks of Tasmania.

1887.

56. How far can the general death rate for all ages be relied upon as a comparative index of the health or sanitary condition of any community.
57. An account of two rare Tasmanian Fish.
58. On the lower coal measures of Port Cynnet.
59. Notes on the Fingal Basin from the operations of a trial bore.
60. Notes with respect to Fishes, the land and fresh water molluscs of King's Island.

61. Observations with respect to the nature and classification of the Rocks of the Tertiary period, more particularly relating to Tasmania.

1888.

62. Results of the various attempts to acclimatise the *Salmo salar* in Tasmanian Waters.
63. The Problem of Malthus stated.
64. Critical Observations on the recent Contributions to our knowledge of the freshwater shells of Tasmania.
65. Tabular History of the Classification of Tasmanian freshwater shells.
66. Observations on the variability of the Tasmanian *Unio*.

1889.

67. The Iron Blow at the Linda Goldfields.
68. Macquarie Harbour Leaf Beds.
69. Observations regarding Pyramid Numbers.
70. Additions to the list of Tasmanian Fossils of Upper Palæozoic Age.
71. Root Matters in Social and Economic Problems.

1890.

72. Root Matters in Social and Economic Problems, 2nd series.
- Further Observations on the Fishes and Fishing Industries of Tasmania, together with a revised list of Indigenous Species.
73. Provisional Aid to the Study of Tasmanian Mollusca.
74. Observations on the influence of Strikes upon Real Wages.
75. General Increase of Wages falls upon Consumers of Products and in no way encroaches upon rent or profits of Capitalists.
76. Description of a Fern (*Blechnum cartilagineum*) new to the Tasmanian List.
78. Tabular List indicating the Local Habits and General Distributions of all the known Ferns, Club-mosses, and Pillworts of Tasmania.

1891.

79. Notes on a Collection of Plant Impressions from the Henty River.
80. Observations on the causes of Elevation and Subsidence of the Earth's Crust.

1892.

81. Notes on the Natural Limits to Occupation of the Land.
82. What are the Conditions which determine the Just and Equitable Representation of the People.

1893.

83. Taxation and the Cost of Living in Tasmania.
84. The Glacier Epoch of Australasia.
85. Notes on the Geology of Lake St. Clair and its immediate Neighbourhood, together with Observations regarding the Probable Origin of Our Numerous Tasmanian Lakes and Tarns.
86. Further Contributions to the Fossil Flora of Tasmania.

1895.

87. Notes on some Fossil Plants new to Tasmania.
88. The Primary Law of Value or Price.

1897.

89. The Health of Hobart.
90. Tertiary Leaf Beds.
91. Observations of the Working Results of the Hare System of Election in Tasmania.

1899.

92. Are all the Colossal Igneous Caps of Tasmanian Tiers and of the lofty Mountain Plateaux true sills?

1900.

93. Further notes on the Permo-Carboniferous Fossil Cliffs at Darlington, Maria Island.
94. Notes on Coal Discovery at Wynyard, Tasmania.

1903.

95. Notes on Reidle Bay Conglomerates, Maria Island.
96. Notes on Fossil Tree, Barnes Bay.
97. Conditions upon which the healthy growth of young colonies depend.
98. List of Flowering Plants collected at Kettering.

1904

99. The Ethical, Economical, and Practical Aspects of Old Age Pensions.

1905.

100. Observations regarding some Economic Aspects of the Eisenach Social Equality Programme.

1908.

101. State Borrowing and Sinking Funds.

1918.

102. Observations regarding Accumulated Capital and Wealth.
103. Notes on the discovery of a new Fossil Fruit from the Deep-lead Tin Drifts at Derby, Tasmania.

COLONEL W. V. LEGGE.

Colonel W. V. Legge was born at Cullenswood, Tasmania, seventy-eight years ago. He went to England as a child, and was educated both there and in France and Germany. He obtained his Commission in the Royal Artillery in 1862, and served for 5 years. In 1867 and 1868 he was in Melbourne with the Imperial troops. Upon their withdrawal, he went to Ceylon, and it was while he was there that he did all the collecting and much of the MSS. of his standard work on "The Birds of Ceylon." Leaving Ceylon in 1877 he returned to England, and served at Portsmouth. In 1883 he was offered, and accepted, the command of the Tasmanian Forces. Except for several short periods he held this command until 1902. During this time considerable re-organisation was effected. Colonel Legge was an active member of the Society for many years, his chief interest being ornithology. In addition he was generally interested in the fauna and flora of the island, and was an authority upon forestry. He was instrumental in having investigations carried out by members of this Society concerning the height of certain peaks on Ben Lomond. The result went to show that one of them, Legge Tor, is the highest point in Tasmania.

Papers contributed to the Royal Society of Tasmania by the late Colonel W. V. Legge.

1873.

1. On the Weaver Bird (*Ploceus baya*) in Ceylon.

1874.

2. Notes on some species of Tasmanian Birds.

1886.

3. Systematic List of the Tasmanian Birds.
4. On the Position of the Genus *Ephthianura*.

1887.

5. A First List of the Birds of Maria Island.
6. The Highlands of Lake St. Clair.
7. On the Breeding of Some Sea Birds on the Actæon Island and adjacent islets.

1888.

8. Occurrence of *Chibea bracteata* Gould, in Tasmania.

1889.

9. Protection of Tasmanian Owls.
10. Protection of the Cape Barren Goose.
11. Notes on the Australian Curlew and its closely-allied Congeners.

1892.

12. Note on a Tasmanian *Acanthiza*,. On the occurrence of some Australian *Ardeidæ*.

1895.

13. Notes on Timber found beneath Alluvial Drift at Swansea, Tasmania.
14. Notes on the Fan-tailed Cuckoo in Tasmania (*Cuculus flabelliformis*).

1903.

15. Rainfall and Water Supply of the Great Lake (*cum* H. C. Kingsmill).
16. Notes on Stone Knives of Tasmanian Aborigines found at Cullenswood Estate.

1913.

17. Rectification of the Cartography of North-East Tasmania.

AUGUSTUS SIMSON.

Mr. Augustus Simson was the oldest and best known of all the local naturalists in Northern Tasmania; he in truth maintained the title of 'Naturalist' in its fullest meaning, having little in common with the "Nature Students" of to-day. His methods were of the old school of steady plodders, who collected, arranged, and classified with scrupulous care and neatness, while his field was the whole

realm of nature! Insects—especially Coleoptera—found a large share of his collected treasures, but shells and plants filled many of his trays and cabinets. Deeply impressed with the utility of the Rev. W. W. Spicer's key to the Tasmanian Flora, Mr. Simson early made himself master of this dichotomous system, and all his botanical taxonomy followed the lines laid down by that writer. As a scientific man, Mr. Simson was best known to the general public through his connection with the 'Northern Tasmanian Natural Science Association,' of which he was one of the founders and most enthusiastic supporters. As Secretary of the Society, he was particularly well placed, his wide knowledge of the Tasmanian Fauna and Flora supplying all the elements for a successful officer. Some few of the younger workers still recall collecting trips at which he attended, but of recent years the study, rather than the field, claimed the lion's share of his attention. Mr. Simson's collections have been sold to well-known scientific Institutions, including the Rothschild Museum at Tring. He was a member of the Linnean Society of New South Wales; Royal Society of South Australia; Société Entomologique of Brussels; and the Royal Society of Tasmania. He died at a ripe old age on 21st May, 1918."

H. H. SCOTT.

HON. HENRY DOBSON.

The Hon. Henry Dobson was elected a member of the Society in 1861. Owing to the keen interest which he displayed in his professional and political life, he was unable to devote much time to the details of the Society's activities. Among his many public works, perhaps, his ardent enthusiasm in advancing the claims of Tasmania as a tourist resort stands out paramount. He never tired in his endeavour to advertise the beauty spots of the Island, and to assist in making them accessible to the public. His work in the early days of the Tourist Association will ever be remembered. Mainly on account of his work in this direction he was elected as the Society's representative on the National Park Board, upon the foundation of that body. His worth was immediately recognised, for he was selected as the first chairman of the Board, and held the position until his death. His interest continued until the last, and although far from well he continued to take a deep interest in the development of the Park, and in his capacity as chairman of the Board he gave very detailed consideration to all proposals for the development and management of the area.