

THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS

1927.

28th FEBRUARY, 1927.

Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting was held on the 28th February at the Royal Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, the President of the Society, His Excellency Sir James O'Grady, K.C.M.G., presiding.

The Annual Report was read and adopted. The following were elected members of the Council for 1927:—Dr. A. H. Clarke, Mr. W. H. Clemes, Dr. W. E. L. Crowther, Mr. W. H. Cummins, Major L. F. Giblin, Mr. J. A. Johnson, Mr. A. N. Lewis, Mr. E. E. Unwin, and Mr. C. E. Lord (*ex officio*).

Mr. Walter E. Taylor was elected auditor.

The following members were elected:—Messrs. T. H. Atkinson, G. L. Barnes, S. G. Cooper, W. T. Gellibrand, C. L. Gillies, H. A. Gruin, Colin Kennedy, Dr. Arthur Giblin, Messrs. C. S. King, E. R. Kirby, R. W. Koch, Miss V. E. Mace, Messrs. C. Macfarlane, A. Mathers, Mrs. Meredith, Mr. C. J. Penman, Rev. F. V. Pratt, Miss M. Smith, Messrs. R. S. Russell, H. W. Strutt, Dr. Shugg, Dr. Sweetnam, Mr. L. W. Tankard, Dr. Whishaw, Mr. Frank Wells.

Lecture.

Mr. Clive Lord delivered an illustrated lecture on "The South West Coast and Port Davey."

11th APRIL, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held in the Society's Rooms, on the 11th April, Dr. A. H. Clarke presiding.

The following were elected as members of the Society:—
Miss E. Lawrence, Messrs. David Mellor, J. Morris, G. Murdoch, R. S. Sanderson, F. D. Valentine, G. H. Lord, Dr. J. H. B. Walch.

Papers.

The following papers were read:—

"The South-West Coast and Port Davey." By C. E. Lord.

"Existing Tasmanian Marsupials." By C. E. Lord.

A discussion took place concerning the need for the better protection of the native fauna. Mr. Lord spoke in favour of a special Board of Control.

A discussion took place concerning Mr. Lewis's paper on Tasmanian Physiography, those taking part being Messrs. P. B. Nye, W. H. Clemes, Major Giblin, Professor Pitman, and Mr. A. N. Lewis.

9th MAY, 1927.

Special Meeting.

A Special General Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, on Monday, 9th May, 1927, Dr. A. H. Clarke presiding.

In accordance with notice of motion duly given, Mr. A. N. Lewis moved the following additions to the Rules of the Society. In doing so, Mr. Lewis stated that the proposed rules had been approved by the Council, and by a committee appointed to report on same.

The Council recommends that the following be added to the rules of the Society:—

- (1) That the Royal Society of Tasmania establish a medal to be known as the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal.
- (2) This Medal is to be awarded by the Society in accordance with the undermentioned conditions, for eminence in research in any of the branches of knowledge within the purview for the time being of the Society.
- (3) It is intended that this Medal shall be the Society's recognition of a long period of work of benefit to the community. The award is only to be made when the

Society considers a member to have become eligible. The Medal will not be awarded at any particular interval of time, and may be awarded as frequently as the Society thinks fit. A posthumous award may be made.

- (4) No person shall be eligible to an award of the Medal unless
 - (a) 1. He (or she) has been an ordinary member of the Royal Society of Tasmania and a resident of Tasmania for the ten years immediately prior to the award of the Medal, or
 2. He (or she) has been an ordinary member of the Royal Society of Tasmania and a resident of Tasmania for at least fifteen years during his or her lifetime and is a member of the Society and a resident of Tasmania at the time of the award, or
 3. He (or she) has been a life member of the Royal Society of Tasmania for the five years prior to the award and a resident of Tasmania for ten years immediately prior to the award, or
 4. He (or she) was born in Tasmania and his (or her) parents were at that time Tasmanian residents and he (or she) has attained world-wide pre-eminence in one of the branches of knowledge within the purview for the time being of the Society. And he (or she) is at the time of the award a member of the Society and has contributed a paper of world-wide interest read before the Society during the year previous to the award.
- (b) Except in the case of an award under (a) 4 above, he (or she) is recognised by the Society as having carried out prolonged original research in some subject as aforesaid and has published, at least partly, in the Papers and Proceedings of the Society results of such research which are of value to the community. And except in the case of an award under (a) 4 above, at least ten papers shall have been read during a period of not less than ten years.

- (5) The Council of the Society shall recommend an award to the Society and appoint an ordinary meeting at which the Society shall vote on the question of the award of the Medal. At least seven days' notice of the Council's recommendation shall be sent to each member, and at the meeting appointed by the Council the members present will vote on the question of the award. Any member present may require a ballot, and in such a case the Medal shall not be awarded unless three-fourths of the members present, and voting, vote in the affirmative. An affirmative vote at a duly notified meeting will constitute the award of the Medal. The Medal will then be presented as the Council thinks fit.

When an award of the Medal is made the recipient will be entitled to hold it for life unless the Society, in a manner similar to that prescribed for an award, deprive him (or her) of it.

9th MAY, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, Dr. A. H. Clarke presiding.

The following were elected members of the Society:—Messrs. F. Blake, P. J. Cherry, K. M. Dallas, F. C. E. Knight, K. Orme, M. G. Butcher.

Lecture.

Mr. F. E. Ward delivered an illustrated lecture on "Some Aspects of Grassland Improvement."

13th JUNE, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G., presiding.

Paper.

"Notes on a Series of 'Pounders' from Certain Localities of the West Coast of Tasmania." By R. W. Legge.

Lecture.

Mr. R. S. Russell delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Constitution of Metals in relation to their properties and applications."

11th JULY, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, Dr. A. H. Clarke presiding.

Lecture.

Mr. E. E. Unwin, M.Sc., delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Web of Life."

The Historical Section forwarded a proposal for the erection of a plaque to commemorate the landing of Lieutenant-Governor David Collins in February, 1804, when he selected Sullivan's Cove as a site for the future City of Hobart. A sketch design of the suggested plaque was tabled by Mr. G. W. R. Ife, who moved the adoption of the proposal, and stated that after some thought it had been decided that the nearest spot to the actual landing place on which it was now possible to place such a tablet, would be on one of the buildings belonging to Messrs. H. Jones and Co. The proposed memorial was a copper plaque, the wording being as follows:—"David Collins landed near this spot (Hunter's 'Island') and founded the City of Hobart on the 20th February, 1804."

Mr. A. N. Lewis reminded members of the protracted controversy over the exact situation of Tasman's landing place, and suggested the Historical Section should bring forward more definite data concerning the exact site of the landing. Mr. Clive Lord moved that the lettering of the tablet be altered to omit the words "Hunter's Island," the change being desirable for two reasons, firstly, that it would not be erected on Hunter's Island at all, and secondly, because it was quite possible that Collins did not land on Hunter's Island, but on the foreshore somewhere in the vicinity of where the Customs House now stands. The motion to omit the words "Hunter's Island" was carried.

Destruction of the Platypus.

A discussion took place in reference to the proposal made by certain of the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Commissioners concerning the removal of the restrictions on the killing of Platypus. The following resolution moved by Mr. Lord and seconded by Mr. Lewis was carried:—"That the 'Royal Society of Tasmania notes with regret the Salmon and Freshwater Fisheries Commissioners' proposal to ask 'for the abolition of the total protection of the Platypus

"(*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*). The Society suggests that before further steps are taken the matter be investigated "by a competent authority, and suggests Dr. Colin MacKenzie "and Mr. Harry Burrell in this regard."

8th AUGUST, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, His Excellency Sir James O'Grady presiding.

Paper.

"A Revision of the Tasmanian Lepidoptera." By Dr. Jefferis Turner.

Lecturettes.

Members of the Historical Section delivered a series of lecturettes dealing with the period of Lieutenant-Governor Collins.

12th SEPTEMBER, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, Dr. A. H. Clarke presiding.

The following were elected members of the Society:— Messrs. J. W. Turner and R. J. Thirkell.

Lectures.

Messrs. E. T. Emmett and A. N. Lewis delivered lectures upon the South-West portion of Tasmania, Mr. Emmett dealing with the Hastings Caves and Mr. Lewis with Mount La Pérouse and adjacent country.

10th OCTOBER, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, Dr. A. H. Clarke presiding.

Paper.

The following paper was read:—

"Notes on the Diary of the Rev. Robert Knopwood." By C. E. Lord.

Address.

Professor J. B. Brigden delivered an address upon "The Economic Position of Tasmania."

Royal Society Medal.

The Royal Society's Medal was awarded to Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G.

17th NOVEMBER, 1927.

The Monthly Meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, The Tasmanian Museum, Dr. A. H. Clarke presiding.

Papers.

The following papers were read:—

"Studies in Tasmanian Cetacea. Part VI." By H. H. Scott and Clive Lord.

"Studies in Tasmanian Spiders. Part II." By V. V. Hickman, B.A., B.Sc.

"The Growth of Self-Government in Tasmania." By A. L. Meston, M.A.

"A Further Account of the Geology of the Catamaran Coal Field." By A. N. Lewis, M.C., LL.M.

Dr. A. B. Walkom, General Secretary of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, delivered an address on the work of the Association and the forthcoming meeting of the Association, to be held in Hobart in January, 1928.

Conversazione.

At the conclusion of the meeting a conversazione was held in the Art Gallery.