

In Memoriam

CLIVE ERROL LORD

Editor of this Journal since 1918.

Secretary of the Royal Society of Tasmania and Director of
the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 1918-1933.

Chairman, Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club.

President, Royal Australian Ornithologists' Union, 1931-32.

F.L.S. C.M.Z.S. F.R.A.I.A.

DIED JULY, 1933.

For a quarter of a century the companion and adviser of all seeking knowledge in the realms of natural science and early Tasmanian history.

He raised this Society from insignificance to the status of a national institution.

He saved for the people of Tasmania their dear friends in furs and feathers and sanctuaries of green and coloured beauty.

He taught the people to appreciate their companions of God's wonderful creation and to share his love of his Tasmania.



THE LATE CLIVE E. LORD.

Clive E. Lord, F.L.S.

1889 - 1933

Clive Errol Lord was the eldest son of Octavius Lord, of Hobart, and a direct descendant of David Lord, one of the earliest settlers in Tasmania. In common with other "foundation" families, the Lords have shared the privilege of rendering their island many notable public services; and the subject of this notice carried on this particular family tradition with distinction.

Born in the last years of the Victorian Period, Lord's span of life permitted him to witness the revolutionary changes of thought and manners which so characterised the first quarter of this century. Lord was the possessor of an active and agile intellect, which denied its owner the comforts of stagnation yet allowed him to successfully adapt his outlook in a period of change.

As early as 1904, whilst a pupil of Hutchins School, Hobart, Clive Lord became interested in the subject of his life's work—the natural history of Tasmania. In that year a small band of enthusiasts founded the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club, and Mr. Octavius Lord took his son to the earliest meetings. During the next few years the organised outings of this new association of nature lovers had no more constant attendant than young Lord. As he passed from youth to manhood his interest in the club and its activities grew under the inspired guidance of such leaders as Leonard Rodway, and from an old Club programme of 1911 we learn that Lord had by that year reached the Honorary Secretaryship, the principal position in the organisation.

On leaving school Lord entered the office of a well-known Hobart firm of architects and engineers, and following the completion of his articles he set up in practice as an architect on his own account. It often came as a surprise to those who only knew him in the later stages of his career to learn that he had at one time actively practised as an architect. There is little danger in the surmise that had Lord remained in his profession he would have eventually

become a distinguished member because of his power of adaption and scrupulous care for detail.

In 1917 the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum, to the surprise of the outside public, appointed the young architect to fill the vacant position of Director (or Curator as it was then known) of their institution. The wisdom of their choice soon answered any misinformed criticism; in a very short time Lord demonstrated his ability to administer an important, if somewhat neglected, public institution.

During the years which preceded his Museum appointment Lord had undoubtedly done some very useful work for the cause of natural history and natural science in Tasmania. He had built up the Field Naturalists' Club until it was probably the most active, if not the largest, of its kind in Australia; the standard of its meetings was high, and scientists of national eminence attended its Easter camps on the Tasmanian south-eastern coast. But more important still, the energetic "Hon. Sec.," as he was affectionately known, had succeeded in persuading an indifferent Hobart public that they lived daily in the midst of many remarkable manifestations of Nature. Clive Lord possessed the faculty of interesting all manner of people in the subjects he had at heart. Somehow or other Lord found time in these strenuous days to compile and publish a small guide to the study of Tasmanian bird life.

So far it has been possible in this brief space to deal with the subject's career in something of chronological order. To apply such a method to the remaining period of his life (1917-1933) is scarcely practicable; the Director of the Tasmanian Museum had literally dozens of interests and enthusiasms.

The subject which kindled a great enthusiasm in Clive Lord was the study of the voyages round the Tasmanian coast of the sea explorers. A keen yachtsman, with an interest in hydrography, he was able to follow the old sailors' logs and charts as no "desk" historian could. Lord's little book, "The Early Explorers of Tasmania" (1920), has achieved the eminence of a standard work on the subject. Directly as the result of his researches Tasman, Cook, Furneaux, Bligh, D'Entrecasteaux, Baudin, and Kelly have been set in their proper background in Tasmanian history.

Lord's meticulous regard for historical accuracy and his generous share of moral courage proved not a little disconcerting to his opponents in the public controversy

which followed the erection of the Tasman memorial in 1923.

A deep sense of public duty and a rare love for upspoilt Nature brought Lord to the forefront of the movement which secured a National Park for Tasmania. Whilst others secured the park area, it was Lord, as secretary to the administrating body, who directed the opening up, the real making of the park and natural reserve. It is easy to understand that he was a leader in the later movement which secured the scenic reservation of the Lake St. Clair-Cradle Mt. area.

A public conscience is a hard task-master, and in obedience to it Lord took a very active part in the formation, and later the administration, of the official boards which were set up to regulate the fur-trapping and fishing industries in Tasmania. Again, he took a lively and very practical interest in such local organisations as the Hobart Development League, having civic development as aims. The humanitarian instincts of the man found some satisfaction in the activities of the Hobart Rotary Club, of which he was a foundation member.

The rapid advance towards extreme specialisation in science did little to alter the direction of Clive Lord's researches; from first to last he was a naturalist in the widest meaning of the word. For a number of years the vertebrate animals of Tasmania absorbed his attention, but not to the exclusion of the study of other natural phenomena. Shortly after his appointment to the Tasmanian Museum Lord added to his steadily growing list of publications in the form of a little work on the snakes of Tasmania. This was only a prelude to greater things to come. Sometime about 1920 he commenced an association with Mr. H. H. Scott (Curator of the Launceston Museum) for the purpose of describing the island's vertebrates in the light of modern knowledge. Their joint work soon yielded profitable results; the publication of their observations on certain extinct forms of life in Tasmania attracted international attention, and Lord, as the leader of the work, was honoured with the "blue ribbon" of natural science, election to a Fellowship of the Linnean Society. In 1924 the two investigators published the results of their work in a volume entitled "A Synopsis of the Vertebrate Animals of Tasmania." Some years later the Royal Society of Tasmania presented Lord with its own medal—the exacting conditions

for qualification for this honour having been fulfilled. Some indication of the man's standing in the Australian scientific world may be drawn from his selection as one of his country's representatives to the centenary meeting of the British Association in 1931.

No notice of Lord's career can be adequate without some reference to his labours for the Royal Society of Tasmania and the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. He held the position of Secretary to the Royal Society from 1918 till his death. During that period he brought the same enthusiasm to building up the Society as he had to the Field Naturalists' Club. His record in this respect will be very difficult to equal. Lord undoubtedly possessed a gift for the organisation and piloting of scientific bodies, and he gave a notable demonstration of his abilities in his direction of the Hobart meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science held in 1928.

Clive Lord's breezy, good-natured personality will remain a life-long memory to all who came into contact with him. His many interests and enthusiasms often made him inclined to be impatient with others of lesser warmth and energy. His bountiful fund of humour and easy companionship made him much sought after by his fellows. Clive Lord was one of those rarer individuals who cannot be judged by the higgling values of the market-place.

JOHN REYNOLDS.
(1934.)