

Royal Society of Tasmania.

Annual Report for the Year 1957.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held in the Society's rooms, on 5th March, 1957.

The President, His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania (Sir Ronald Cross), presided.

The following office-bearers were elected:—

Vice-President : Under the Society's Rules, Mr. F. C. Wolfhagen retired from the office of Vice-President and Mr. J. W. C. Wyett was appointed to the vacancy.

Hon. Secretary and Librarian : Dr. W. Bryden.

Hon. Treasurer : Mr. G. E. A. Hale.

Hon. Auditor : Mr. A. M. Hewer.

Council : Under Rule 21, Professor S. W. Carey and Mr. L. W. Miller retired as members of the Council, and the Hon. Mr. Justice Crisp and Mr. R. M. H. Garvie were elected in their places for a period of three years.

The Council made the following appointments for the year:—

- (a) Standing Committee : Mr. J. W. C. Wyett, Dr. W. V. Teniswood, Mr. G. E. A. Hale and the Hon. Secretary (Dr. W. Bryden).
- (b) Representatives on the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery : Professor A. Burn and Mr. G. F. Davies.
- (c) Representative on the Trustees of the Botanical Gardens : Mr. S. Angel.
- (d) Representative to the Library Association of Tasmania : Dr. W. Bryden.
- (e) Representative on the Nomenclature Board : Mr. E. R. Pretymann.

Meetings : Eight ordinary meetings and a special lecture were held during the year in addition to the R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture. The following lectures were delivered:—

March : "The Land of the Rivers" by Mr. R. M. H. Garvie (illustrated).

April : "Some Impressions of Mexico", by Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Luckman (illustrated).

May 7th : "Artificial Breeding of Dairy Cattle", by Mr. G. K. Meldrum (illustrated).

May 13th : Special lecture by M. Jean Querton, Minister for Belgium in Australia, on "The Belgian Congo" (illustrated by two films).

June : "Control of Flowering", by Professor H. N. Barber (illustrated).

July : The following scientific films were shown:—

"Discovery of a New Pigment" (I.C.I. Ltd.).

"Web of Life", Part I. (U.S. Information Service).

"Atoms for Peace" (U.S. Information Service).

"Foothold on Antarctica" (British Petroleum Ltd.).

August : R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture (see below).

September : "Electricity in Plants" by Dr. B. I. H. Scott (illustrated).

October : "The Ecology of the New Zealand Scree Plants", by Dr. F. J. F. Fisher (illustrated).

November : "The Milky Way System", by Dr. W. Buscombe (illustrated).

R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture.—The Council awarded the R. M. Johnston Memorial Medal to Professor Frederick Walker, Professor of Geology, Queen's College, St. Andrews University, Dundee, Scotland. His Excellency Sir Ronald Cross presented the medal, after which Professor Walker delivered the R. M. Johnston Memorial Lecture, his subject being "Underground Phase of Volcanic Activity". The lecture was illustrated.

Miss Jean Beattie.—At the September meeting the Chairman took the opportunity of referring to the valued services rendered to the Society by Miss Jean Beattie over a period of twenty-four years. Miss Beattie was presented with an electric clock and a cheque from a number of the members of the Society.

Joseph Milligan Bequest.—The land at George Town, left to the Society by the late Joseph Milligan, was sold and the money received invested in Government stock. The interest when received will be added to the Milligan Bequest which consists of interest from the investment of the sum received for the sale of land at Bicheno left to the Society by Dr. Milligan and sold some years ago.

Library.—During the year 401 volumes (books and journals) were added to the library in addition to a number of reports and pamphlets from British and foreign institutions and learned societies. The number of institutions on the exchange list is 300. The library now consists of 31,340 volumes.

Membership.—The Society consists of the following financial members:—

Honorary Members	2
Corresponding Members	1
Life Members	33
Ordinary Members—	
Class A	247
Class B	180
	427
Associate Members	20
Total Financial Members	483

During the year forty-two (42) new members were added to the roll while thirty-two (32) names were removed from the lists owing to deaths, resignations, &c.

Northern Branch.—During the year Council has given considerable time to representations made by the Northern Branch concerning finances and some functions of the Society. It is hoped that as a result of these discussions a more satisfactory method may be found to allot necessary finances to both the Northern Branch and the parent Society.

Papers and Proceedings.—Volume 91 of the "Papers and Proceedings" was published and the Society is grateful to the Government of Tasmania for helping to defray the cost of the volume.

Thanks.—The Council records its thanks to Miss E. M. Geddes, Assistant Librarian, for her services to the Society in so many ways. Thanks are extended also to all who have made donations of various kinds during the year.

Statement of Receipts and Payments for Year to 31st December, 1957.

W. E. L. H. CROWTHER, *Vice-President.*
W. BRYDEN, *Hon. Secretary*
G. E. A. HALE, *Hon. Treasurer.*

Northern Branch.

Annual Report, 1957.

The Annual General Meeting of the Northern Branch of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held at the Queen Victoria Museum on March 29th, 1957, when the following were elected to the Branch Council:—

Vice-Chairman : Mr. G. H. Stancombe (1957).

Past-Chairman : Mr. R. S. Smith (ex-officio).

Hon. Secretary-Treasurer : Mr. W. F. Ellis (1957).

Members of Council : Mrs. I. J. Mead (1957, 1958); Dr. J. H. Wilson (1957-1958); Mr. J. Lord (1957).

Those continuing in their term of office were:—

Chairman : Mr. G. H. Crawford (1957).

Council Members : Mr. G. H. Willing (1957); Mr. K. R. von Stieglitz (1957).

The decease of Mr. William Hart, late Vice-Chairman of the Branch, was recorded with deep regret.

ACTIVITIES DURING 1957

General Meetings.

Twelve meetings were held during the year at which the following papers were read:—

22nd February, 1957 : "The Habitat, Economy and Equipment of the Australian Aborigines", by Mr. F. D. McCarthy, Dip.Anthrop.

29th March, 1957 : "Sarawak—Land of the Hornbill", by Mr. Kenneth Pawson.

3rd May, 1957 : "Bird Banding and Bird Migration", by Mr. Duncan McDonald.

31st May, 1957 : "Early Tasmanian Artists", by Mr. Henry Allport, LL.B.

21st June, 1957 : "Some Surprising New Discoveries about the Earth's Magnetism", by Prof. S. W. Carey, D.Sc.

26th July, 1957 : "Early Growth of Sandy Bay, Hobart", by Miss Amy Rowntree, O.B.E., M.A.

30th August, 1957 : "The Changing Population of Tasmania", by Prof. Peter Scott, M.Sc.(Econ.).

11th September, 1957 : "Editing for the Clyde Company", by Mr. P. L. Brown.

30th September, 1957 : "The Land of the Rivers", by Mr. R. M. H. Garvie, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., M.I.E. Aust.

25th October, 1957 : "The Artificial Satellite", by Dr. B. I. H. Scott, B.Sc., Ph.D.

15th November, 1957 : "Looking at the Stars", by Dr. W. Buscombe, M.A., Ph.D.

29th November, 1957 : "W. B. Gould, Artist and Convict in Van Diemen's Land", by Mrs. I. J. Mead, B.A.

Excursions.

Seven excursions were arranged during the year, all of which were well attended. As in previous years, visits were made to places of historical or scientific interest. The excursions were:—

23rd February, 1957 : East Tamar, led by Rev. E. C. Rowland.

24th March, 1957 : Longford District—"Longford House", "Hythe" and "Woodstock", led by Mr. G. H. Stancombe.

14th April, 1957 : Fingal District—"Cullenwood", "Malahide", "Killymoon", led by Mr. K. R. von Steiglitz.

8th September, 1957 : Goliath Portland Cement Co. Ltd., Railton.

13th October, 1957 : Duck Reach and Trevallyn Power Stations, Launceston.

27th October, 1957 : Waterhouse District Land Development, led by Dr. J. H. Wilson.

24th November, 1957 : Longford District—"Belmont", "Norley", "Pinefield".

Sub-Committees.

Two sub-committees were constituted during the year, the first to consider the means whereby the activities of the Branch may be improved and the second to undertake the assembly of documents and pictures of importance to the study of Tasmanian history and, when possible, to gather photographic copies of original material in private ownership.

Each of the sub-committees made good progress with its allotted task. The work of that concerned with the location and preservation of historical material was particularly fruitful but limited by lack of available funds.

Publications.

The transcription of the micro-film copy of the journals of John Helder Wedge has been almost completed and Mr. G. H. Stancombe has made considerable progress with the compilation of the background notes on Wedge. It is anticipated that the manuscript will be ready for publication in 1958.

The earlier publication "The Penal Settlements of Van Diemen's Land" continues to sell steadily, mainly through bookshops and the Queen Victoria Museum.

Statement of Accounts at 31st December, 1957.

Receipts.			Expenditure.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
Balance at 1.1.57	129	7 5	Lectures	43	14 3
Subscription share	130	0 10	Library	46	10 3
Bank interest	5	1 6	Printing and advertising	24	7 4
Sales of publication	10	2 4	Postages and petty cash	43	19 10
			Balance carried forward	116	0 5
	£274	12 1		£274	12 1

W. F. ELLIS, *Hon. Secretary.*

J. R. FORWARD, *Hon. Auditor.*