

The Royal Society of Tasmania

Annual Report

1936

The annual meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, Tasmanian Museum, Hobart, on the 8th March, 1936.

The following were elected as members of the Council for 1936:—
Mr. S. Angel, Mr. H. Allport, Mr. W. H. Clemes, Dr. W. L. Crowther,
Mr. V. V. Hickman, Dr. A. N. Lewis, Hon. L. M. Shoobridge, Mr.
E. E. Unwin, Mr. F. E. Ward.

His Excellency the Governor nominated the following members as
Vice-Presidents:—Mr. F. E. Ward and Mr. V. V. Hickman.

The Council at its first meeting made the following appointments:—

Chairman of the Council: Mr. W. H. Clemes.

Secretary: Dr. Joseph Pearson.

Hon. Treasurer: Mr. S. Angel.

Standing Committee: Mr. Unwin, Dr. Lewis, and Dr. Pearson.

Representatives of the Society on the Board of Trustees of the
Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens:—Mr. W. H. Clemes, Dr.
W. L. Crowther, Dr. A. N. Lewis, Mr. S. Angel, Mr. E. E. Unwin,
Hon. L. M. Shoobridge.

Nine meetings have been held during the year, and, in addition to
the lectures delivered, scientific papers of considerable value and inter-
est were submitted for publication.

(See abstract of meetings for abstracts of lectures, papers, &c.)

The Society's library still continues to be of service to members
and others desiring scientific and historical information. During the
year 479 volumes have been added, bringing the total up to 18,733.

Mrs. Clive Lord continues to act as Assistant Librarian, and under
her supervision the library is gradually being reorganized, and a dis-
tinct improvement has already manifested itself.

The Government has again assisted with the printing of the Papers and Proceedings, and this concession is greatly appreciated by the Council.

The membership for the year, compared with that of 1935, is as follows:—

	1935.	1936.
Honorary members	4	3
Corresponding members	4	3
Life members	7	7
Ordinary members	229	223
	244	238

During the year 11 names were removed from the membership owing to deaths, resignations, &c., and five new members were added.

The Council regrets to have to record that the following members have died during the year:—

Mr. R. W. Giblin.

Mr. L. Rodway.

The Late Leonard Rodway, C.M.G.

The Council wishes to make special mention of the late Mr. Leonard Rodway, who died on 9th March, 1936, in his eighty-third year. Mr. Rodway was the son of Henry Barrow Rodway, of Torquay, Devon, England, and was born in Torquay on 5th October, 1853. He was educated in Birmingham, and later served full time on the Officers' Training Ship 'Worcester,' and passed out with a double first-class extra certificate, a position very seldom obtained; he also passed under steam for the Royal Navy, and was three years midshipman in the George Marshall service.

Having left the sea and gained the Licentiate'ship of the Royal College of Surgeons of London, Mr. Rodway arrived in Tasmania in 1880, and joined the Royal Society of Tasmania four years later. He had always been a prominent member, and had been a member of the Council since 1911, at one time holding the position of Chairman. For some years he was Senior Vice-President of the Society, and was a trustee of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and of the Botanical Gardens. He was appointed Honorary Government Botanist by Sir Edward Braddon in 1896, a position he had held ever since, and it was in the field of botany that Mr. Rodway had performed such outstanding work on behalf of the State; but he had done meritorious work of a civic and scientific nature generally. For



THE LATE LEONARD RODWAY, C.M.G.

instance, he was for many years a member and sometime Vice-Chairman of the Technical School, and for thirty odd years was on the staff of the General Hospital as Honorary Dentist. He performed splendid work for many years as a member of the Domain Improvement Committee; he was Chairman of the National Park Board, and for many years Chairman of the Tasmanian Field Naturalists' Club; he was President of the Sandy Bay Rowing Club and the Tasmanian Branch of the Royal Life-Saving Society, and was prominent in the University Extension Lectures and the Workers' Educational Association. He was a member of the Scenery Preservation Board and also Advisory Officer to the Forestry Department, and for some years Lecturer in Botany to the University.

Mr. Rodway made notable researches in the botany of Tasmania, and, in addition to numerous papers contributed to the Papers and Proceedings of this Society, he found time to compile a comprehensive work on 'The Flora of Tasmania,' as well as smaller handbooks on 'The Wild Flowers of Tasmania,' and a complete description of the Mosses and Hepatics of the State.

Mr. Rodway was awarded the Clarke Memorial Medal of the Royal Society of New South Wales and the medal of the Royal Society of Tasmania for his botanical researches. In 1917 he was awarded the C.M.G. by His Majesty the King, in recognition of his services to the State and to botanical science.

At the monthly meeting of the Society held on 6th April, 1936, the following resolution, proposed by Dr. A. N. Lewis, and seconded by Mr. W. H. Clemes, was carried:—

'That the Royal Society place on record its appreciation of the outstanding work done by the late Mr. Leonard Rodway, C.M.G., and his services to the Society and to the State; and that a letter of condolence be sent to Mrs. Rodway and to the family of the late Mr. Rodway.'

At the monthly meeting of the Society held on 11th May, 1936, it was announced that the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery had decided to make a public appeal for funds to provide a memorial to the late Mr. Rodway. The Royal Society of Tasmania agreed to co-operate with the Trustees in this matter. Subsequently a public meeting was called on 22nd July, 1936, when it was decided to issue an appeal to the public for subscriptions in order to establish a memorial to the late Leonard Rodway, and it was agreed that the money so collected should be expended as follows:—

- (1) A portrait of Mr. Rodway to be painted by his daughter, Mrs. Moore (Florence Rodway).
- (2) The balance to be applied to the purchase of botanical books for the Royal Society's library, such books to be suitably inscribed to indicate that they form part of the Rodway Memorial.

In response to the public appeal the sum of £93 14s. 6d. was collected.

The Council has pleasure in announcing that Mrs. Leonard Rodway has presented her husband's botanical library to the Royal Society. In accepting the gift the Council, after consulting the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, decided to provide room for this library in the Museum herbarium, where it would be at the disposal of botanical students. It was further decided that the library shall be known as 'The Rodway Memorial Library,' and so labelled.

The family of the late Leonard Rodway presented to the Society the Clarke Memorial Medal of the Royal Society of New South Wales and also the medal of the Royal Society of Tasmania. Dr. Rodway, eldest son of the late Leonard Rodway, offered to lend his father's C.M.G. decoration. These offers were gratefully accepted, and it was decided that the medals should be placed in a suitable case, and displayed beneath the portrait of Leonard Rodway, which, when completed, will be hung in the Art Gallery.

Aboriginal Rock Carvings at Mount Cameron West

Concern has been expressed regarding the deterioration of these rock carvings, due to weathering and other causes, and it was suggested that steps should be taken either (a) to remove samples of the carvings to a safe place, or (b) to have casts made which could be placed in the Tasmanian Museum and other museums.

The Council decided to invite Mr. N. B. Tindale, Ethnologist to the South Australian Museum, to visit Mount Cameron West, and report to it as to what, in his opinion, would be the best procedure. With this end in view the Government was requested to make a grant towards the cost of bringing Mr. Tindale to Tasmania, and the Government agreed to make a grant of £30 for this purpose. Ultimately this was increased to £50 15s. 10d.

Mr. Tindale visited Tasmania in April, and, with the Secretary (Dr. Pearson) and Mr. A. L. Meston, visited the rock carvings at Mount Cameron West. Later Mr. Tindale presented a report, in which he recommended that immediate steps be taken to remove about seven of each of the large boulders to the Tasmanian Museum, and that the remaining inscriptions should be, if possible, protected from further weathering by a special treatment of the surface of the rock.

On his way back from Mount Cameron West Mr. Tindale inspected the rock carvings at Devonport, and it was his opinion that one or two outstanding examples of these should be removed to safe keeping

in a museum, and that in addition plaster casts of all the other examples should be prepared for preservation in the National Collection at the Tasmanian Museum.

As the rock carvings at Mount Cameron West are situated on the property of the V.D.L. Company, the Council of the Society requested the Company to give the Council powers to carry out Mr. Tindale's recommendation. The Council is glad to report that the V.D.L. Company, through Mr. A. K. McGaw, C.M.G., has agreed to permit of the removal of any specimens which may be necessary in accordance with Mr. Tindale's report. The only thing that now remains to be done is to approach the Government, to obtain from it financial assistance in order to carry out the scheme which Mr. Tindale proposed. This will be done during the year 1937.