

contour of these lakes, and pointed out that the deepest part of these lakes were 17ft. to 14ft.

Mr. J. B. WALKER drew attention to some old charts in his possession, and promised to furnish the section with a paper at the next meeting dealing with old charts relating to Tasmania.

Mr. J. W. BEATTIE spoke of the country round about Mount King William which he had visited.

Mr. MAULT moved a hearty vote of thanks to the President for his excellent paper, as also to Mr. E. A. Counsel, Surveyor-General, for the loan of a map of Tasmania.

The meeting then closed.

SIR JAMES AGNEW.

Yesterday (October 2nd, 1899) being the anniversary of the 84th birthday of the Hon. Sir James Agnew, K.C.M.G., a large number called at the hon. gentleman's house, conveying their hearty congratulations and good wishes. In the afternoon a meeting of the Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, of which Sir James is the senior vice-president and also chairman of the trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens, was held, Sir James presiding. The following members were present:—Council of the Royal Society and Trustees of the Museum and Gardens, His Excellency the Administrator (the Hon. J. S. Dodds, C.M.G., C.J.), acting-President; Hons. Adye Douglas (President of the Legislative Council), C. H. Grant, M.L.C.; Messrs. A. G. Webster, Russell Young, Thos. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., F.S.S., Bernard Shaw, J. B. Walker, F.R.G.S., and the Secretary and Curator, Mr. A. Morton. Apologies were received from the following members:—The Hon. N. J. Brown, M.E.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly; the Bishop of Tasmania, the Right Rev. H. H. Montgomery, D.D.; Col. W. V. Legge, R.A., Commandant of the Tasmanian forces; and R. S. Bright, M.R.C.S.E.

HIS EXCELLENCY said before the business of the meeting he had been asked to say a few words: Dear Sir James,—On this the anniversary of your 84th birthday, the Royal Society of Tasmania desires to pay you a tribute of respect, and I, as its *ex officio* President, have been requested to offer for your acceptance a photograph of the executive officers, including yourself. Appended to it are the signatures of the gentlemen composing the group, and it is hoped that you will regard it as a token appreciative of the esteem in which you are held by those with whom you have been so long associated. It is

peculiarly fitting that the Royal Society should thus endeavour to show its appreciation of all your patriotic and unselfish efforts to advance the work which it has in hand, because in the long list of distinguished men who have ungrudgingly laboured for the society there is none to whom it is under such deep obligation as yourself. One of its earliest members, one of its most efficient and painstaking officers, the one who has most largely contributed to its funds, you stand out pre-eminently as the man who deserves its gratitude. But whilst I am expressing these sentiments on behalf of the Royal Society, I think that I may say also that very many of the people of this colony entertain the highest esteem and regard for you. Both in public and private life you have commanded the respect and deserved the approbation of all classes of the community. You have been foremost always amongst those who were desirous to work in the best interests of the country in which you have made your home. You have by personal exertion, sound advice, and generous donation, assisted to advance science, and encourage art. Many acts of kindness and charity are recorded in grateful hearts as the result of your large benevolence; and several splendid contributions of money for public purposes testify to your unselfish character and great patriotism. Your life is an object lesson of the influence which a good man can exercise for the benefit of his fellows. You have stimulated others by your conduct, and you have set an example of unimpeachable integrity. May I now offer our congratulations upon the fact that, notwithstanding the ripe old age to which you have been permitted to attain, time has still left your intellect alert and vigorous, and that you are yet able to continue to exercise an influence for good. And of this I may assure you, that when it shall please God to end your labours, you

will be laid to your rest amidst general sorrowing, and that you will be remembered as one who has endeavoured simply and conscientiously to do his duty in every walk of life. (Applause.)

The Hon. Sir JAMES AGNEW feelingly responded, and said he would value the gift very highly.

The Hon. ADYE DOUGLAS said he would like to add a few words to what had already fallen from His Excellency the Administrator. He might say he was the first to

meet Sir James in the year 1840 in Victoria when they were both young men. He could say that all through Sir James Agnew's career he was always looked upon as a fine old English gentleman. (Applause.)

The health of "His Excellency" was proposed by Sir JAMES AGNEW, who said he felt very grateful to the Administrator in being present—one whom the colony might well be proud of, being one of their own, and rising to the highest position in the land. (Cheers).



AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE, 1902 MEETING.

A deputation consisting of the Trustees of the Museum and Members of the Council of the Royal Society waited upon the Ministry on Thursday, November 2, 1899, and asked the Government to place a sum of £500 on the estimates for the purpose of defraying expenses in connection with the annual meeting of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science which it was proposed to hold at Hobart in 1902. It was also requested that all the necessary printing in connection with the meeting should be done at the Government Printing Office.

The Hon. N. J. BROWN, M.E.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly, explained that in 1892 the then Government had complied with a similar request. He said that the fact of the annual meeting of the society being held at Hobart exercised a very advantageous effect, not only from a scientific standpoint, but also from a commercial aspect. It was, of course, a long way to look ahead to the annual meeting of 1902, but immediate action was necessary, inasmuch as a meeting was to be held at Melbourne in January next year, and the delegates who would attend at Melbourne wished to know definitely what support the association was likely to receive at Hobart. A general wish had been expressed that the meeting should be held at Hobart.

Several other members of the Council of the Royal Society supported the reasons advanced by Mr. Brown.

The PREMIER (Hon. N. E. Lewis) expressed pleasure at hearing the views advanced by the deputation. He admitted that the Royal Society was very valuable from an educational point of view, not only in scientific matters, but also in commercial matters. He did not think that

the deputation would expect an immediate answer. The request would receive favourable consideration, and a reply would be given at an early date.

The joint deputation then submitted to the Ministry the following printed statement setting forth the claim of the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery to have their right to land adjoining the present Museum placed beyond dispute. The Trustees of the Museum and Art Gallery claimed through their predecessor the Royal Society, that the whole of the site extending to Davey-street should be permanently vested in them for the benefit of the public.

STATEMENT EXPLAINING THE CLAIM OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY TO HAVE THEIR EQUITABLE RIGHT TO LAND ADJOINING THE PRESENT MUSEUM PLACED BEYOND DISPUTE.

A memorial from the Council and Fellows of the Royal Society and Citizens of Hobart to His Excellency the Governor, dated the 22nd day of June, 1857, sets forth the facts connected with the founding of the Museum in the year 1848, explains the gradual growth of the institution, and the necessity for providing more space than that which was available in the building then held on lease by the Royal Society. The memorial goes on to state—"That upon an application made some time since to your Excellency's Government by the Council of the Royal Society for a site and a grant of money in aid of a Building Fund for a Tasmanian Museum, your Excellency's acquiescence was signified and a request conveyed by your Executive Ministers to the Council of the Society to prepare and submit plans, etc., of a suitable building. That plans, sections, and an elevation, etc., of a spacious building with commodious internal arrangements for a Museum, and accommodation for a Public Library, were