

Mr. L. Rodway raised the question as to the legality of the proxies, as he did not think they had been laid before the Council as the rules required.

The Chairman said that two of the proxies had been irregularly made out, and he did not think that the others could be received, as they had not been considered by the Council.

After some discussion, it was decided that the proxies which had been handed in prior to the meeting should be received, as there had not been a meeting of the Council between the calling of the meeting and that evening.

When the proxies were added to the other votes, the rule was declared agreed to by a majority of one.

On rule 50, which proposed to do away with voting by proxies at any meeting of the society,

Mr. Rodway moved as an amendment that country members or others who were unable to attend should be allowed to vote by post. If only those who attended the meetings were allowed to vote it would tend to destroy the national character of the society.

After discussion, the proposed amendment was agreed to.

Mr. T. Stephens moved as a further amendment that Fellows resident not less than 10 miles from Hobart should be allowed to vote by proxy at special general meetings.

The amendment was negatived, and the rule as amended agreed to.

Postponed rule 4 was agreed to.

It was decided that the new rules should come into force on January 1, 1912, and that in the meantime they should be referred back to the drafting committee for arrangement in suitable sequence.

The meeting then terminated.

JUNE 12th, 1911.

The general monthly meeting of the Society was held at the Museum on Monday evening, June 12th, 1911.

His Excellency Sir Harry Barron, K.C.M.G., occupied the chair.

Messrs. G. V. Brooks, R. S. Dickenson, M.A., E. I. Gower, B.A., Robert Hall, C.M.Z.S., E. H. D. Keene, M.A., R. O. Miller, B.Sc., were elected Fellows of the Society.

The formation of a Biology Section was announced, which would hold its first meeting, to appoint office-bearers, during the month.

Mr. R. Hall announced that, in connection with the Mawson Antarctic Expedition, a committee of twelve had been formed to represent the Royal Society, the Australasian Science Association, and the Field Naturalists' Club. Four members to represent the citizens would be added later.

Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., exhibited a specimen of *Alyxia buxifolia*, sometimes called native sandalwood. Mr. A. M. Lea, F.R.S., showed a case of beetles belonging to the genus *Bactocera*.

Mr. J. W. Beattie read a paper on "Early History of the Islands of Bass Strait." The paper was illustrated by lantern slides prepared from photographs made on a recent tour with His Excellency the Governor, and Ministers.

The paper dealt generally with the physiography of the groups of islands, as well as with the early settlers and voyagers.

His Excellency, at the conclusion of the lecture, said that the half-castes should never have been put down in the islands, like a flock of sheep, without being taught how to make a living, or being given some object in life. There were about 250 of them, and they were a respectable, quiet people, and he believed they would be willing to work, if they could only be shown what to work for. They had now a school, with a schoolmaster and his wife, who had taken up the work in a strong missionary spirit, determined to help them and show them what they had to live for. He hoped to see a great change in the half-castes before long. Flinders Island was now being taken up, and there was a prospect of the islands going ahead. During his visit to the Straits he landed at 13 or 14 islands, and he was perfectly certain that no one who had not visited them could realise the conditions under which the people lived, and the simplicity of their surroundings. Flinders Island had a population of 300, and there was not a doctor, a nurse, or a chemist's shop upon it.

Mr. Rodway's paper on "A New Lichen," and Dr. Noel's paper on "The Tero-Watta," were taken as read.

JULY 10th, 1911.

The general monthly meeting of the Society was held at the Museum on Monday evening, July 10, 1911.

Hon. G. H. Butler, a vice-president, occupied the chair.

Mr. E. L. Piesse moved, "That the Attorney-General be asked to introduce a bill to incorporate the society, and confer upon it powers as to holding property, litigation, and to make and alter rules." He explained that the present Act was an old one, and difficult to understand. There were two small pieces of land in which the society was interested, and there might be others. He had prepared a draft bill containing four operative clauses.

Mr. A. O. Green seconded the motion.

Dr. Noetling moved, and Mr. Ritz seconded, an amendment, that the original Act of 1853 be retained. This was negatived, and Mr. Piesse's motion carried.

The following papers were read:—

(1.) "Notes on *Treubia Insignis*," by L. Rodway. The author reported that it had not been found hitherto in Australia. Its habitat is upon the slopes of Mount Wellington.

(2.) "Notes on the Hunting Sticks, Spears, and Baskets of the Tasmanian Aborigines," by Fritz Noetling, M.A., Ph.D. The author exhibited specimens, and dwelt on the throwing sticks of the aborigines, which, he said, were not curved like the boomerang. The sticks were chiefly used in hunting expeditions. Their spears were of great length, and it was extraordinary that accounts stated that the natives could throw these spears as much as 60 yards. The speaker exhibited two baskets, made of some plant fibres by aborigines, and mentioned the interesting fact that they were identical with the rude sedge baskets made by the lake dwellers of Europe in the middle glacial period.

Dr. Clarke mentioned that he once knew an old man who was wounded by one of those spears. He was 102 years of age when he (Dr. Clarke) knew him, and he stated that in 1827 he was out in the Tower Hill district with a survey party, when a party of blackfellows sneaked up, and one of them flung a spear at him, which wounded him in the fleshy part of the arm. The old man died at the age of 102 years.

Messrs. A. J. Taylor and L. Rodway took part in the discussion.

The reading of a paper by Mr. H. Stuart Dove "On the Connection of Swifts with the Weather" was postponed, and the meeting terminated.

JULY 31, 1911.

A special general meeting of the society was held at the Museum at 8 p.m.

His Excellency Sir Harry Barron, K.C.M.G., presided.

The meeting was convened with the purpose of hearing a lecture by Comte de Fleurieu, a member of the French Geographical Society, on the early geography of Tasmania.

The visiting lecturer said that in the days of the old French navigators, D'Entrecasteaux, Baudin, and Peron, his great uncle, Chevalier de Fleurieu, had been high in the Marine Department of France, and his name had been given to several of the discoveries made in Australian waters. When he (the lecturer) first came out to Australia he was disappointed to find that none of the names so given had been retained.

Fleurieu Bay was now called Oyster Bay, Fleurieu Island was Cape Barren Island, and when he went to Port Cygnet to see the Fleurieu River of the old charts he found that it was called the Agnes Rivulet. He then gave a description of the expeditions sent out by France, and of the work done by Flinders up to the time of his arrival at the Isle of France, where he was detained a prisoner for six years. He defended the French from the charges which had been made against them of having copied Flinders's charts, and pointed out that the French charts, in some cases, dealt with portions of the coast, especially on the north and west of Australia, that Flinders had never visited. In regard to nomenclature, he pointed out the necessity of adhering, as far as possible, to the original names, especially those that bore a historic signification. A number of the early charts of Tasmania were then shown by means of an optical lantern. Commencing with the charts of Tasman, the lecturer explained them, and, following on, dealt with those of Marion, Furneaux, D'Entrecasteaux, Hayes, and Flinders. He also compared the French charts with those of Flinders, showing the differences that existed between them. In concluding, the lecturer spoke of the necessity of preserving the names given by the early explorers. If there was a section of the Royal Society devoted to history and geography, he hoped they would take the matter up. If they did so, he believed that the French Government would be glad to send them copies of maps and documents dealing with the matter. If they put back in Tasmanian nomenclature certain names given by the early French and English explorers, they would be adding to the ties which drew the French towards Tasmania, and foster the feelings of sympathy that there were between them.

His Excellency said that the lecture was hardly one that opened up discussion. He was in sympathy with the Comte de Fleurieu, however, in his suggestion that the names given by the grand old explorers should not be allowed to die out, and he thought that they also sympathised with him upon his own historical name having been omitted from our maps. If it was possible to restore the old names, he hoped it would be done. He asked that a vote of thanks to the lecturer might be carried by acclamation, which was done.

The proceedings then terminated.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1911.

The general monthly meeting of the society was held at the Museum in the evening, at 8 o'clock.

Hon. G. H. Butler, a vice-president, occupied the chair.

The Secretary to the Council announced the receipt of eleven handsome volumes detailing the work of the Harriman Alaskan expedition.

The Chairman explained that two offers had been made to the society for a portfolio of drawings in their possession. The meeting decided it should be sold, and fixed the price at £100, the proceeds of sale to be invested as the Council may deem fit, and the interest used as the Council may decide.