

Abstract of Proceedings

1936

9TH MARCH, 1936

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was held at the Society's Rooms, Tasmanian Museum, on this date, the President, His Excellency the Governor, Sir Ernest Clark, K.C.B., C.B.E., presiding.

The following were elected as members of the Council for 1936:—Mr. H. Allport, Mr. S. Angel, 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.

The President appointed the following two Vice-Presidents:—Mr. F. E. Ward and Mr. V. V. Hickman.

Mr. Walter E. Taylor was appointed Hon. Auditor.

An interesting paper by Mrs. J. McElroy on 'The Times and Some Contemporaries of Lieutenant-Colonel Paterson, Founder of Launceston,' was read by Mr. Wilfred Hudspeth, in the unavoidable absence of the authoress, of which the following is an abstract:—

The writer stressed the fact that the key to early Tasmanian history lay in a good knowledge of the early history of the Mother Colony, New South Wales, whose dependency Tasmania was from the first settlement in 1803 to 1825. Governor King's difficulties with the rebellious New South Wales Corps, the 'Rum Corps,' were outlined, and an account given of Colonel Paterson's famous duel with Captain Macarthur, and also of the dispute between King and Captain Colnett, of H.M.S. 'Glatton,' which led to the unjust recall of the Governor. It was noted that Mrs. Paterson and Mrs. King were the first ladies to sit on any Australian committee, that of the Orphan School, which formed a model for the later Tasmanian institution.

It was recorded that 'Phlegmatic Paterson,' as he was called, was Lieutenant-Governor at Launceston when Governor Bligh was deposed at Sydney by the New South Wales Corps, and as commanding officer he should have returned to quell the insurrection. But unable to make up his mind which side to support, he remained at Port Dalrymple as long as possible, and when he did assume the command at Sydney his more active conferees carried on the Government. On the arrival of Macquarie, Paterson, together with the other officers, was ordered to England to stand his trial, but he died on the voyage.

Portraits of Governor and Mrs. Macquarie, Captain A. F. Kemp, Lieutenant E. Lord, Bowen, Collins, King, Bligh, Hunter, Banks, and others were exhibited.

6TH APRIL, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms on this date. In the absence of the President, His Excellency Sir Ernest Clark, K.C.B., C.B.E., Mr. F. E. Ward presided.

It was notified that the new Council had made the following appointments:—Chairman of Council, Mr. W. H. Clemes; Secretary, Dr. J. Pearson; Treasurer, Mr. S. Angel; Standing Committee, Dr. A. N. Lewis, Mr. E. E. Unwin, and the Secretary. Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery and the Botanical Gardens:—Messrs. Clemes, Unwin, L. M. Shoobridge, M.L.C., and S. Angel, and Drs. W. L. Crowther and A. N. Lewis.

Mr. J. W. Evans, M.A., F.R.E.S., delivered an illustrated lecture on 'The Scope of Applied Entomology,' of which the following is an abstract:—

He said that applied entomology was a science that was concerned with the study of insect pests and their control. Although insects had troubled mankind from time immemorial, it was only during the past 25 years that scientific research had concerned itself with pest control. Applied entomologists were concerned with the following activities:—The prevention of plants and plant products being destroyed in part or totally by insects; the prevention of the access to susceptible crops of insects that transmitted virus diseases; dealing with insects that attacked man and his domestic and domesticated animals and those that were capable of transmitting diseases to man and other animals; and also the prevention of the spread of injurious insects to areas not yet infested by them. The lecturer gave examples of a few entomological problems under each of the above headings. Control measures of insect pests were discussed briefly, and the influence of climate on insects was mentioned. Referring to the biological control of insect pests (control by means of their natural enemies), Mr. Evans maintained that, although such control measures when successful were most spectacular and satisfactory, they would always prove exceptional.

The second half of the lecture consisted of an account of the Thrips problem. He said that there were many kinds of thrips, all of them being small, inconspicuous insects. On the mainland the *Thrips imaginis* was occasionally a serious pest of apple blossom and the flowers of 'soft' fruits. Though not a pest every year, at varying intervals epidemics occurred which resulted in great losses to fruitgrowers. This particular thrips, though present in Tasmania, was never a pest in this State for climatic reasons. The lecturer gave an account of a thrips investigation, which he illustrated with drawings and diagrams, and showed that sufficient data had been obtained to enable the prediction of thrips infestations, and the recommendation of measures for their control.

11TH MAY, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms on this date, Mr. F. E. Ward presiding.

Mr. G. V. Brooks, Director of Education, gave an address on 'Observations on Educational Institutions in the United States of America, Canada, England, Scotland, and Ireland,' of which the following is an abstract:—

He said that upon reflection after his return from his trip abroad, and after reading accounts of what others had seen, and comparing them with what he had seen, he had asked himself whether his sampling of schools abroad was sufficiently extensive and thorough to enable him to form any worth-while ideas. The answers varied. For parts of the United States the answer was 'yes'; for Canada, 'perhaps'; for England and Ireland, 'yes'; for Scotland, probably 'no.' The methods used in great cities like Chicago would not apply to Tasmania, and he had therefore gone out into the country to find conditions comparable to those of Tasmania. Attention was being directed to country centres, and something that might fit conditions in Tasmania was being evolved.

At the beginning of the year experiments were made at Sheffield and Hagley. A centre was chosen to serve schools within a radius of 5 or 6 miles. The children were provided with bicycles, and rode to the central town every day. They would spend three years at the centre, and the system was working remarkably well. The type of education was distinctly rural, and the school spirit was fine. The scheme cost less than the high school, and in some ways served the same purpose.

Dealing with library developments and the reading habit applied to schools, Mr. Brooks said that in Hawaii he was struck by the way in which the children were taught how to read and to be at home in a library. In England there was a strong library spirit. In Tasmania too little was done.

Mr. Brooks further discussed modern trends in school-building and methods of management, comparing the centralised system of the Australian States to its advantage with the methods of control in the United States and Canada.

18TH JUNE, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms on this date, the President, His Excellency the Governor, presiding.

The following member was elected:—Mr. H. H. Pearce.

Professor F. E. Lloyd, Professor of Botany in the McGill University, Montreal, gave a lecture entitled 'The Carnivorous Plants of the World,' of which the following is an abstract:—

The Professor, who has made an extensive study of carnivorous plants, stated that Australia was of particular interest in relation to them, as in the Commonwealth, he thought, there were more kinds of these plants than in any other country in the world. He expressed himself a firm believer in the old Chinese proverb: 'A hundred hearings is not as good as one seeing.' Professor Lloyd illustrated his remarks with a series of lantern slides, in which the main features of many of the 450 kinds of plants that capture and digest insects and other such creatures were shown.

The latter portion of the lecture comprised motion pictures of several of the carnivorous plants in actual action, and of the principles on which the main species operate.

13TH JULY, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms on this date, the President, His Excellency the Governor, presiding.

Dr. W. Arundel Orchard gave an interesting lecture entitled 'The Evolution of Keyboard Instruments and Their Music,' of which the following is an abstract:—

Dr. Orchard told how in 1885 the small clay model of an organ with pipes and a keyboard had been discovered among ruins of ancient Carthage. The instrument was made by the Egyptian Ctesibius, and was dated about 329 B.C. The organ appeared to have been used in the church for the first time in Spain, about the fifth century, but without any knowledge of the ancient instrument. It was merely a set of pipes with a slide under each pipe. The keys, about 2 inches wide and 18 inches long, gradually became smaller.

It was not until the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries that one heard of a small keyboard adapted to strings. The first instrument of this type seemed to be the clavichord, the wires whereof were pressed by a brass tangent acted on by a key. The sound was very quiet. One beauty was that as long as one kept a finger on the key the sound continued, so that one could get a "Bebung" or vibrato. Hence the partiality of John Sebastian Bach for the instrument. Many of his famous fugues sounded much better on it than on the modern piano.

The instrument, called in English the virginal and in Italian the spinet, was played in another way. At the end of the key within the instrument was an upright piece of wood known as a jack, tipped with a piece of leather or a quill. The harpsichord had on a larger scale the same action as the virginal. Dr. Orchard gave examples of harpsichord music played by members of the Dolmetsch family, and showed how popular the instruments were in the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. Dr. Orchard spoke of the great makers, beginning with Hans Ruckers, of Antwerp, and Tschudi (forerunner of Broadwoods), who made magnificent harpsichords.

10TH AUGUST, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms, the President, His Excellency the Governor, presiding.

Mr. A. L. Meston gave an interesting lecture entitled 'The Problem of the Tasmanian Aborigine.' (See this volume, p. 85.)

7TH SEPTEMBER, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms, the President, His Excellency the Governor, presiding.

The first Clive Lord Memorial Lecture was delivered by Professor L. F. Giblin, D.S.O., M.A., Ritchie Professor of Economics, University of Melbourne. His Excellency the Governor presided, and before the lecture presented the Clive Lord Memorial Medal to Professor Giblin.

Professor Giblin took as his subject a general survey of developments of Tasmanian economy, its present position and prospect. He closely analysed the relative growth of population in Tasmania and the mainland of Australia, with special reference to the industries occupying working groups of various classifications, the indication being that Australia's rate of advance was consistently more rapid than that of Tasmania. As regards occupational activity, Tasmania showed a make-up of population different from the Australian average. It was computed that Tasmania's annual income was about 14 millions, which was offset by the heavy burden of interest on public debt as well as the interest on outside money invested in industrial undertakings. On the other hand, the State benefited to the extent of one million pounds received from the Commonwealth. In 1934-35 Tasmania's imports exceeded her exports by nearly £360,000. The State could not indefinitely go on living on its debts. It was noteworthy that over 90 per cent. of her exports were interstate. Tasmania, therefore, was most inter-dependent of the States of Australia, and, despite her insular position, was more organically a part of Australia than any other State. It followed that prosperity and progress for Tasmania was very closely bound up with the prosperity of Australia as a whole. A view of the State's chief products suggested the same conclusion. There was very little scope for expansion in the wool trade, and, as regards metals, new mining fields of importance were still possible but not very probable.

Tasmania's other important overseas export was apples, of which there was a sorry tale to tell. Over-production had been disastrous, and it would pay Tasmania better to restrict her exports of apples. Everything pointed to the fact that the prosperity of Tasmania was intimately bound up with that of Australia as a whole, and the conclusion was that Tasmania must link itself with Australian development. The lecturer then went on to examine the true position of Australia as a whole from this point of view.

In conclusion, the lecturer stated that a general increase of world's trade was essential to Australia's industrial development, and there was hope of this. Tasmania should grasp the chance that would present itself in Australia's increased development, but more intelligently organized methods were definitely called for in this direction. Tasmania, therefore, should set herself to study every possibility of increasing her mainland market, and should shape her industries to share the results of Australia's domestic expansion.

12TH OCTOBER, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms, Mr. F. E. Ward, in the absence of His Excellency the Governor, presiding.

The following member was elected:—Hon. E. Dwyer-Gray.

The following papers, submitted for the 1936 Papers and Proceedings, were tabled, and referred to the Standing Committee:—

- 'The Occurrence of Fossil Plants at Warrentinna, Tasmania,' by Isabel C. Cookson, D.Sc.
- 'Australian Leaf-hoppers (Jassoidea, Homoptera), Part 4,' by J. W. Evans, M.A., F.R.E.S.
- 'Australian Leaf-hoppers (Jassoidea, Homoptera), Part 5,' by J. W. Evans, M.A., F.R.E.S.

Mr. H. T. Parker delivered a lecture entitled 'The Examiners on the Defensive,' of which the following is an abstract:—

Mr. Parker said examinations were typically authoritarian. The autocracy of the examiner, founded on prestige, probably arose from respect for the exactitude which attached to empirical-mathematical facts. A report was published towards the end of last year by an English committee of inquiry under the chairmanship of Sir Michael Sadler, and including such outstanding educationists as Dr. P. B. Ballard, Dr. C. Spearman, Sir Percy Nunn, and Sir Philip Hartog. The committee gathered actual examination scripts, and had them examined by sets of recognized examiners. They then made comparisons of the results obtained. The marks allotted by examiners for any one paper showed wide discrepancies. When an examiner marked a paper for a second time it was not unusual for him to change his own verdict. But there was a more fundamental question to be faced. How did that which examinations purported to measure agree with the ideal or the actual product of education? Quite commonly they spoke of teachers preparing pupils for examinations, yet every educator knew that such a process was a debasement of the function of the teacher. The examination did not set out to test the result of teaching, but only that examinable part of it which was represented by certain memory and (possibly) intellectual processes. The chief charge against the examiner was that he had undertaken functions which he could by no possibility discharge. These functions had been thrust upon him. But in attempting to discharge them he had essayed the impossible, and so had laid himself open to challenge. Education was concerned with the development of the whole powers of the individual, artistic, intellectual, and social. With the intellectual development alone had the examination any considerable place, and with that, only in respect of what were recognized as its responsive or reactive aspects.

Some points on the other side were that the examiner had no standards to guide him. He was compelled to contrive his own, and was liable to differ from other examiners, and also at times to falter in his own. The limits of his task had not been prescribed. He examined within a certain syllabus, and in self-defence was reduced to observance of the mere letter of a course of instruction. The examiner was forced into a false position by the magnification of his assessment to the relative neglect of other educational outcomes. The examiner was untrained. It was enough for one to be eminent in his profession to be considered eligible as an examiner.

9TH NOVEMBER, 1936

A meeting was held in the Society's Rooms, Mr. V. V. Hickman presiding in the absence of His Excellency the Governor.

The following member was elected:—Mr. J. Burgess Watt.

Dr. W. L. Crowther delivered a lecture entitled 'Sealing in Bass Strait.' (See this volume, p. 79.)

Northern Branch

Annual Report, 1936

The activities of the Northern Branch during 1936 comprised: Annual meeting, followed by public lecture; four monthly meetings (two of them public lectures); six Council meetings.

All meetings were held at the Public Library, Launceston.

12TH MAY, 1936

Annual Meeting

Mr. A. L. Meston presided. The following officials were elected for 1936:—

President: Mr. A. L. Meston.

Council: The President, Hon. Tasman Shields, Mr. W. R. Rolph, Mr. R. S. Padman, Mr. F. Heyward, Mr. D. V. Allen, Mr. J. E. Heritage, Mr. F. Smithies, Mr. J. R. Forward, and the Secretary.

Hon. Secretary: Mr. E. O. G. Scott.

Hon. Auditor: Mr. R. S. Padman.

The statement of accounts, which disclosed a credit balance of £28, was read and adopted.

Public Lecture

The annual meeting was followed at 8 p.m. by a public lecture, 'Heredity, Genetics, and Eugenics,' by Dr. Joseph Pearson, who was introduced by the President. There was an attendance of about 150.

23RD JUNE, 1936

The President, Mr. A. L. Meston, presided.

The meeting took the form of a public lecture, 'The Carnivorous Plants of the World,' by Professor Francis E. Lloyd, McGill University, Montreal. There was an attendance of about 150.

20TH JULY, 1936

The President, Mr. A. L. Meston, presided.

The meeting took the form of a public lecture, 'Hydro-Electric Development in Tasmania,' by Mr. W. E. Maclean, Hydro-Electric Commissioner. There was an attendance of about 200.

24TH AUGUST, 1936

The President, Mr. A. L. Meston, presided.

Illustrated lecture: 'The Problem of the Tasmanian Aborigine.'

Discussion: Messrs. W. Calver, W. R. Rolph, D. V. Alien, and E. Scott took part in the discussion following the lecture.

28TH SEPTEMBER, 1936

The President, Mr. A. L. Meston, presided.

Papers:

- (a) 'The Problem of the Tasmanian Aborigine,' by A. L. Meston, M.A.
- (b) 'Observations on Some Tasmanian Fishes, Part IV.,' by E. O. G. Scott, B.Sc.
- (c) 'Observations on Fishes of the Family Galaxiidae, Part II.,' by E. O. G. Scott, B.Sc.

Exhibits: The President exhibited, and gave a short account of, (a) a Tasmanian aboriginal drinking-cup, (b) a series of Tasmanian pebble-choppers.

COUNCIL MEETINGS

Meetings of the Council were held on 22nd April, 28th May, 10th July, 30th July, 21st September, 10th December.