

I ought really by now to be an O.M. of the A.C., and I fancy the only one. I was summoned to meet Hinchliff to discuss forming the Club early in 1858, but had just engaged to be married and considered the idea of climbing entirely at an end and did not go. I have regretted it any time these sixty years.

Little did I think I should go up Monte Rosa again in my fiftieth year.

Yours faithfully,

ANDW. JOHNSTON.

Woodford Green,
Jan. 1, 1918.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE ALPINE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, W.1., on Monday, December 10, 1917, at 8.30 P.M., Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O., *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected members of the Club—namely, Major C. T. Carfrae, M.C., Rev. A. E. Murray, Mr. A. R. Thomson, and Major Robert Workman.

The **PRESIDENT**, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 29, declared the following gentlemen to be duly elected as officers and members of Committee for 1918.

As *President*, Captain J. P. Farrar, D.S.O.

As *Vice-Presidents*, Lieut.-Col. E. L. Strutt and, in place of Mr. George Yeld whose term of office expires, Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston.

As *Honorary Secretary*, Col. G. E. Gask, D.S.O., R.A.M.C., F.R.C.S.

As *Members of Committee*, Mr. H. W. Belcher, Major J. P. Somers, Lt.-Col. A. H. Tubby, C.M.G., M.B., F.R.C.S., M.S., Rev. W. C. Compton, Mr. W. H. Ellis, Mr. E. B. Harris, and Captain S. L. Courtauld, Major W. G. Johns and Mr. H. F. Montagnier in place of Messrs. J. H. Clapham, W. T. Kirkpatrick and Claude A. Macdonald, who retire by effluxion of time.

Mr. C. H. R. WOLLASTON returned thanks to the members for the honour they had done him in electing him a Vice-President.

It was proposed and seconded and carried unanimously that Messrs. G. E. Howard and R. S. Morrish be elected auditors to audit the Club Accounts for the current year.

The **PRESIDENT** said: I am sure you will all be glad to hear that our Honorary Secretary, Col. G. E. Gask, D.S.O., has recently been promoted full colonel.

Coolidge's *Swiss Travel*, p. 19. The Oberländer were mainly responsible for the evolution of the present ice-axe, the early form of which is shown in the illustration *A.J.* xxx. 284.

The short hatchet was used by the Chamonix men as late as 1854 (cf. *A.J.* xxx. 288 note.)

I regret to say that since our last meeting we have, unhappily, lost four of our members.

The Rev. W. D. Bushell (elected 1863) was seventh Wrangler in 1861, and from 1866-99 a Master at Harrow. He was an ardent volunteer, captain in the Cambridge Volunteer Rifles 1861-4, and commanded the School Rifle Corps at Harrow. He received the V.D. in 1887.

The Rev. J. B. N. Woollnough (elected 1865) was little known to us, as he passed most of his life in Tasmania holding high office in the Church, as well as being member of the House of Assembly. He was a member of the New Zealand A.C.

Mr. H. N. Malan (elected 1872) was, so to say, born in the Club of which his father—H. V. Malan—was a member. Mr. Malan was a diligent attendant at our meetings, and retained his interest in mountaineering matters throughout. He was for many years Registrar of Shipping and Seamen under the Board of Trade. He travelled extensively in the Alps, and was the first to make the traverse of the Weissmies from Simplon to Saas.

Lieut. H. O. S. Gibson (elected 1911) is another of those splendid young soldiers to lose his life in his country's service. He and G. L. Mallory formed Mr. R. G. L. Irving's first party of recruits in 1904—and he was one of those devoted and enthusiastic young mountaineers to whom the Club looked to continue its traditions. I think I am correct in saying that every one of Irving's recruits has done good service in the War, and it is not too much to claim that their Alpine training under a great master has stood them in good stead. Mr. Gibson leaves a widow and two small children, to whom I know the Club's sympathy goes out.

In answer to a question by Mr. Broome, the President stated that Mr. Geoffrey Young was now at Mantua, where his unit, which he had refused to quit, was refitting. He was reported to be as active on crutches as most men on two sound legs.

MAGGIORE CAV. SIR FILIPPO DE FILIPPI, K.C.I.E. (who was heartily cheered on rising), then read a Paper entitled 'The War in the Alps,' which was illustrated by slides and cinematograph films. A discussion followed, and a hearty vote of thanks to Major Sir F. de Filippi for his paper, proposed by the President, was carried unanimously, amidst much applause.