

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 6, 1920, at 8.30 P.M., Professor J. Norman Collie, LL.D., F.R.S., *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected Members of the Club, namely, Mr. A. L. Bill, Mr. H. J. H. Irish, Mr. W. C. Milroy, M.D., and Mr. H. F. Wright.

The PRESIDENT, in accordance with the provisions of Rule 29, there being no other candidates, declared the following members nominated by the Committee to be duly elected as Officers of the Club and Members of Committee for 1921.

As President: Professor J. Norman Collie, LL.D., F.R.S.

As Vice-Presidents: Mr. A. L. Mumm, and, in place of Mr. C. H. R. Wollaston, whose term of office expires, Mr. Godfrey A. Solly.

As Honorary Secretary: Mr. J. E. C. Eaton.

As Members of Committee: Professor E. J. Garwood, F.R.S., Mr. R. L. G. Irving, the Rev. Walter Weston, Mr. R. P. Bicknell, Major M. G. Bradley, Captain E. V. Slater, Colonel the Hon. C. G. Bruce, C.B., M.V.O., Mr. G. E. Howard, and Mr. L. G. Shadbolt—the last three named in the places of Captain S. L. Courtauld, Lieut.-Colonel W. G. Johns, D.S.O., and Mr. H. F. Montagnier, who retire by effluxion of time.

It was proposed and seconded that Messrs. R. S. Morrish and Reginald Graham be elected Auditors to audit the Club accounts for the current year. This was carried unanimously.

The PRESIDENT said:—We have all heard with considerable regret of the death of Mr. E. A. Broome. He was a very old Member of the Club, and was elected in 1889. He served on the Committee in 1900 and was elected Vice-President of the Club in 1912. Mr. Broome was one of those people who have a most extraordinary love of the mountains, a man full of energy and spirit, and a great climber. His death has meant a great loss to the Club. I have only occasionally met him in the Alps, and for that reason I will call upon other members who were far more intimately acquainted with him to say a few words to us. First of all, I should like to read to you a letter I have received from one of his oldest friends, Mr. John J. Withers, who writes:

‘MY DEAR PRESIDENT,—

‘I had hoped to be present to-night at the General Meeting to say a few words, as you kindly suggested I might, in memory of our valiant old friend Broome. I find, however, unexpectedly, that I must be in Cambridge, so, if you will allow me, I will write a few words instead.

‘About Broome’s fine climbing feats, others, more expert than

I, will speak. Of the man himself, one of my closest friends for many years, my appreciation, I am sure, is warranted.

'Broome had to an extraordinary degree two attributes—love of the mountains and affection for his friends. His love for the Alps was the ruling passion of his life. Not only did he delight in climbing them, but everything and everybody connected with them were a joy to him—the guides, the inns, the innkeepers, the village characters. During the winter nothing pleased him more than to gather round his hospitable board a few Alpine friends, to climb his peaks again, praise the daring or skill of some favourite guide, and denounce with Biblical eloquence but with chivalrous anonymity the ancestry and descendants of any clumsy mortal who had been unfortunate enough to send a stone down on him. Memories led to anticipations, and he would plan over and over again the campaign of the coming year, and often in more recent years a lightning trip to the Pyrenees or the Italian valleys in the spring.

'Every mountain inn he had visited was recalled as his home, and everyone who had associated with him there—waiters, waitresses, and porters—were remembered as faithful members of his own household. As he loved, so he hated, and it was a sorry day for any innkeeper or guide who played a trick on him. He never forgot it, and took good care none of his friends did either. Such treachery ate into his soul.

'His friends were mostly from the hunting-field or mountain, and were innumerable. He did not make them rashly or easily, but "their adoption tried," he grappled them to his heart with hoops of steel. He loved to be with them to hear of their doings and tell them of his. Their welfare was a continual care to him, and any misfortune to them was a blow to him. This loyalty was unbounded, and woe to anyone who in his hearing spoke a disparaging remark about anyone of them. So, too, he expected from them an unvarying loyalty, and an apparent lapse from his high ideal was a terrible blow.

'The fine old warrior has passed away and lies among the great peaks, "*felix opportunitate mortis.*" It was sad indeed during the last weeks of his life to see that indomitable spirit clothed in its feeble body. It is contrary to the nature of things that such force and energy has come to an end. Where two or three are gathered together in praise of the mountains, there will his spirit be also.

'I am, my dear President,

'Yours truly,
(sgd.) JOHN J. WITHERS.'

Sir EDWARD DAVIDSON said:—Mr. President, I am very much obliged to you for giving me an opportunity of paying a small tribute to my old friend Mr. Edward Broome. I wish to associate myself with all you have so well said and with all that Mr. Withers

has so well written. As a mountaineer I have known Mr. Broome since 1889, in which year he was elected to the Club. On the first occasion that I met him he was crossing the Matterhorn from Breuil in that year with a large party of friends, but in very indifferent weather, and from that time on we have met in many parts of the Alps year after year. This is not the time to descant in detail on Broome's very remarkable climbing achievements. Originally he was perhaps inclined to be a 'centrist' (to use Sir Martin Conway's expression), but later on he became a cosmopolitan climber and explored the Alps from end to end, from Dauphiné to the Dolomites. He had, in especially, a 'penchant' for following up difficult routes which had been done only once or twice, such as the Col du Mont Dolent, the Col des Grandes Jorasses, and so on. But his energies were not confined to mountaineering, for he was a many-sided man in every way. He was a familiar figure in the hunting-field, and he was also well known in musical circles. I believe that at one of the 'Three-Choir' Festivals, owing to the non-appearance through sudden illness of the professional soloist, he was called upon at very short notice to sing the whole of the baritone part in the oratorio 'Elijah,' which he did with great success. He was a Justice of the Peace and Deputy-Lieutenant for Worcestershire, and took an active part in county business. He was one of the shareholders' auditors of the accounts of the Great Western Railway Company.

But I especially desire now to express my own personal tribute to Mr. Broome, as I had the great good fortune during my term of office as President of the Club to be associated with him, first as junior, and then as senior, Vice-President. He was a real support, and the assistance he gave at all times was invaluable. He was ever ready to step into the breach if occasion arose, and he was always loyalty itself. I cannot help feeling that the Club, as well as myself, owes him a great debt of gratitude for all that he did at that time.

At the end, he had the good fortune to be surrounded by most of his nearest relatives and by many Alpine friends. He passed away under the shadow of the peaks he loved, and he was carried to his rest by the chief guides of the Zermatt valley, which in life had been his familiar and happy hunting-ground. Had the choice rested with him, I feel sure he would have so chosen. Mr. Withers has said of him that he was 'felix opportunitate mortis'; may I add 'Requiescat in pace.'

The Right Hon. LORD STERNDALE said:—I should like, if I may, to say a few words about Mr. Broome, and my excuse for saying anything to-night must be that I had the advantage of being associated with him during the first year of my term of office as President. He was then senior Vice-President, and I received a support and assistance from him equal to that of which Sir Edward Davidson has spoken. Although I was never on a mountain with him, I often met him in the Alps, and I shall miss him much if I ever

go there again. He was a man whose good qualities impressed themselves on his friends in increasing degree, the better he was known.

It is not necessary for me to add anything as to his climbing career. It was long and distinguished and continued almost to his death. I met him last year at Chamonix, and I think it was becoming apparent even to him that his strength was no longer equal to the efforts he wished to make.

Whether his life would have been longer if he had taken things more easily I do not know, but I do not think that he would have wished it. A life of enforced idleness as an invalid would have been unbearable to him. I think he died as he would have wished—amongst the mountains—and almost without having ceased to be an active mountaineer. He was a good sportsman and a good friend, and those who knew him best will feel his loss the most.

The PRESIDENT said:—Another member whose loss we deplore is Mr. Reginald Farrer. He was a true lover of the mountains and a great botanist. He had made many journeys in the western parts of China where mainly unexplored and wild mountainous country is to be found. He died this summer in Burmah, and his death has caused a great void in the Club.

With great regret I have also to announce to you the deaths of two other old Members of the Club, namely, Mr. William Asbury Greene, and Sir William Abney, K.C.B., R.E., F.R.S.

Mr. William Asbury Greene was elected in 1880, and he died on November 7 last.

Sir William Abney was elected in 1877, and he died on December 3. He was well known as a pioneer worker in the field of photographic science. He entered the Royal Engineers at the age of seventeen, and retired in 1881. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1876, served as President of both the Royal Astronomical and the Physical Societies, and in 1905 he was elected a Vice-President of the Royal Institution.

The PRESIDENT brought to the notice of Members various details connected with the Winter Dinner.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Sydney Spencer for his work in connexion with the Photographic Exhibition was heartily acclaimed.

Mr. N. E. ODELL then read a Paper entitled 'Successes and Failures in 1920,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

The PRESIDENT said:—The description of the climbs made by Mr. Odell and his companions makes one feel as if one would like to get out there at once. Undoubtedly the Mont Blanc region is one which cannot be bettered for all-round climbing, and I believe there are still some routes there which remain to be discovered. The ridge climbed by Mr. Odell on the Aiguille Verte seems to have bristled with difficulties, and to get to the top by that route would have been a great performance. The only wonder is that he got as far as he did, and I think he is to be congratulated on his attempt. I now ask you to pass a very hearty vote of thanks to him for his Paper and for the very fine slides he has shown us.

The vote of thanks to Mr. Odell was carried with great acclamation, and the proceedings terminated.

THE ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC EXHIBITION was held in the Hall of the Club from Wednesday, December 1, to Wednesday, December 15. In connexion with the Exhibition an 'At Home' was held on Monday, December 6, when some 400 persons, Members and their friends, attended.

THE ANNUAL WINTER DINNER was held in the King's Hall of the Holborn Restaurant on Tuesday, December 7, 1920, at 7 P.M., Professor J. Norman Collie, LL.D., F.R.S., *President*, in the Chair. There were present 264 Members and their guests, among the latter being Sir Hercules Read, LL.D., Mr. Harold Cox, the Right Rev. Bishop Gore, D.D., and the Right Hon. Sir Gordon Hewart, K.C., M.P., Attorney-General. The usual toasts were given.

A GENERAL MEETING of the Club was held in the Hall, 23 Savile Row, London, W. 1, on Tuesday, February 1, 1921, at 8.30 P.M., Professor J. Norman Collie, F.R.S., *President*, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for and elected Members of the Club, namely, Mr. Henry Baldwin de Villiers-Schwab, Mr. Robert Alexander Frazer, Dr. Nils Backer Gröndahl, the Rev. Canon Joseph Henry Kidd, Mr. Theodore Howard Somervell, F.R.C.S., and Mr. Ralph Forester Stobart.

The PRESIDENT said :—With great regret I have to announce the death of Mr. G. F. Turner, who was elected in 1901. He died in December last.

Another loss to the Club has been caused by the death of Mr. F. W. Bourdillon, who was elected in 1900. He died a fortnight ago. He was a man of very considerable literary tastes, and published several books of poems. Besides being a poet he was well read in the very old French romances. He was a great lover of Switzerland, and he has occasionally read to us some very charming Papers. To his old friends and to all those who knew him his death will mean a very great loss.

Mr. Fitzgerald Whelan, who was elected in 1902, died at the end of last year. I believe Dr. E. H. Stevens knew him well, and I am sure we should all be glad to hear a few words from him. (Dr. Stevens' remarks are reported as an 'In Memoriam' notice.)

Most of the Members have no doubt seen the notices in the Public Press concerning the expedition to Spitzbergen which is now being organised by Oxford University. I have been asked to state that besides the topographical and mountaineering section, of which Mr. N. E. Odell, our member, is to be the leader, there will also be a zoological section attached to this expedition. The last British party went there in 1907, and although they accomplished a great amount of most useful work, there still remains much to be done in order to supplement our knowledge of that land. I understand that they are greatly in need of funds in order to place the expedition

on a sound financial basis, and that subscriptions from any of the Members of this Club would be greatly appreciated. The printed circular on the Notice Board will give you any further particulars that you may require.

I announce with pleasure that Mr. Albert Ball, son of the late John Ball, our first President, has presented to the Library a number of books and pamphlets from his late father's library. The Hon. Librarian has expressed to Mr. Ball our grateful thanks for his gift.

Our congratulations are due and are heartily accorded to Chevalier Victor de Cessole, who has recently been created a Chevalier de la Légion d'Honneur.

Mount Everest Expedition.—The PRESIDENT gave a short exposition of the negotiations leading up to the formation of the Joint Committee which is now considering the question of ways and means for the ascent of Mount Everest. He stated that he received information in December last from Sir Francis Younghusband that the Dalai Lama had promised facilities to an expedition passing through Tibet, and that he (Sir Francis Younghusband), desired to form a Committee of Members of the R.G.S. and of the A.C. to go into the question. The necessity of immediate action being imperative, the President had on his own initiative called together the following Members of the A.C. to sit on this Joint Committee, viz., Captain J. P. Farrar and Mr. C. F. Meade, himself and the Hon. Secretary, Mr. J. E. C. Eaton, sitting as members *ex-officio*. The Members of the Joint Committee representing the R.G.S. were Sir Francis Younghusband, Colonel Jack, Mr. Somers Cocks, and Mr. Arthur R. Hinks. A number of meetings had already been held and considerable progress had been made. The Joint Committee had decided that Mr. Harold Raeburn should be sent out this year in charge of the actual mountaineering party. Mr. Raeburn hoped to leave England some time in March, in advance of the expedition which is expected to cross into Tibet about May, and to reach the neighbourhood of Mt. Everest some time in June. Funds are needed for the financing of the expedition, and a circular will be sent out to Members as soon as possible, setting out the objects, aims, and needs in connexion with this project. As stated, the President had hitherto acted on his own initiative, and what he now desired was that the Club should ratify and confirm the action he had taken in this matter, so that the Club may be identified with the work in hand. The President emphasised the fact that the Alpine Club was not committed to financial liabilities of any kind.

Sir ALEXANDER KENNEDY thereupon moved that the thanks of the Members be accorded the President for the energetic and timely action he had taken with regard to the work of organising this expedition, and that his action be confirmed by the Members present.

Sir EDWARD DAVIDSON seconded, and on being put to the meeting the motion was carried *nem. con.*

Sir FRANCIS YOUNGHUSBAND thanked the members for thus identifying themselves officially with the R.G.S., and said that the great success they had achieved in getting permission from the Dalai Lama to proceed through Tibet was due to Colonel Howard Bury.

The PRESIDENT said :—Members will be glad to hear that His Serene Highness The Prince of Monaco has accepted Honorary Membership of the Club.

Mr. RAYMOND BICKNELL then read a Paper on 'Mont Dolent from the Glacier d'Argentière and the Col des Grandes Jorasses,' which was illustrated by lantern slides.

Comments on the Paper followed, Mr. HUGH E. M. STUTFIELD remarking that he had never listened to a more lucid description of actual climbing. The proceedings terminated with a very hearty vote of thanks to Mr. Bicknell, which was carried with great acclamation.

THE EVEREST EXPEDITION.

Captain Finch was, at the last moment, declared medically unfit for this year's expedition. A renewed attempt, unfortunately unavailing, was made to secure Mr. Ling's co-operation, which Mr. Raeburn had always been anxious to have.

It is much to be regretted that the great experience and never-failing infectious bonhomie of the Scottish President were not available for the expedition, while the varied experience of Captain Finch, especially as a winter mountaineer and expert skieur, his proved powers of leadership on the most difficult and arduous expeditions, his scientific knowledge and great skill in mountain photography are a further loss.

Finally, on the proposal of Mr. Mallory, supported by a letter from Mr. Irving, Mr. G. Bullock was adopted as a member of the expedition.

It should be understood that, in the early stage, inquiries were made of several well-known mountaineers as to joining the expedition. It is, however, possible to few men, at short notice, to arrange to be absent from England for seven or eight months.

CORRIGENDA.—'A.J.' vol. xxxii. (v. also p. 273), p. 367, line 18 from bottom, *read* 'Mr. F. O. Wethered.' Mr. Wethered is a cousin of our very splendid veteran, the late F. T. Wethered. He rowed No. 6 in the Oxford boat in the 1885, 1886, and 1887 Inter-University races, and was formerly a member of the A.C.

P. 386, *for* 'about' *read* 'above.'

END OF VOLUME XXXIII.

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