

the ALPINE JOURNAL, and that the Committee had had before them, at their Meeting in the afternoon, a Resolution of appreciation of Mr. Yeld's long service. The Committee had thought that Members generally would desire to associate themselves with the terms of the Resolution, and he would therefore put the following to the Meeting :

RESOLVED that the Hon. Secretary be requested to write to Mr. George Yeld to express, on behalf of the Club, its warm appreciation of his thirty years' services as Editor and Joint-Editor of the ALPINE JOURNAL, and the hope that his health will allow him to continue in his present office.

This was carried with the greatest enthusiasm, and the Honorary Secretary was thereupon requested to communicate the terms of the Resolution to Mr. George Yeld.

Dr. TOM G. LONGSTAFF then gave a lantern lecture on 'The Diversity of the Himalayan Region.' Mr. A. L. Mumm, Major C. T. Carfrae, Lt.-Col. E. F. Norton, and Mr. N. E. Odell took part in the subsequent discussion, which was closed with the passing of a very cordial vote of thanks to Dr. Longstaff.

DEATH OF MR. COOLIDGE.

We much regret to learn that Mr. Coolidge died on May 8 at Grindelwald, where he had made his home for the last thirty years. His health had been declining for some years following on a serious operation. He died in his sleep, aged nearly 76. Mr. Coolidge was the most extensive Alpine traveller of his time, and a very voluminous writer on Alpine subjects. The Alpine Club owes him a great debt, as not only was he the editor of the JOURNAL for ten eventful years, but he also undertook the revision of Ball's 'Western Alps,' which cost him two years of close work. For his writings and climbers' guides, the whole Alpine fraternity owes him thanks.

Mr. Coolidge became a member of the Club in 1870, at the age of 20, and was made an honorary member in 1905.

An In Memoriam notice will appear in the November JOURNAL.

The following letter has been received :—

DEAR CAPTAIN FARRAR,—On Saturday last Mr. Coolidge died. His death, which was quite sudden and painless, was due to heart failure.

The burial was on Tuesday. Dr. Dübi came from Bern to represent the S.A.C. and various learned societies of which Mr. Coolidge was an honorary member.

All the notables of the village attended. They waited outside the Chalet Montana until the coffin appeared, carried by guides, of whom Gottfried Bohren and Ammater were the leaders.

My wife and I were the only English mourners in the church. It was curious to see the English church packed by Grindelwalders, few, if any, of whom had ever attended an English service. They all stood through the prayers, and would apparently have remained standing if the chaplain had not motioned them to sit down while he read the lessons. The effect was strange—the coffin containing the mortal remains of the old Oxford don in the aisle, the English chaplain, and the characteristically Swiss congregation.

After the service we all walked to the Swiss cemetery, and Dr. Dübi spoke at some length. He spoke with great eloquence and with real feeling of his old friend. He referred to their first meeting among the mountains many years ago, to their long partnership in Alpine research, and to Mr. Coolidge's great work as the first historian who specialised in the history of mountaineering. He paid him full credit for generosity, and mentioned his royal gifts to the various museums. Then, with a candour as rare as it is refreshing in funeral orations, he stated frankly that his old friend had a difficult side to his nature and was inclined to be a trifle 'schroff,' especially in the written word.

The Swiss Pfarrer then spoke the final words, and the mourners dispersed.

The funeral was in the afternoon. It was one of those warm spring days, full of colour and sound. The avalanches poured down the cliffs of the Mettenberg, and their echoes broke in on Dr. Dübi's speech like the low roll of minute guns.

The villagers cherished a real feeling of affection for Mr. Coolidge, less perhaps for him as an individual, for they knew nothing and saw less of him in his later years, than as a venerable institution and a Grindelwald landmark. I think they were always a little flattered that a man of his learning in the world of letters should have made Grindelwald his home.

Yours sincerely,
ARNOLD LUNN.

Chalet Berna,
May 12, 1926.

At the graveside Dr. Dübi delivered the following address :—

'But for the occasion I should be tempted to reproach my departed friend for having once more forestalled me, as he did more than

sixty years ago when, as a youth of 17, he made the ascent of one of the last unconquered summits of the Grisons, upon which I had had my eye. To-day he makes his last ascent, although he is by two years my junior. In after years, when we had got to know each other well, we used to remark how often our ways on the mountains crossed, although we never made an expedition together. So it happened a few days after a hasty meeting in the Maderanertal that each of us had to submit to his first impromptu bivouac, the same night and only a few kilometres apart, he on the Tschingelmannen, I on the Brigelserhörner. Thus old connexions and a ten years' partnership in the service of mountaineering seem to give me a right to address to him, now beyond call, the assurance that we mountaineers of our own and foreign countries recognize with gratitude and affection his great deserts. I feel that I speak not merely in my own name, but that I represent the thoughts and the feelings of many Alpine and scientific societies as well as of others who may not have received notice of this occasion. In particular, I am authorized to represent the Section Berne of the S.A.C., as well as the Central Committee of the same club, the Historical Society of the Canton Berne, and the Swiss Alpine Museum. I am to bear witness that we lose in Mr. Coolidge not only a great mountaineer and scholar, but also a warm friend and patron, who is entitled to this public recognition. It is not mere chance that historical societies in particular have benefited by his literary activities. So far as I know he was the first to treat mountaineering, not simply from the scientific side or as a branch of geography, but from the historical side. Two of his principal works, 'Josias Simler et les Origines de l'Alpinisme' and 'The Alps in Nature and History,' indicate by their titles his point of view. This was the particular mission of Mr. Coolidge upon which I lay stress, even if it is not possible to enumerate here his manifold publications. His is the merit that mountaineering, in so far as it concerns the exploration of the High Alps and its history, has attained to the status of a science. Alpine activities must beware lest it be allowed to lose its place. To this point of view our late friend held fast to the smallest detail. The day will come, though none of us may live to see it, when humanity is perfectly indifferent to mere climbing, but it will always be interested in the reasons which determined the names of mountains, and in the history of their conquest. But our friend went further. He studied the settling of the mountain regions and the movements of the mountain folk. His studies of the wanderings of the Lütcher and the Walsers prove him to be a great authority. His conclusions, examined and amplified by others, may be considered final.

Just as his expeditions extended from the Mediterranean to the Ortler, the Brenta and the Dolomites, so his literary activities covered the same ground, and where his own knowledge did not suffice he knew how to interest all and sundry in his projects. One feature was the unselfishness which allowed others to claim their share in the work.

‘ I should like to allude to one other matter which concerns rather the man than the scholar. Mr. Coolidge gave considerable sums to the Section Berne of the S.A.C., to the Swiss Alpine Museum, and to the Historical Society of the Canton Berne, with the direction that the money should be used for Alpine objects and for historical investigations and publications. This object has been much fostered thereby. Other investigators and libraries could tell of the unselfish manner in which his knowledge and copies of his works were placed at their disposal. His many publications cost him a great amount of work, while offering no prospect of pecuniary reward. I mention these facts, because the acknowledgment due to him was not always forthcoming. In his exchange of ideas he gave generally more than he received, and over this open grave we still owe him thanks.

‘ Mr. Coolidge, whose interests comprised the whole Alps, had an affection for Grindelwald and its mountains. He visited it first in 1865 and remained true to it during a long life—in fact, had made it his home since 1896. Many of his smaller books are a permanent record of the place.

‘ His somewhat self-willed character, probably accentuated by his lost touch, in later years, with his American homeland and his adopted country, England, tended to cut him off from his friends and acquaintances of like interests, and to make intercourse difficult. Probably he harmed himself more than them. To-day, as the grave closes over his virtues and his possible failings, I should like to say that our friend’s heart was in the right place, and that for a good cause, as he understood it, he was always ready to stand fast.

‘ We will now take leave of the man, always ready to give of his best for the mountains that surround us. From them he drew ever fresh strength for his spiritual elevation until the weary body failed.

‘ At the foot of the Grindelwald mountains, which he loved above all, we lay him to his eternal rest.

‘ Ave pia anima ! ’

Owing to Mr. Coolidge’s death occurring at the height of the general strike, the Alpine Club was prevented from making arrangements to be represented at the funeral.