



THE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION  
OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES.

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SESSION-1885-86.

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS,

8TH OCTOBER, 1885.

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HENRY DAVIS, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

The following candidates were balloted for, and duly elected as

**MEMBERS.**

GEORGE MASSEY,  
JOHN E. TOUCH,  
JAMES T. FITZMAURICE,  
JOHN A. L. LEAHY.

The SECRETARY read the Annual Report of the Council, and the Balance Sheet for the year ending 30th September, 1885, as follows :

“The Council have the pleasure of presenting to the members on this occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Association the following Annual Report for the past year :—

“The number of members continues to increase, there having been added to the roll during the past year eighteen corporate members and three students ; whilst four members have resigned, and three members and one student have been erased from the books. The number of names at the 30th September was 140 in all ; being 123 corporate members, nine students, and eight honorary members.

“The accounts for the year having been duly examined by the appointed auditors, are now submitted for the information of members. It will be seen that the expenditure has this year exceeded the income by £49 12s. 3d., the actual income (less the amount transferred from the late exhibition trust fund) being £315 5s. 11d., whilst the expenditure amounted to £364 18s. 2d. This excess is accounted for by the fact of having to pay a very high rental for the meeting rooms, and also the irregularity of the payment of subscriptions by members.

“ A balance-sheet is also submitted, showing the financial position of the Association at the end of the year to be in a satisfactory state. The total investments and other assets amounted to £831 7s. 2d., and the liabilities being nil, the same amount constituted the capital of the Association at the end of the financial year.

“ The following papers were read during the year at the regular general monthly meetings, viz. :—

“ In December, 1884, by Mr. G. Fischer, on the ‘ Pneumatic System of Sewerage,’ the discussion of which occupied the following general meeting in January.

“ In February, by Mr. H. W. Kerle, on ‘ Improvements in Hydraulic Lifts.’

“ In March, a contributed paper by a non-member, Mr. F. Bergin, on ‘ Graphic Statics,’ a subject which was further discussed at the April meeting.

“ In May, two papers were read. The first, by Mr. D. Waugh, on ‘ Mechanical Dairying Appliances ;’ and the second, by Mr. W. Shellshear, on the ‘ Coast Defences.’

“ In June, by Mr. J. W. Rock, on the ‘ Connection of Sydney with North Shore by a Tunnel.’

“ In July, by Mr. G. Fischer, on the ‘ Inoffensive Destruction of Nightsoil and City Refuse.’

“ In August, a paper contributed by Mr. E. C. Wood, a non-member, on ‘ Continuous Girder Bridges,’ which, in the absence of the author, was read by Professor Warren.

“ And in September, a paper was read by Mr. H. W. Kerle on ‘ Flour Mill Machinery.’

“ The Council, in the early part of the year, formulated a circular containing a list of suggested subjects for papers, copies of which were distributed to each of the members and also several non-members, specially inviting them to contribute original papers for reading at the general meetings, and for constituting an annual volume. Two non-members, as already stated, very kindly responded to this invitation, both contributing interesting and valuable papers ; though, amongst the members, very little notice appears to have been taken of this appeal. It is a matter for regret that the efforts of the Council have been attended with so little success, and that the members show so much antipathy to writing papers, especially papers on mechanical subjects, which of late have been the exception ; and considering that twelve papers only are requisite to occupy the regular meetings (though

more could be dealt with), it is somewhat surprising that there is so much difficulty in inducing twelve different members to contribute this number. It is to be hoped that during the ensuing year members will interest themselves more for the common benefit of the Society, and endeavour to overcome this very apparent antipathy, so that a volume of respectable proportions may be produced at the end of the year.

“ During the year several excursions were made to various works of professional interest, the first of which took place on the 11th of October, 1885, and was to view the works on the Illawarra railway line, then just completed, and about to be opened as far as Hurstville. The members, numbering about 70, proceeded by special train to George’s River, and there viewed the fine iron bridge then in course of erection, and a most profitable and pleasant afternoon was spent. On the 11th of July the Association was invited to view the Bondi section of the sewer and outlet works. About 50 members attended, and were courteously conducted by the departmental and contractors’ engineers over the whole of the works, and a satisfactory afternoon was passed. On the 22nd of August the Association was invited to visit the temporary Water Supply Works, then being constructed by Messrs. Hudson Bros. About 50 members proceeded by train to Guildford, where they were met by the Messrs Hudson, and conducted along the fluming which is to convey the water from the end of the canal to the pipes which lead to the Botany dams. And on the 12th of September the members visited the works of Messrs. Hudson Bros. at Granville, for the purpose of seeing the wrought iron pipes being manufactured for the temporary Water Supply Works. On both occasions those present were much interested in the work, and well satisfied with their outing.

“ At the July general meeting it was resolved to again remind the Government of the promised Patent Bill, a draft of which had been prepared by the Association, in conjunction with other societies, in 1883, and which had been presented by a deputation to the Colonial Secretary, who promised to introduce a new bill. Accordingly, a petition to Parliament was prepared, praying for a speedy amendment of the present Act, and, after having been signed by the majority of the members, was presented to the House by Mr. Garrard, M.L.A. Unfortunately, the sudden termination of the Parliament again extends the opportunity for introducing the measure, the want of which is so much felt in the inventive community.

“ At the general meeting, in August, a resolution was passed that this Association hold an exhibition of Mechanical and Scientific Appliances and Inventions, in the year 1886. A committee was formed, and a deputation waited upon the Mayor of Sydney, to request him to grant the free use of the Exhibition Building, at Prince Alfred Park, from the 15th of July to the 30th of August, 1886, for the purpose, which he very kindly assented to, and a formal application to the Municipal Council being necessary, the same was duly forwarded. An executive committee has been appointed to make all necessary arrangements, and it is hoped that every member of the Association will render whatever assistance they are able, to bring about a successful issue.

“ The Council have awarded the gold medal for the year to Mr. G. Fischer, for his valuable contributions on “ Sanitation,” and have also awarded a silver medal to Mr. F. Bergin, for his paper on “ Graphic Statics.”

“ In conclusion, the Council desire to express their thanks to those members who have contributed papers during the year, and also to those who have attended the meetings for the purpose of discussion, and trust that the ensuing year will see the Association still more prosperous.”

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