

THE ENGINEERING ASSOCIATION

OF

NEW SOUTH WALES.

(Established, 1870.

Incorporated, 1884.)

SESSION 1889-90.

PART I.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS,

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

10TH OCTOBER, 1889.

Mr. A. D. NELSON, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

The following candidate was balloted for and duly elected as

MEMBER:

J. W. ROCK.

ANNUAL REPORT AND BALANCE SHEET.—The PRESIDENT read the Annual Report of the Council, and Balance Sheet for the year ending September, 1889, as follows:—

“Your Council, in presenting to you the 19th Annual Report for the year ending September 30th, 1889, feel it incumbent upon them to make some remarks upon the transactions of the past year,

for although they have no hesitation in saying that they, as a professional body, hold their position, and still retain all the prestige which is due to an organisation of the kind, yet they must admit there has been a considerable reduction in the number of members—a circumstance they are extremely sorry to have to report—caused by the great depression which has existed, for some time past in the engineering community, many of the workshops being almost idle; the draughtsmen and consulting engineers have been unable to obtain employment, and those in business to keep up the staff usually employed, hence they have had to sever their connection with us to find fresh fields and pastures new in other colonies. The retrenchment scheme carried out by the Government recently has also had a tendency to decrease their numbers; men who have been for years employed by the Government have been dismissed, causing them to have to encounter difficulties which prevented their names remaining on the books. Then again, the action of the Council, they being compelled to strike off the books those members who have neglected to pay their subscriptions, has considerably decreased the roll; and last of all, the busy hand of death has removed some of their oldest members from their midst. They regret to say the first President of this Association, Mr. J. Fyfe, is one of that number. Those who knew him best, they are sure, will agree with them when they say his career was an honourable one, and that his history should act as a stimulus to those who are left behind. He was a man honoured and respected, who had the courage of his convictions, and was always to the front in matters he believed to be right. They regret also to have to record the deaths of The Hon. J. Sutherland, Mr. W. Grant and Mr. W. C. Bennett, who were identified with the Association, rendered valuable assistance to it, and helped it forward as much as lay in their power so to do; and your Council are sure it requires no words to induce you to think more kindly, more respectfully or more honourably of these members who have joined the great majority. Suffice it to say, they respected them in life, and honour them in death. The total number of members of all classes whose names now remain on the books is 153.

“ Referring to the financial position of the Association, the statements show the income has been more than the expenditure for the past year. While congratulating themselves that they have had ample funds to meet all demands, it will be seen that there is not a great surplus; but they are satisfied that every member will be pleased that the income more than covers the expenditure.

“ Your Council very much regret having to place on record the carelessness and irregularity of a large number of members in paying their subscriptions. A glance at the outstanding subscriptions will show they have members amongst them who are either careless as to the future of the Association or are of an exceedingly mercenary nature. They are sure the members will give the Council the consideration they are entitled to in this matter, as the liabilities must be met, and the only means of accomplishing this is by receiving the subscriptions as they become due, this being the only source of revenue. They therefore earnestly hope members in arrears will pay more attention to the notices of the Secretary in future, so as to keep the finances in a healthy condition.

“ The lease of the present rooms expired in August last. The Council deemed it advisable to remain, as they are in every respect suitable; therefore they have moved in the matter for the purpose of obtaining a further lease, and it is satisfactory to know there is every probability of obtaining this.

“ The summary of business transacted during the last twelve months is as follows:—They have had 14 meetings with an average attendance of 35; the papers have been very interesting and have recorded much valuable information. The list of papers read and subjects discussed are as follows:—

“ In October, 1888, a discussion on Mr. J. B. Henson’s paper on the proposed ‘Western Suburbs Sewerage Scheme.’

“ In December, President’s Opening Address, and the adjourned discussion on Mr. Henson’s paper as above.

“ In January, 1889, on the ‘Modern Tendency of Railway Practice,’ by Mr. W. Shellshear; also a paper by Mr. J. B. Henson, on the ‘Hawkesbury and Nepean Alluvial Deposits and Irrigation.’

“In February, on the ‘Pumping Machinery of the Water Supply of Sydney, and Irrigation,’ by Mr. Norman Selfe.

In March, on ‘Coating Iron and Steel with Copper,’ by Dr. Florance.

“In April, on ‘Sanitary Improvements,’ by Mr. E. W. Cracknell.

“In May, ‘Remarks on Some New South Wales Timbers,’ by Mr. J. H. Maiden; also a paper by Mr. G. A. Key, on ‘Don’s Patent Smoke Consumer and Fuel Economiser.’

“In June, on ‘Tests of New South Wales Timbers,’ by Professor W. H. Warren, and discussion on Mr. J. H. Maiden’s paper.

“In June, Adjourned Meeting. Discussion on Mr. G. A. Key’s paper.

“In July, on ‘Flour Mill Machinery,’ by Mr. A. D. Nelson.

“In August, on ‘Extracting Gold and Silver from Pyrites by a New Wet Process,’ by Dr. Storer.

“In August, at a Special General Meeting, on ‘Water Gas,’ by Mr. J. W. Rock.

“In September, on the ‘Operations of Power Companies and Power Transmission by Compressed Air,’ by Mr. Norman Selfe.

“In September, Adjourned Meeting. Discussion on Mr. N. Selfe’s paper.]

“At the April Meeting, a letter from the Institute of Engineers and Ship-builders of Scotland was submitted, stating that Society had resolved to take the initiation in raising a suitable Memorial to the late Professor McQuorn Rankine, and asking, amongst other kindred Societies, this Association’s consideration and support. The matter was referred to the Council to deal with, who fully recognised its importance, and voted the sum of £10 10s. to so worthy an object.

“At the same meeting a motion was submitted by Mr. W. D. Cruickshank to sanction the limitation of the Association’s Session

to eight months in lieu of twelve, the vacation to embrace the four hottest months of the year, viz. : November, December, January, and February. This arrangement was unanimously approved of and adopted.

“At an Adjourned Meeting in June, Mr. L. Hargrave exhibited a small flying-machine, made by himself, and driven by compressed air.

“At the July Meeting it was announced that Mr. G. Fischer had resigned his office of Editor of Proceedings through pressure of business matters, and that the Council had appointed Mr. H. V. Ahrbecker to fill his place. Also that Mr. R. W. Finlayson had tendered his resignation as a Member of the Council owing to his business engagements, and the Council had appointed Mr G. Fischer to fill the vacancy.

“At the August Meeting, the death of the late Mr. John Fyfe, Senr., at the ripe old age of 86 years was announced (by the Chairman.) Mr. Fyfe was the first President of this Association, 19 years ago, and a motion was agreed to that a resumé of his professional career be recorded in the Association's Proceedings.

“On the 14th September, the Association visited the Patent Asphaltum Company's Works, at Greenwich, and were met and shown over the Works by the Manager and Directors of the Company, when a pleasant and instructive afternoon was spent.

“The Council regret that in consequence of Mr. Fischer's inability to give that amount of attention to the publication of the last year's volume of Proceedings which he had devoted to the previous volumes, and his ultimate resignation of the office of Editor, Volume III. has not yet been issued; but it is hoped that during the next few weeks this volume will have been completed by Mr. Ahrbecker, and will then be ready for issue.

“The Association's previous volumes have been issued to about forty kindred Societies in different parts of the world, and several exchanges have been the result, as per list appended, for which the Council take this opportunity of returning their thanks.

“The question of holding a Scientific and Mechanical Exhibition in connection with the Association has been suggested at one of the Council Meetings, a diversity of opinion existed, consequently no positive action was taken, the opinion of some of the Council being that it would be better to wait until the colony has recovered from the depression which has existed for some time past.”

The SECRETARY then read the Balance Sheet for the year as follows:—