

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1920.

THE thirty-second annual meeting of the Club was held in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen, on 18th December, 1920—Dr. Levack, the Chairman of the Club, presiding. It was preceded by a special general meeting, convened for the purpose of considering and (if so advised) adopting new Rules framed by the Committee. Dr. Levack also presided at this special meeting.

Mr. James A. Parker suggested alterations on some of the proposed new rules, and moved that the rules be remitted back to the Committee for further consideration.

Mr. James A. Hadden moved that a special Committee be appointed to consider the rules and the suggested alterations and other alterations that might be proposed.

Mr. Parker withdrew his motion in favour of Mr. Hadden's, which was ultimately agreed to by the meeting; and the following special Committee was appointed:—Dr. Levack and Messrs. W. Garden, W. M. McPherson, and A. Simpson (of the Committee of the Club), and Messrs. J. A. Hadden, J. D. MacDiarmid, J. A. Parker, and E. W. Watt (as representing the ordinary members), along with Mr. J. A. Nicol, the Secretary, Dr. Levack to be convener.

At the ordinary annual meeting, Mr. Nicol, the Secretary and Treasurer, submitted the accounts for the year, which showed:—

Income	£100 16 4
Expenditure	68 0 10
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Balance at credit of Club	£32 15 6

The expenditure included £3 11s. for the erection of a notice board at the Aviemore entrance to the Làirig Dhrù. The capital account, consisting of life members' subscriptions on deposit receipt, amounted to £22 13s. 6d. The appeal for subscriptions for the repair of the Allt-na-Beinne Bridge had been so successful that, after defraying the cost of the repairs, there was a balance of £4 7s. 8d., which had been placed on deposit receipt. The Eidart Bridge fund amounts to £1 11s. 8d. The membership of the Club at the end of the year was 165.

On the motion of Mr. Parker, the accounts were approved.

The office-bearers were re-elected, and Messrs. D. P. Levack, J. A. Parker, and A. M. M. Williamson were appointed members of Committee, in place of Messrs. W. M. McPherson and R. W.

Mackie (who retired by rotation) and T. R. Gillies. The honorarium of the Secretary and Treasurer was increased from £15 15s. to £21.

The Easter Meet was fixed to be held at Braemar, with the view of climbing Ben Avon and Beinn à Bhuid. It was remitted to the Chairman and the Secretary to arrange for an excursion on the Spring Holiday and for one or more Saturday excursions.

DINNER OF THE CLUB.

The meeting was followed by a dinner—virtually, a new feature of the Club's proceedings, for, though a dinner was held after the first annual meeting of the Club in February, 1890, no similar gathering appears to have been held, apart from the dinners following upon excursions, which at first were more formal than they have become latterly. Most of the members present at the meeting remained to dinner. A number of guests of members were also present, and the company included five ladies, all of them, with one exception, members of the Club. Altogether, there was a company of about 50. Dr. Levack presided.

The "after dinner" proceedings were more varied than usual. A number of very striking photographs of the grand scenery of the Himalayas were thrown on a screen. They were taken by Dr. A. M. Kellas (brother of Mr. Henry Kellas, a member of the Club), who has made many journeys of exploration in these excessively high altitudes (See *C.C.J.*, vii., 180-1), and they included views of Kinchinjunga, K2, and Mount Everest, the highest known mountain in the world. The pictures were described by Mr. Parker. An excellent musical programme was provided, the singers being Mrs. Garden and the Misses Skakle, while Mr. Alex. C. Simpson proved a brilliant accompanist: "Excelsior" and "Lochnagar," so appropriate to the occasion, were most effectively rendered and highly appreciated. The toast-list was brief.

Sheriff Laing proposed the toast of the evening—"The Club." After expressing his cordial appreciation of the Club's invitation to the dinner, he said:—I am sure that your first and deepest and tenderest thought to-night must be of those members of the Club who, in the dark and tragic years during which the Empire was in peril, unhesitatingly placed their services on the altar of duty. These members loved the hills and mountains of Scotland. On them they developed their manhood, and during the years that they served their country, the strength of the hills was theirs. It was through that strength that they pursued the path of duty unflinchingly, and, through the valley of the shadow, rose to the highest peaks of sacrifice. We would remember them to-night. Their memory will ever be present with us.

The selection of the name of your club was a singularly happy inspiration, for it is not only known throughout the length and breadth of Scotland, but is cherished throughout the world wherever Scotsmen are gathered together. It brings back to me the happiest memories of boyhood and young manhood, for I have known and loved that wonderful land which stretches from Dalwhinnie to Boat of Garten. I have trod many parts of that beautiful region. I have walked the Làirig Dhrù; I have ascended Ben Muich Dhui and Cairngorm, and trod the slopes of Braeriach and Cairntoul; I have climbed Sgoran Dubh and looked down that long slope below which lie the dark waters of the loch. I have stood on Ben Muich Dhui when the wind was a hurricane and the rain was lashing, and I have been there on a clear summer's day when half of Scotland lay visible at your feet. This Scotland of ours is, indeed, a beautiful land, beautiful when it lies basking in the radiance of a summer sun, but perhaps even more mysteriously beautiful when, in the autumn or winter, mists and clouds drift across its proud and rugged face.

Of the value of mountaineering it is superfluous to speak in a club composed of those devoted to such an exhilarating sport. Physically and mentally, mountaineering is an admirable tonic, not only giving strength, but making the climber alert, observant, resourceful, reliant. These are not, however, the only benefits and advantages to be derived from mountaineering, for inseparably associated with it is the cultivation of the spirit of comradeship and the spirit of conquest or ambition. Your club is an excellent illustration of the true spirit of comradeship. Mountaineering means companionship—that friendly intercourse which permits of the exchange of views as to the character of the scenery, or the thoughts which arise during the climb. Comradeship is certainly one of the most valuable qualities associated with mountaineering. Of the spirit of conquest, I need hardly say that I do not mean conquest in the military or in the Prussian sense. I mean that spirit of dauntless courage and resource—that spirit of legitimate ambition—which enables one to overcome difficulties and trials and obstacles. The true mountaineer, whenever he sees a range of mountains, feels that he must scale these heights and see what lies beyond. Are not the twin spirits of comradeship and conquest, in the sense in which I have explained, those which our nation, in the industrial, social, economic, and political sphere, urgently requires to enable it to overcome the obstacles and difficulties of the present time? It is because I believe that this club is an excellent training-ground for good citizenship that I appeal to-night to the young men of our city to join the club, and by their enthusiasm, their loyalty, and their comradeship, seek to make it an institution not merely of local, but also of national value and importance. It is in the spirit of comradeship that I again thank you for having invited me here

to-night ; it is in that spirit that I wish you and your club every success and happiness in the future.

The Chairman replied. In the course of some remarks on the objects and delights of mountaineering, he quoted the following lines :—

“ This be your thought as you turn from the summit,
Gripping the rock as you gingerly go,
There where the cliff with the drop of a plummet
Dips to the scree and the valley below—
Men with a mind on a rational basis
Walk on a road (as I'm sure that they should) ;
Yours are the truly delectable places,
Yours is the spice of the Ultimate Good.”

Mr. Garden proposed “The Guests,” and Professor Ashley Mackintosh replied. The other toasts included “The Editor of the *Club Journal*,” “The Secretary,” “The Musical Entertainers,” and “The Chairman.” It transpired that Mr. Robert Anderson was the only original member of the Club present, and that only he and Mr. John Croll of the company present had been present at the first dinner of the Club.

The “first annual dinner” of the Cairngorm Club, following on the first annual meeting, was held in the Palace Hotel on 19th February, 1890, and was attended by 20 members. Mr. Alexander Copland, the Chairman of the Club, presided, and Mr. Robert Harvey, the Treasurer, was croupier. There was a long toast-list. The Chairman proposed “Prosperity to the Club”; his speech in doing so was reproduced in the *C. C. J.*, vii., 196-7. Most of the other speakers on the occasion, like Mr. Copland, have since passed away. A few, however, still survive. Mr. T. R. Gillies responded for “The Scottish Rights of Way Association”; Mr. Robert Anderson replied to the toast of “Tramps and Tramping,” and Mr. Thomas Jamieson to that of “Our Guests”; Mr. George R. Gowans (who had designed an artistic menu card) spoke in response to the sentiment, “Art and Artists”; and Mr. Alex. Inkson McConnochie duly acknowledged the toast of “The Secretary.”