

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CLUB.

THE ANNUAL MEETING.

THE fortieth annual general meeting of the Club was held in the Imperial Hotel, Aberdeen on Saturday, November 24, 1928. The President, Mr. James A. Parker, was in the chair.

With reference to remits from the last annual meeting, reports were submitted by the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. John A. Nicol.

(a) The Blue Hill Cairn.—The President stated that he had arranged to see Colonel D. B. D. Stewart at an early date.

(b) The Shelter Stone.—The Committee recommended that no action should be taken.

(c) In regard to the investment of the Club's funds, it had been decided to put them in the Savings Bank.

(d) As to the suggested leasing of Derry Lodge, it had been found that this was impracticable. It had been suggested, however, that the Club might inquire as to the possibility of securing the use of the Corrour Bothy, apart from one or two days in the season, and putting it into a state of repair.

These reports were approved of.

Mr. Nicol then submitted the accounts which showed that the balance for the year at the credit of the Club was £130 2s. 11d. as compared with £100 14s. 8d. for the previous year, but the cost of No. 67 of the *Journal*, apart from blocks, had still to be met.

On the motion of Mr. Porter, seconded by Mr. Garden, the accounts were adopted.

All the office-bearers were unanimously re-elected. Messrs. Douglas and McCoss retired from the Committee and were not eligible for re-election and there had been another vacancy since 1926. These three places were filled by the unanimous election of Messrs. William Garden, Arthur Taylor, Jun., and James E. Bothwell.

It was decided, on the recommendation of the Committee, to

hold the 1929 New Year Meet at Braemar and the Easter Meet at Spital of Glenshee, or, if the Cairnwell road were blocked, at Clova. For the Spring Holiday excursion Broad Cairn was chosen, in preference to a suggestion for a cross-country walk from Aboyne to Glen Esk. It was remitted to the Committee to arrange Saturday afternoon excursions.

The Allt-na-Beinne Bridge was reported by the President to be very badly in need of painting, and authority was given to have the work carried out at the expense of the Club, the estimated cost being £25.

A report on the Club *Journal* was submitted by the Editor and the President appealed strongly to members for support.

The President referred to the question of amalgamating the Club's three special funds for the Allt-na-Beinne Bridge, the Eidart Bridge, and the Ben Macdhuì Indicator. They were anxious that these three funds should be amalgamated, but it was felt this could not be done without consulting the subscribers. He proposed that a meeting should be called of the subscribers to the Ben Macdhuì Indicator fund and their consent obtained to the amalgamation of that fund with the other two, the united fund then to be available for the repair of indicators and bridges, and similar objects. This was agreed to.

On the motion of the President, the following resolution was very cordially adopted :—

“That the Club put on record their high appreciation of the Guide Book to the Cairngorm Mountains which has recently been issued by the Scottish Mountaineering Club, and that the Hon. Secretary be instructed to convey to that Club our congratulations for the excellent manner in which the book has been prepared and thank them very cordially for having published a book which will be of the greatest value to the members of the Cairngorm Club.”

Hearty votes of thanks were given to Mr. Nicol, the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer (to whom the usual honorarium was also voted) and to his assistant, Mr. Leslie McGregor.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING.

IMMEDIATELY after the annual meeting, a special general meeting was held to consider the following motion :—

“That Rule 17 be altered to read :—The Office-bearers and Ordinary Members of Committee shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting in November to hold office for one year from the day following that meeting. They shall be eligible for re-election provided always that the President and Vice-Presidents

shall not hold their respective office for more than two consecutive years except that the two Vice-Presidents when of equal seniority shall ballot for retirement; and that the three senior Ordinary Members of Committee, to be determined by ballot in cases of equal seniority, will be ineligible for re-election for one year should they have completed three years' consecutive service in that office."

Mr. William Garden, in moving the motion, said he had been discussing this matter with Mr. Parker. They had both come to the conclusion that in a Club like this, it was a very great thing to accelerate the honours as much as possible, so that young fellows might always look forward to getting into office. Following what had been done recently in the S.M.C., he suggested that they should alter Rule 17 as set forth in the motion. When he was President, he had made this suggestion. Mr. Parker agreed with him. It gave the younger members something to look forward to, being in the chair and becoming Vice-Presidents. That was his sole object. Let the honours go round.

Dr. J. R. Levack seconded.

Mr. Walter A. Reid moved the previous question. He did not think this system of rotation should be admitted or carried on. The Club had existed very largely from the long tenure of their Presidents. Mr. Copland, Mr. Gillies, Dr. Levack and Mr. Garden had had a good long spell. Really the success of the Club depended on the continuity of a good President and he did not see why they should tie their hands in this way. He thought it would be quite out of place to make any change in their Rules. Let them have some elasticity. They had prospered on their present system.

The President stated that the number of years during which each of the Presidents had held that office was as follows:— Mr. Copland, 2; Mr. Ruxton, 2; Professor Cameron, 2; Mr. Anderson, 3; Rev. R. Semple, 2; Mr. Porter, 2; Mr. Harvey, 2; Mr. McGregor, 3; Mr. Hadden, 3; Mr. Clarke, 3; Mr. Gillies, 6; Dr. Levack, 6; Mr. Garden, 3.

Dr. J. F. Tocher seconded Mr. Reid.

On a vote being taken, 16 supported the motion and 6 the amendment. The requisite two-thirds majority of those present (27) not having been obtained, the motion was lost.

The proceedings ended with a cordial vote of thanks to the President.

THE ANNUAL DINNER.

A RECORD gathering of 120 members and guests attended the dinner which followed the annual meeting. The chair was taken by the President, Mr. James A. Parker, C.E., and the feature of

the proceedings was his comprehensive and racy narrative of his recent tour round the world, illustrated by many magnificent lantern slides. An account of some part of this with illustrations, we hope to publish in a future issue.

The President, in submitting the toast of "The Club," thanked the members for electing him to that office. He regarded this as a very great honour, following so closely, as it did, on his presidentship of the S.M.C. The Club was still going strong. There were 253 members on the roll, the highest number in its history. In referring to events of the past year, Mr. Parker spoke in sympathetic terms of the Braeriach tragedy last New Year and stated that, on hearing of it at Shanghai, he had written Mr. Baird. The issue of the S.M.C. "Guide" to the Cairngorms was an outstanding event, the book being a notable addition to mountaineering literature and of special value to the members of the Cairngorm Club. He understood that the first edition of 1,500 copies was practically sold out and a second edition was in contemplation. The book was a credit to the S.M.C. and especially to the author, Mr. Henry Alexander, one of their own members. He had, however, noticed that there was one error in the book. The weight of the Cairngorm *massif* above the 2,000 ft. level, was stated, in Appendix B, on the authority of an eminent Aberdeen civil engineer, to be about 234,053,806,401 tons. Astronomers had calculated that the mean distance from the earth to the sun was about $92\frac{1}{2}$ million miles and it appeared that the Cairngorm calculation showed a degree of accuracy comparable to calculating the distance from the earth to the sun to the nearest six inches—(laughter). The stated weight of the Cairngorms, however, was inaccurate, because, since the calculation was made, half a ton of building material had been taken from Derry Lodge to the summit of Ben Macdhui for the Indicator—(more laughter). Mr. Parker went on to refer to his recent tour round the world and spoke in terms of warm appreciation of the very cordial and valuable assistance he had received from members of the Japanese Alpine Club, the Sierra Club, the Mazama Club, Portland Ore.; Mountaineers Inc., Seattle; and, most especially, the Alpine Club of Canada to which he had now been elected. These clubs were very live bodies, the four North American ones holding summer camps for two weeks every year in remote districts. As to their own Club *Journal*, he was disappointed that the June issue had not appeared, the sole reason for that being that the members had not furnished the editor with sufficient material. This was greatly to be regretted and he hoped that members would make a point of contributing to the *Journal*, as it was almost the only bond between many of the members. If, he said, we let the *Journal* down, it would be difficult to maintain the enthusiasm which at present reigned in the Club. A good

magazine, issued regularly, with interesting articles and first class illustrations, is the best assurance we could have for the future prosperity of the Club.

The toast of "The Guests" was given by Dr. D. P. Levack and responded to by Mr. Gilbert Thomson, Glasgow. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, on the call of Dr. J. R. Levack and Mr. Nicol, in acknowledging, threw out the suggestion to the guests and others that they might become members.

The Club song was heartily sung under the leadership of Mr. George Skakle, the composer's brother and he and Miss Skakle, with Miss Rawer as accompanist, submitted an appropriate programme of Scotch music.

EASTER MEET, 1928—AVIEMORE.

Thursday, April 5. D. P. Levack arrived at Cairngorm Hotel, Aviemore, late in the afternoon, and found four ski-ing men, about to try out the snow in the Cairngorms, from their point of view.

Friday, April 6. E. Birnie Reid came off the early train from the south, had breakfast, and, with Levack, motored to Loch Eunach, and had a first class snow climb, in the fourth gully, and on the fifth buttress of Sgoran Dubh. There was some wind, but the weather remained clear the whole day, and the views were magnificent. The return was made along the whole ridge of the mountain, to a point below the upper bothy, and then down to the floor of the valley, and across the bothy, and so home by car, arriving in the late afternoon. The two Robbs, and Miss N. Bruce, had arrived, and it was decided, over a most excellent dinner, to attempt Cairngorm, the following day.

Saturday, April 7. The five members motored to Glen More Lodge, and crossed the forest, being lost through the maze of cut timber and E. B. Reid's sense of direction (?) but eventually came out on the right path, and commenced the ascent in dry but very windy weather. As the snow line was approached, the wind became more violent, and the mist dropped lower and enveloped the party, below the 2500 foot level. Here the wind was at blizzard force, and driving ice particles made it very difficult and painful to see. The last 1000 feet were done entirely by compass, and the summit cairn reached in perfectly awful weather. The whole cairn was buried in drift, and coated with ice crystals. A very short stay was made, and the party returned by the same route, finding most of their footprints obliterated, and having to use the compass continually. The weather had got progressively worse, and did not promise well for the following day. It was found that the ski-ing party had had

to abandon their skis on the saddle between the Lurcher's Crag, and the plateau of Ben Macdhui, having had a very hard battle with the blizzard. It was decided to try the ascent of Ben Macdhui by this route, the next day, and assist in the recovery of the skis.

Sunday, April 8. The Robbs left for home, after an easy morning taking photographs; Miss Bruce, Reid, and Levack motored to a point in the forest, as far as the car could be taken, and then proceeded to the Allt-na-Beinne Bridge, and so on by the Larig path up to the mouth of the pass. There was a gale of wind, and rain began to fall, near the upper limits of the forest, and when the snow line was reached this became sleet and froze on the clothes making the party very cold. The gale increased in force, the higher the level, and it was soon realised that the ascent of the mountain itself would not be possible. It was with some difficulty the party struggled against the blizzard, and found the upper Pool of Dee frozen over. The descent was a welcome relief, with the wind behind, but when the forest was reached the thawing out of frozen clothes made a most uncomfortable end to the day. The contents of a small flask of cognac, in the remains of the thermos coffee, were most acceptable before the return to the hotel.

Monday, April 9. Miss Bruce, Reid and Leveck, returned to Aberdeen by road, via Craigellachie, the Cabrach, and Donside.

D. P. L.

THE Spring Holiday excursion was to Lochnagar, and was taken part in by a considerable number of members. The first of the Saturday afternoon excursions was to Kerloch on June 2. No reports have reached us of either of these events, though, in regard to the latter, a member writes: "I have a hazy recollection of spending a very pleasant afternoon at Kerloch, but I was partially overcome, and collapsed towards the finish, and, at this distant date, have no sufficiently vivid memories of the occasion suitable for publication."

HILL OF FARE—SATURDAY, JUNE 16.

THE Club held a most enjoyable afternoon excursion to the Hill of Fare on June 16. A party of members and guests, under the leadership of the Secretary, met in Golden Square at 1 p.m. and motored to Midmar. The weather was clear, though inclined to be cold, and was ideal for climbing. Several of the numerous tops of the hill were visited including what was alleged to be the real top and the site of the Battle of Corrichie was inspected *en route*. A good view was obtained of the surrounding hills, Lochnagar in

particular standing out very clearly, and Ben Avon and Beinn a' Bhuid were visible in the distance. The descent was made to Deeside, and the party had a delightful walk through beautifully wooded country to Torphins. Here tea was waiting and was much appreciated. The motor run home concluded a thoroughly well-spent afternoon.

CLACHNABEN—SATURDAY, JUNE 30.

A PARTY of members and their guests motored by the South Deeside route to the Cairn Mount Road; the motors were stopped at, or near, Scolly's Cross, the point selected as the most suitable to commence the climb. Leaving the road, beside a roadside quarry, the route lay through rough ground: deer fences had to be climbed over and wet ground crossed. On emerging from a narrow belt of dense trees with low branches, a good hill-path of gentle slope was discovered, and rapid progress was made to the top of Greystane Hill (1,091 ft.), about two miles east of Clachnaben. Attracted by the fine rocky mass on the summit of Threestane Hill (1,250 ft.) some of the party hastened there, and perched on the top of the rocks, on which a fine rough breeze was blowing. Advancing westwards, the top of Mount Shade (1,662 ft.) was soon reached; from there a descent was made to the valley from where the Clachnaben path leads upwards to its rocky summit. Several country members, from both sides of the watershed, had arrived before the main body. The weather was sunny and clear, and a splendid view was obtained of the neighbouring country. Rock-climbers took the opportunity to practise their craft on the cliffs. After spending some time on the summit, the descent was made by the path leading across the Avon and the Feugh to the Inn at Whitestone, where tea was served. The motors returned by the North Deeside road to Aberdeen.

BEN RINNES—SATURDAY, JULY 7.

ON Saturday, July 7, the Club had an afternoon excursion to Ben Rinnes. Members and guests, to the number of about twenty-four left Aberdeen by the one o'clock excursion train for Aberlour. Arrived there, the party were fortunate in finding weather conditions ideal. The thoughtful provision of taxis to convey the party to the foot of the hill enabled them to arrive with all energy reserved for the real work of the day. The ascent was made from Glen Rinnes distillery. The track, soon after the start, climbs up through a wood, where the heat began to be felt. Passing clear of the wood, the different members settled down to their respective walking speeds and the company was soon spread out over the hillside. Two enthusiastic climbers were quickly attracted by the

prominent outcrop of rock high up on the N.E. plateau of the hill and made a bee line for this. The more sober members were content to take the line of least resistance and kept pretty well to the crest of the ridge. The slope was easy, but the track was somewhat rough. In due course the rocky outcrop was reached. It proved to be about three-quarters of a mile from the summit and a few hundred feet lower. A halt was made here for refreshments and the more active members, among whom the ladies were well to the fore, indulged in some practice scrambling on the rocks. A further uphill tramp and the main top (2,755 ft) was reached. The view from here was magnificent and it was generally agreed to be the best that members had seen from that summit. The picture of the Moray and Cromarty Firths, with the background of distant blue hills beyond, deserved special mention. The halt on the summit was all too short, but trains will not wait and Dufftown and tea were six miles distant. The descent was made for a short distance by the east ridge, then through the rough, straight down the N.E. face towards the gap between the two Convals. The Aberlour-Glen Rinnes road was crossed about one-and-a-half miles from its junction with the Glen Rinnes road. An old track leading near a cottage a hundred yards above the road was here picked up. This led by an interesting route, with a rise of about 300 feet to the col between the two Convals and then down past the golf course to Dufftown. Here an excellent tea awaited the more or less weary but happy party, and, afterwards the majority were quite content to be driven to the train in the station bus and so home.