

Manx Notes 285 (2017)

THE MANX LANGUAGE SOCIETY (4) SECOND ANNUAL REPORT (1900)

The annual meeting of this society was held in the Belvedere Hotel on Monday week. Mr A. W. Moore, S.H.K., presided, and there were present: Miss Morrison, Peel; Mr J.C. Crellin, H.K., Rev Canon Savage, Mr W.J. Cain; Mr W. Radcliffe, Andreas; Mr Callow, Laxey; Mr S.K. Broadbent; Mr John Taylor, librarian; Mr W. Cubbon; Mr W. Kneen, Colby; Mr W. Quane, Knocksharry; and the secretary, Mr W. Quayle, Laxey. Letters of apology were sent by Rev Canon Kewley, Mrs Laughton, Miss Corrin, Castletown; the Rev C.H. Leece; Mr P.G. Ralfe; Miss A.L. Williams, South Wales; and Dr Clague.

After a few introductory remarks, the chairman called upon the secretary to read his report, which was as follows:

In presenting to you a brief statement of our proceedings for the past year, I have to confess that the society has practically made no progress during the year. There has been no increase in its membership or finance, and what is still more to be regretted, public interest in the movement seems of late to have reached a low ebb. I am informed that almost all the classes that had been started throughout the Island for the study of the vernacular have ceased to exist, and that there is little likelihood of their being revived. Now, in the presence of this state of things, one may be inclined to look upon our mission as a forlorn one, and to regard the continuance of the society upon the present lines as somewhat of a waste of energy. You will doubtless recollect that this question was discussed at our last meeting, and that it was decided to adjourn the consideration of a proposal to alter the name of our society to our meeting to-day. My own opinion is that in order to make the society an effective organisation, some steps must first of all be taken to increase its revenue. No useful work can be accomplished without the "sinews of war."

Early in the year an invitation to be represented at the Pan-Celtic Congress to be held in Dublin in the month of August was received by this society, and a general meeting of the members was accordingly convened on the 25th May last, when the following delegates were appointed to attend the Congress, viz.: Messrs A.W. Moore, S.H.K.; W.J. Cain; H. Kelly, Rushen; Wm. Quayle, Rev John Quine, Rev Canon Kewley, and Mrs Laughton. A short time after the meeting, however, a communication was received from Mr Fournier, secretary of the Pan-Celtic Committee, stating that, on account of the unsettled state of the public mind in the Celtic countries, occasioned by the South African War, and of the absence of the President, Lord Castletown, it had been considered advisable to postpone the Congress for a year, and to hold it in the course of next August.

In my last report it was stated that this committee contemplated the publication of a MS. grammar submitted to them for that purpose, but owing to the comprehensive character of the work, and the lack of funds, the committee were reluctantly compelled to abandon the project. It was felt, however, that some aid to the study of the native tongue was much needed, and that the society should therefore endeavour to supply the want by the issue of something in the nature of a stepping-stone to the language; and consequently at the last meeting a resolution was carried requesting the secretary to prepare a small Manx Primer for publication by the society. I may say that the work is in hand, and, it is hoped, will shortly be completed.

The Secretary also read the report of the Treasurer (Mrs Laughton) as follows:

Treasurer's Report, 12th November, 1900					
Receipts					
1899	26 members' fees	£	3	5	0
1900	15 members' fees (6 old members, 9 new)		1	17	6
	Bank interest		0	1	8
		£	5	4	2
Expenditure					
1900	Aug. 30, Broadbent's account for printing	£	1	0	0
	Secretary's account		0	7	4
	Use of room for meetings		0	7	0
		£	1	14	4
	Balance in Bank (I.O.M. Ltd., Peel)		3	9	10
		£	5	4	2

F.H. Laughton, Hon. Treasurer.

The President stated that a new monthly journal in the interests of the Celtic nations was about to be published, and that he had been asked to contribute something to its first number, to be issued in December next. What he had sent was:

"RISH CELTIA AIGH-VIE.

(To Celtia Greeting).

Mayest thou be a further bond of union between the Celtic nations, helping them to realise more fully their essential brotherhood, and encouraging them to combine for the promotion of all objects of common interest."

These reports were unanimously passed.

A letter was read from Mr Fournier, the secretary of the Pan-Celtic Congress, stating that the Congress would be held in August, 1901, and that Canon Savage, Mr A. W. Moore, Mr H. Kelly, Mr W.J. Cain, Mr J.P. Crellin, Rev J. Quine, and Rev Canon Kewley were appointed delegates to attend the same.

A discussion took place on the subject of taking a census of Manx speaking people on the Island, when the 1901 census is being taken. After the President, Mr Crellin, Mr Taylor, and Mr Radcliffe had spoken, it was unanimously agreed that the Society write to the Lieut.-Governor requesting him to take the matter into consideration, and it was resolved, "That Mr A.W. Moore, Rev. Canon Savage, and Mr Crellin be a deputation to ask his Excellency the Lieut.-Governor to consider the desirability of inserting a column in the census paper of 1901 to show the number of persons who still speak the Manx language."

The election of officers for 1901 resulted in Canon Savage being appointed president, Mr W. Quayle secretary, and Mr W. Cubbon treasurer. Vice-presidents were also appointed as follows: Dr Clague, Mr A.W. Moore, Canon Kewley, and Deemster Moore. A committee consisting of 10 members was appointed as follows: Messrs J. Taylor, S.K. Broadbent, W. Kneen, W.J. Cain, P.G. Ralfe, Rev. J. Quine, Rev. T.E. Kneale, Rev. C.H. Leece, and Mrs Laughton.

Several new members were proposed, and many suggestions made for rendering the society more efficient.

A vote of thanks to Mr Moore for presiding was heartily accorded.

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STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

