

Manx Notes 287 (2017)

THE MANX LANGUAGE SOCIETY (6) THIRD ANNUAL REPORT (1901)

The annual meeting of the members of the Manx Language Society was held on Thursday of last week in the Empire Boarding House, Promenade. The Rev. Canon Savage, M.A., F.S.A., presided, and there were also present: Miss Morrison, Miss Joughin, Miss Corrin. Rev. John Quine, M.A., Messrs P.G. Ralfe, S.K. Broadbent, Thomas Moore, Miss Corrin, J.J. Kneen, W. Radcliffe, Wm. Quayle (hon. secretary), and W. Cubbon (hon. treasurer).—Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Mr A.W. Moore, S.H.K., Mr J.C. Crellin, H.K., Rev. Canon Kewley, M.A., and Dr Clague.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.—The balance-sheet, presented by the hon. treasurer, showed a balance in hand of £5 5s 9d.

The secretary's report dealt with the work of the society, and briefly summarised the Celtic Congress proceedings.

The report was adopted.

An exhaustive report regarding the adoption of a Manx national dress was presented by Miss Morrison and Miss Corrin, and it was resolved that Miss Morrison, Miss Corrin, the President, Rev. J. Quine, and Mr Quayle, be appointed a committee to devise a suitable national costume.

The Rev. Canon Savage then delivered his presidential address. He said he was proud of having held the position of president for the past year. The fact of his having been elected to the position he considered as a proof that, after 23 years spent on the the island, he was not looked upon as an alien, but as one strongly impregnated with the Manx spirit. The society had under its consideration whether it would not be well to change or add to the name it had hitherto borne, so as to indicate an enlarged sphere of work. There was much to be urged in favour of this wider field of operations, but he was sure the members would wish to preserve with the Manx language everything that was also distinctively Manx. The great feature of the past year had been the census, which had been referred to in the secretary's report. More Manx was spoken than could ever be known by those who were not in active touch with the country people. He trusted that ten years hence the society would be alive and vigorous, and would be able to compare the figures made known with those of the present year. The important point was to take care that the young were taught Manx, for only those who learned it when young were able "to get their tongues round it properly." Another matter mentioned in the secretary's report was the Pan-Celtic Congress held in Dublin. They were not quite ready for a visit of the Congress, but they all hoped to welcome it here some time in the future. They had to face a considerable amount of prejudice, that was the outcome of this very

utilitarian age, which could see no use in anything that could not at once be resolved into its money value. Surely men and women were sent into the world to be something more than mere moneymaking machines. The best work was done for love. If once the material advantage to be gained by the members dominated the society and brought them into their line of action it would be better for them to register the society as a commercial company and see what dividend they would declare. But that was not the highest aim of life, and men must think of other things besides money making. He sincerely trusted that all Manx people, and all who love the Island as he loved it, would band together and strengthen the society, so as to deepen the love and increase the study of all that was essentially Manx.

The President was heartily thanked for his address.

Officers for the ensuing year were elected as follow:

President: Rev Canon Savage, M.A., F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents: Mr A.W. Moore, M.A., Deemster Stevenson Moore, Mr J.C. Crellin, M.A., H.K., Dr Clague, Rev. Canon Kewley, M.A., Rev John Quine, M.A.

Hon. Secretary: Miss Morrison (Peel).

Hon. Treasurer: Mr William Cubbon.

Executive Committee: Miss Corrin, Miss Joughin, Messrs W. Quayle, J.E. Leece, W. Radcliffe, T. Moore, J.J. Kneen.

General Committee: Rev. C.H. Leece, Rev. T.R. Kneale, Mrs Laughton, Messrs J. Taylor, S.K Broadbent, W.J. Cain, P.G. Ralfe, W. Kneen (Croit-e-Caley), and H. Kelly (Ballaqueeny).

New members elected: Miss Joughin (Peel). Miss A.M. Crellin (Orrisdale), Mr W.T. Crennell, H.K., and Mr John E. Cannell (Ramsey).

It was decided that the president convey to Dr Clague the kindly greeting of the society.

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STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

