

Manx Notes 288 (2017)

THE MANX LANGUAGE SOCIETY (7) FOURTH ANNUAL REPORT (1902)

The annual meeting of the members of the Manx Language Society was held in the Reference Department of the Douglas Free Library (by permission of Mr J. Taylor) on Wednesday. The Rev Canon Savage presided over a small attendance. Letters regretting inability to attend were received from Rev C.H. Leece, Mr P.G. Ralfe, and Mr J. Crenell. A lengthy letter was read from Mr E.H. Dodgson, Jesus College, Oxford, in which he exhorted the society to continue its work.

The hon. secretary (Miss Morrison, of Peel) read the annual report, which gave an account of the year's working, and stated that the efforts of the society had been directed to securing the official recognition of Manx in the course of elementary education. The society communicated with the Council of Education on this subject and were informed by that body that Manx had been inserted as a subject for instruction for the evening schools. The report also urged that the children should be looked to for the continuance and the existence of the language, and after references to Manx literature published during the year concludes with an appreciative reference to the efforts of the "Examiner" and another Manx paper in publishing Manx lessons each week.

The report was adopted.

The Chairman said he should like to say how very much they were indebted to Miss Morrison for the enthusiasm she had shown during the time she had been secretary of the society. Nothing could be done without enthusiasm, and he thought she was deserving of their thank. They were hopeful that she would continue to help them in the future.

The hon. treasurer (Mr Wm. Cubbon) presented the balance sheet, which showed a credit balance of £7 12s 3d.

On the motion of the Chairman, seconded by Mr T. Moore, the Rev Canon Kewley was elected auditor on the suggestion of Mr Cubbon.

The Chairman said the next business was an address from the President, but the secretary, in her report, had gone fully into the work of the society during the past year. He would read them a fable.—The Chairman then read a fable concerning the certain species of bird, the *lingua monensis*, which was on the point of becoming extinct, but which by the efforts of a few people, who banded together for the purpose, was saved and issued a numerous progeny. The main point of the story was at once understood as an exhortation to prevent the Manx language dying out.

The Chairman then said he had a proposition to make, and he hoped they would consider it favourably. They all knew what a very keen interest in Manx Dr Clague, of Castletown, had, and though he (Dr Clague) did not take such an active interest

in public affairs that he had done he was sure he would appreciate a message from the meeting asking him to become president for the ensuing year. He had thought of asking him if he would accept the position if it was offered and then it would be better for the meeting to ask him to accept. He was sure they would all agree with him that Dr Clague's services should be recognised, and he had pleasure in proposing that he be asked to be president for the ensuing year.

Mr Nelson (Ramsey) seconded the motion, which was carried.

A telephone message was then sent to Dr Clague, and he replied that he would accept and asked for the assistance of Canon Savage.

The vice-presidents last year were Mr A.W. Moore, C.V.O., S.H.K., Deemster Moore, Mr J. Crellin, Rev. Canon Kewley, and the Rev John Quine.

Mr W. Cubbon proposed the re-election of the vice-presidents.

Mr T. Moore seconded the motion, which was carried.

In regard to the secretary, the Chairman said the society owed much to Miss Morrison, who had helped in every possible way. He would propose that Miss Morrison be reelected.

[5d] Mr Cubbon seconded the motion, which was carried.

The Chairman said that considering the satisfactory balance sheet Mr Cubbon had been able to produce and the increased balance in hand they could not do better than ask him to continue in the position of treasurer.

Mr Kneen proposed the re-election of Mr Cubbon.

Mr J. Taylor seconded the motion, which was carried.

The executive committee was elected as follows: Miss Corrin, Mr Quayle, Mr J.E. Leece, Mr Radcliffe, Rev. T.R. Kneale, Mr Nelson, and Mr T. Moore.

The following were elected to the general committee: Rev O.H. Leece, Rev T.R. Kneale, Mrs Laughton, and Messrs J. Taylor, W.J. Cain, S.K. Broadbent, P.G. Ralfe, J. Kneen, H. Kelly, Richard Lace, T. Hudson, and Miss Joughin.

The Chairman asked as to new members, and said they should try to increase the membership on every possible occasion.

On the motion of Mr W. Cubbon, seconded by Canon Kewley, Mr E.S. Dodgson, Jesus College, Oxford, and Missus Ruth and Joyce Savage were elected members.

Mr Taylor asked why the society did not collect Oral Gaelic literature, and suggested that some of the balance in hand should be applied for the purpose.

The Chairman said it was an important question, and the members, especially those in the country, should preserve all distinctly Manx proverbs, stories, and traditions that had come down to them.

Mr Taylor suggested that a phonograph should be purchased for the purpose of recording the best Manx speakers.

The Chairman was afraid the balance would not allow it, but he was aware that such things had been recorded in this way.

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There was no other business, and the meeting terminated.

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STEPHEN MILLER, 2017

