

THE SOCIETY'S BUSINESS

REPORT OF THE FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE FAUNA PRESERVATION SOCIETY, held at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London on Thursday, 17th April, 1952, at 4.15 p.m.

The Marquess of Willingdon, President, in the Chair.

About eighty members present.

It was proposed from the Chair and carried unanimously :—

1. That the rules of the Society, as published in *Oryx*, Volume I, No. 4, should be approved and come into force.

2. That the Report of the Auditors for the year ended 31st December, 1951 (published in *Oryx*, Volume I, No. 5), should be accepted.

3. That the Report of the Council for the year ending 31st December, 1951 (published below), should be accepted.

4. That the following should be elected as Officers and Members of the Council for the ensuing year :—

President.—The Marquess of Willingdon.

Hon. Treasurer.—Ian D. Malcolmson, Esq.

Council.—The Marquess of Willingdon (*Chairman*); Sir William Gowers, K.C.M.G., C.B. (*Vice-Chairman*); W. Ameer Ali, Esq., C.I.E.; G. C. L. Bertram, Esq., M.A., Ph.D.; Captain Keith Caldwell; G. S. Cansdale, Esq., B.A., B.Sc., F.L.S.; Colonel R. S. Clarke, T.D., D.L., M.P.; G. Dent, Esq., M.C.; Alfred Ezra, Esq., O.B.E.; R. S. R. Fitter, Esq.; Maxwell Knight, Esq., O.B.E., F.L.S.; I. D. Malcolmson, Esq.; T. C. S. Morrison-Scott, Esq., D.S.C., M.Sc.; S. A. Neave, Esq., C.M.G., O.B.E., M.A., D.Sc., F.R.E.S.; Captain C. R. S. Pitman, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.C.; G. F. Herbert Smith, Esq., C.B.E., D.Sc.; Sir T. Shenton Thomas, G.C.M.G., O.B.E.

ILLUSTRATED LECTURE

Immediately after the Annual General Meeting Mr. H. W. E. Croockewit gave a very interesting illustrated talk on the National Parks of the U.S.A.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1951

Presented by the Council to the Annual General Meeting.

This is the first Annual General Meeting of the Fauna Preservation Society.

The Society records with the deepest sorrow the death of its beloved Patron, His Majesty King George VI. A message of condolence, which has been graciously acknowledged, was sent to Her Majesty The Queen on behalf of the Society.

Membership and Accounts.—Members will note from the Auditors' Report and the Accounts, that during the year ending 31st December, 1951, there was an increase of eighty-six members and that the excess of income over expenditure was £173. It will be noted that the excess of income takes into consideration £407 in donations. Of this sum £285 was the gift of one of the Society's Vice-Presidents, Dr. Willard Van Name. The affairs of the Society cannot be said to be on a satisfactory basis when the Society depends, as it does, so much on large donations from a few of its members. In order to alleviate this position the President has appealed in *Oryx* No. 5 for all Ordinary Members, who have not already done so, to sign a seven-years deed of covenant. At present deeds of covenant have been signed by 120 members.

The Journal.—Five numbers of Volume I of *Oryx* have now been issued. *Oryx* has met with some success outside the bounds of the Society and unwanted numbers, especially *Oryx* No. 1, will be gratefully accepted by the Secretary.

Meetings.—During 1951 four meetings of the Council and four General Meetings were held.

With the gracious consent of the Duke of Bedford, the Society held a very successful Week at Woburn Park from 28th May to 2nd June, 1951.

The Secretary attended in September, 1951, a meeting in Holland of the International Union for the Protection of Nature.

President's Visit to South Africa.—The President has just returned from South Africa where he visited the National Parks of Cape Province and Natal as a representative of the Society. His personal report on his visit is attached (p. 308).

Wild Life Films.—The Society is engaged in preparing films of wild life from original material supplied by members. "The African Elephant" and "Wild Life in East Africa" are finished. Two other films, one showing animals of Ceylon, the other those of India, are in course of preparation. "Animal Kingdom", an excellent sound film of the Kruger National Park, is on loan from the South African Tourist Corporation.

These films may be borrowed by members.

Maps.—A number of maps illustrating the past and present range of animals have been made for the Society by Mr. Ian Menzies, and have been exhibited on several occasions.

Fauna Conservation.—Progress has been made in wild life conservation in many parts of the world. The following may be specially mentioned:—

India.—A sub-committee of the Committee for

Co-ordinating Scientific Work has been formed to suggest ways and means for setting up national parks and sanctuaries.

Ceylon.—A Department of Wild Life has been formed, and money has been set aside for the improvement of national parks and reserves.

Malaya.—The King George V National Park has been re-established and is making progress.

Singapore.—Six nature reserves have been formed.

Nyasaland.—The Mjeti Hill area and the area of the High Nyika have been closed to hunting.

Tanganyika.—The Serengeti National Park has been established, and the new Fauna Conservation Ordinance has been passed.

U.S.A.—As always, our Vice-President, Dr. Van Name, has been working in the cause of wild life conservation; particular attention may perhaps be drawn to his efforts on behalf of the bald-headed eagle and the huge Alaskan brown bear.

All the above have been more fully discussed in *Oryx*.

Acknowledgments.—The Council desired to express its thanks to those who spoke and showed films at General Meetings, to contributors to *Oryx*, to the members who gave original film material and thus made the F.P.S. films possible, to those who gave drawings for Christmas cards, to the many other helpers, and especially to the Zoological Society of London, who provided office accommodation and whose staff gave unstinted help throughout the past year.

THE COUNCIL

The Quarterly Council Meeting was held on 17th April, 1952. A summary of points of interest to members generally is given below.

Mr. R. S. R. Fitter, naturalist and author, was elected to the Council.

It was agreed that the Society should accept the generous offer of the Overseas League to give advertising space in its Journal at very special rates. Accordingly notices of the Society have appeared in the June and August number of *Overseas*; in July an application for membership form was inserted.

An invitation from the West Wales Field Society to take part in a Wild Life Exhibition at the Royal Welsh Agricultural Show, at Cardiff in 1953, was accepted. Mr. Colin Matheson, Keeper of Zoology at the National Museum of Wales, has undertaken to represent the Society on the Committee.

GIFT BY DR. VAN NAME.

In June a donation of \$1,200 (£430) was received from Dr. Willard G. Van Name. The Society has yet again to offer its Vice-President thanks for a most generous gift.

WILD LIFE FILMS

The following 16 mm. coloured films may be borrowed from the Society :—

“The African Elephant.” F.P.S. Film No. 1, 10 minutes, silent.

“Wild Life of East Africa.” F.P.S. Film No. 2, 35 minutes, silent.

“Animals of Ceylon.” F.P.S. Film No. 3, 20 minutes, silent.

“Animal Kingdom.” A tourist film of the Kruger National Park, 25 minutes, sound.

It is hoped that F.P.S. Film No. 4, “Some Indian Animals,” will be ready in August. The photography in this film is the work of Mr. F. W. Champion, O.B.E., and includes some of his wonderful “shots” of the tiger.

Christmas Cards

The Society is most grateful to Miss R. Tomkinson and Dr. E. A. R. Ennion for their kindness in giving drawings for the 1952 Christmas cards. An order form is enclosed with this number of ORYX.