

THE SOCIETY'S BUSINESS

REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, held at the Offices of the Zoological Society of London on Wednesday, 28th April, 1954.

The Marquess of Willingdon, President, in the Chair.

About fifty members present.

Election of a Vice-President.—It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Sir William Gowers, and carried unanimously that Captain Keith Caldwell be elected a Vice-President of the Society. The following short statement of Captain Caldwell's work for the Society was distributed to members.

“After serving for ten years as a gunner officer, Captain Caldwell went to Kenya in 1919 as private secretary to the Governor and joined the Kenya game department in 1922.

“In 1925 he was seconded to Uganda in order to inaugurate a game department in that country. This he did with such success that, at the end of the year, he was able to hand it over as a going concern to Captain C. R. S. Pitman, who succeeded him as game warden.

“Captain Caldwell was appointed adviser to the two international conferences for the protection of the fauna and flora of Africa which were held in London in 1933 and 1938. In 1953 he led the United Kingdom delegation to the third such conference, held at Bukavu. These facts indicate recognition by successive governments of his knowledge and ability in dealing with the problems of African wild life preservation.

“In 1936 Captain Caldwell undertook a mission to the West Indies on behalf of the Society and later published a report in the journal on the state of wild life preservation in the various islands there. Similarly in 1938 he visited India, Malaya and Java, reporting particularly on the status of the Gir lions. In 1947 Captain Caldwell undertook a faunal survey in East and Central Africa, his invaluable report being subsequently published by the Society. His many further visits to East Africa have always had the preservation of wild life as their primary object.

“The above is in no sense an attempt to record fully Captain Caldwell's services to the Society's cause. For the past thirty years he has worked for wild life conservation in East and Central Africa as has no other man. He joined the Society in 1922 and was elected to the Executive Committee in 1929.”

The Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting were read, confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

Lieut.-Colonel W. P. C. Tenison said that as the Society had been in existence for over fifty years, it was misleading to refer to the "First" and "Second" Annual General Meetings. It was agreed that the necessary alteration should be made in the Minute Book.

Auditors' Report.—It was proposed by Colonel Tenison, seconded by Mr. J. R. Pippet and carried unanimously that the Report of the Auditors for the year ending 31st December, 1953, be approved and adopted.

In moving the proposal Colonel Tenison said that he hoped more members would realize the benefit to the Society of a seven year Deed of Covenant.

The Chairman proposed a vote of thanks to the Honorary Treasurer and the Auditors.

Council's Annual Report.—It was proposed from the Chair and carried unanimously that the Report of the Council for the year ending 31st December, 1953, be approved and adopted.

Sir William Gowers expressed the thanks of the members present to the President and Secretary for the work they had done during the year.

Election of Officers.—It was proposed by Sir Shenton Thomas, seconded by Captain C. R. S. Pitman, and carried unanimously that the Marquess of Willingdon be re-elected President of the Society, and Mr. I. D. Malcolmson re-elected Honorary Treasurer.

Election of Members to Fill Vacancies on the Council.—It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Mr. I. D. Malcolmson, and carried unanimously that the following be elected to fill vacancies on the Council :—

F. Fraser Darling, Esq., D.Sc., Ph.D., F.R.S.E.

G. Dent, Esq., M.C.

L. Harrison Matthews, Esq., Sc.D., F.L.S., F.R.S.

Mr. I. D. Malcolmson, at the request of the President, gave a brief account of his recent visit to Africa and drew attention to the alarming decrease in the number of lions in Kenya, the decrease in the number of oryx and the extreme rarity to-day of elephants with really heavy ivory.

Mr. Malcolmson said that, in Southern Rhodesia, a large area with a great deal of wild life has now been opened to shooting. This shooting, however, is so strictly controlled by the Southern Rhodesia Hunting Association that there is no reason to suppose that it will lead to any decrease in the wild life population.

The President, in a brief address, first thanked the Society for re-electing him as President. He then described his recent visit

to Africa, where he had visited the Queen Elizabeth National Park, Murchison Falls, Mudanda Rock, Mzima Springs, Amboseli and the Marsarbit Reserve.

With regard to the Serengeti National Park, in Tanganyika, Lord Willingdon said that, with great help from Captain Caldwell and the co-operation of the Tanganyika government, new arrangements were being made, a new ordinance drawn up, and the Serengeti would continue not only as a national park but, in the opinion of many people, as the best national park in Africa.

Lord Willingdon drew the attention of the meeting to the new bill for the protection of wild birds.

In conclusion, Lord Willingdon proposed a vote of thanks to the Secretary and Assistant Secretary of the Society, which was duly carried.

Illustrated Lecture.—Immediately after the Annual General Meeting the Secretary gave a talk, illustrated by lantern slides, entitled “Some animals and birds of Kashmir”.

The meeting passed a vote of thanks to the Secretary for his lecture.

General Meetings.—On 24th February, 1954, Lieut.-Colonel Niall Rankin gave a talk on “Wild Life in the Antarctic”, illustrated by his own slides.

On 3rd June, 1954, Mrs. Penelope Seaman gave a talk on the work of the Wild Life Protection Society of South Africa, of which society she has, until recently, been the Secretary. Her talk was followed by “Wankie—Elephants and Others”, an excellent film for which thanks are due to Mr. E. Davison.

Both lecturers were thanked by the Chairman and accorded a unanimous vote of thanks for their most interesting lectures.

Acknowledgment.—The Secretary gratefully acknowledges the gift by the authors of *List of Mammals of New Guinea, Celebes and Adjacent Islands* by Eleanor M. O. Laurie and J. E. Hill.

Christmas Cards, 1954.—The Society is most grateful to Miss E. D. Tinne for the use of her pastel drawing “Lesser Kudu”. It is in the same style as her “Grant’s Gazelle”, which was so popular last year.

The Society also thanks Mr. L. R. Brightwell for the special design he made last year for the Fauna Preservation Card. It is again on sale this year.

Order forms will be found in this number of *Oryx*.

Wild Life Films.—The Society gratefully acknowledges the gift by the Natal Parks Board of a copy of their new film “Heritage of Natal and Zululand”.

The film library now consists of the following 16-mm. coloured films. They may be borrowed by members :—

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

“Wild Life of East Africa.” F.P.S. Film No. 2, 45 minutes, silent.

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

“Wild Animals of the Indian Jungle.” F.P.S. Film No. 4, 20 minutes, silent.

“Foxes and Badgers.” F.P.S. Film No. 5, 11 minutes, silent.

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

“Expedition Moose.” The protection of the moose in Ontario, Canada. 18 minutes, sound.

“Ring-necked Pheasant.” The life-history in Canada of the introduced ring-necked pheasant. 12 minutes, sound.

“Heritage of Natal and Zululand.” A tourist film of the Natal National Parks. 12 minutes, sound.

“Stronghold of the Wild.” A film of the work of the East African game departments. 35 minutes, black and white, sound.

“Animals of Australia.” 15 minutes, black and white, silent. Especially suitable for children.