

ACCLIMATISATION SOCIETY.

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The annual general meeting of the subscribers of this Society was held at the Literary Institute last evening.

J. T. PEACOCK, Esq., occupied the chair.

The minutes of the last general meeting having been read and confirmed,

Mr S. C. FAIR, (hon. sec.) read the following report :—

“The Council of the Canterbury Acclimatisation Society begs to submit to the members the seventh annual report.

“The financial position of the society continues to be satisfactory. Subscriptions to the amount of £146 8s 6d have been received, whilst from the sale of stock bred and reared in the gardens, the income has increased to £136 8s 3d, against £86 3s last year, with a fair prospect of an annually increasing revenue from the same source, as further facilities are acquired for the rearing of trout, pheasants, quail, and other game birds on a large scale.

“The sum of £500, placed on the estimates this year by the Government for acclimatisation purposes, will enable the society to make desirable arrangements for the introduction of much needed insectivorous birds on the most approved and successful plans, viz., that of procuring strong, healthy birds in large numbers of each kind hardened for a sea voyage by proper treatment, with an appropriate deck house, and an experienced person to undertake the care of them during transit.

“Rooks, jackdaws, goldfinches, starlings, English partridges, brown linnets, hedge-sparrows, blackbirds, thrushes, and nightingales, have been decided on as the next large introductions, and the sum of £200 has been placed at the disposal of Mr T. Nottidge, in England, and a further sum of £200 will be remitted immediately to that gentleman, who has kindly undertaken to supervise the necessary arrangements as to the shipment of the birds. Should he be unable to do so, we hope to secure the services of Mr Ottywell.

“In addition to the above-mentioned English birds, Californian quail and Australian magpies have been sent for.

“The pheasants annually liberated from the gardens have now increased to a con-

siderable extent in various directions. From the pheasants in the aviaries, about 200 young birds are now under process of rearing, in addition to a few Californian and Australian quail.

"The trout confined to the ponds in the gardens continue to grow and thrive well, many averaging 3lbs in weight, some even reaching to 4lbs. The first increase from the trout has been obtained this season; 224 young fish have been liberated in various parts of the province, including fifty to Mr Oakden, to be placed in Lake Coleridge.

"The care bestowed in the removal of the fish has been attended with satisfactory success; and, with the exception of thirty fish killed by impure water, no losses in the last or present season have been sustained during transit from the gardens.

"Many of the trout liberated two years ago, in the various rivers have been seen, a few have been accidentally killed, but there is every reason to hope that the greater portion of the fish are alive and well, and like their relatives in the ponds of the same age, have increased to a considerable extent. The Avon is the only river upon which restrictions as to fishing have been proclaimed, such restrictions extending from its source to the East town belt.

"The English perch and tench have successfully multiplied, also the Tasmanian brush kangaroos and the English fallow deer.

"The blackbirds and thrushes, although imported in large numbers and liberated by the society, have not increased so well as expected, and it is much to be feared have been killed by cats.

"The Act for the protection of birds has already produced beneficial results, a general increase in the number of the duck tribe being apparent. Heavy losses have frequently been sustained by the society in consequence of the thoughtless destruction of imported birds, and as all fines for the infringement of the Act are now handed over to the society, the thanks of the Council are especially due to the police and others, who have aided in bringing transgressors to justice.

"Great assistance has, from time to time, been rendered to acclimatisation by the valuable introductions of individual mem-

valuable introductions of individual mem-
bers. The desire to be useful to one's
adopted country appears to be generally
diffused amongst old colonists; with a view
therefore of extending the knowledge as to
what introductions may be considered useful
and desirable in the Canterbury province,
the Council begs to submit the accompany-
ing short lists, which include some of the
most important.

.. List of introductions now thoroughly
established needing no further importa-
tion :—

“ Birds—English pheasants, ring-necked or Chinese pheasants, green linnets, chaffinches, house sparrows, swans.

“ Fish—English brown trout, English perch, and tench, frogs.

“ List of which further importations would be desirable—

“ Birds—English partridges, grey linnets, blackbirds, thrushes, robins, goldfinches, hedge sparrows, skylarks, starlings, jackdaws, and rooks, Australian and Tasmanian magpies, quail of varieties.

“ Animals—English fallow deer (only does needed), American antelopes (a large proportion of females), Angora goats.

“ List of new birds and fish whose introduction would be most desirable—

“ Birds — Nightingales, whinchats, red-poles, wheatears, swallows, the Indian Maina bird, mountain quail of California, black cock, grouse, both English and American varieties, reeves (or barred tailed pheasants)

“ Bees—Humble bees, Lygurian or Alpine bees.

“ Fish—Salmon trout, lake trout, gouramier fish, lobsters, crabs.

“ In furtherance of sericulture useful information has from time to time been disseminated by the society. A lengthy communication, detailing particulars as to the management of the mulberry silkworm, extracted from able writers, has been furnished by Mr W. F. Moore. Reports bearing on silk-culture, from practical experience in the province, have been furnished by Mr W. Wilson and Mr D. Nairn, and especial interest and assistance to this branch of industry has been given by Mr R. W. Fereday. Silkworm eggs have been received of choice varieties from India and Japan through the kindness of the Melbourne and Sydney Acclimatisation Societies, and distributed amongst members.

“ The worms previously introduced by the society have each successive year increased in vigor and size, with a corresponding improvement in the silk, particularly the worms under the care of Messrs Wilson and Nairn.

“ J. T. PEACOCK,

“ Chairman.”

February 14, 1871.

Mr WYNN WILLIAMS wished to ask the

Secretary whether the fifty trout taken charge of by Mr Oakden were in Lake Coleridge, or in his (Mr Oakden's) ponds? He had been told that the trout were placed in Mr Oakden's ponds, and not in Lake Coleridge, and he thought it would be satisfactory to know whether this was the fact or not. He hoped the Secretary would make this enquiry and report at next meeting. He would also desire to call attention to the fact that the report was not strictly correct on this matter, and he would move that it be amended as follows:—"Fifty young trout have been handed to Mr Oakden to be placed in Lake Coleridge."

Mr BIRD seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

Mr J. A. BIRD moved the adoption of the report.

Mr FEREDAY seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

ARBEARS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Mr WYNN WILLIAMS called the attention of the society to the number of unpaid subscriptions outstanding. He hoped that means would be taken to collect them as soon as possible. He thought that they only required asking for to be obtained.

IMPORTATION OF INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.

Mr BROADFOOT said that he noticed several very good insectivorous birds which were not mentioned on the list appended to the report. He had a large quantity of birds coming out to Canterbury in the Warrior Queen, in charge of Mr Bills, which he hoped would arrive in good order. He would mention, amongst those birds which it would be desirable to import, the redpoles and bullfinch. He would desire to correct an impression which had got abroad, that the latter was a dangerous bird, as from experiments he had himself tried he found that it was a most useful insectivorous bird.

FINANCIAL.

The HON. TREASURER (Mr J. C. Boys) then read the financial statement of the society, duly audited, which has already appeared in our report of the last monthly meeting of the society.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr C. R. BLAKISTON said that before proceeding to the next business, he thought

that the thanks of the society should be recorded to Mr. Fredk. Banks for his present to the society of some Indian minaul birds. He would therefore move "That the thanks of the society be given to Mr F. Banks, for his kind present."

Mr J. A. BIRD had much pleasure in seconding the motion. He thought that they should give Mr Banks some recognition of his kindness.

The motion on being put was agreed to.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS.

The CHAIRMAN said that the next business before the meeting would be the election of nineteen members of Council. As the election would be by ballot, he would appoint Messrs C. R. Blakiston and J. A. Bird as scrutineers.

A ballot then took place, which resulted in the election of the following gentlemen, who will form the council of the society for the ensuing year, viz:—Messrs Wynn Williams, Ll. Powell, W. D. Carruthers, R. W. Fereday, J. A. Bird, J. R. Hill, C. R. Blakiston, J. Anderson, J. P. Jameson, C. C. Bowen, S. C. Farr, J. T. Peacock, F. Banks, A. Duncan, J. Haast, E. Jollie, J. C. Boys, P. Hanmer, and — Broadfoot.

Mr DENHAM moved—"That a vote of thanks be given to the retiring council."

Mr BROADFOOT seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

The proceedings then closed.