

SESSION



1910-1911

Minutes of Proceedings

AT THE

Annual Meeting

HELD ON FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 1911.

CHAIRMAN : MR. ALEXANDER BOYLE (VICE-PRESIDENT.)

THE Twenty-second Annual General Meeting of the Institute of Marine Engineers was held in the Abercorn Rooms, Liverpool Street Hotel, London, E.C., on Friday, March 10, 1911, the meeting being presided over by Mr. Alexander Boyle (Vice-President).

CHAIRMAN : I am sure we all regret that the claims of the members of the Royal Astronomical Society on our retiring President, Sir David Gill, who is likewise their President, prevent him being here this evening, and giving us the advantage of his presence in the chair. I am afraid I shall prove an indifferent substitute, but with your assistance I shall endeavour to get through the business of the evening, the consideration of the twenty-second Annual Report of the Institute, as satisfactorily and expeditiously as possible. This is the one evening of the year when we meet together to take stock as it were of our position and progress, to note what we have done, and the result of our labours. The details will be submitted to you for your consideration and approval in the Annual Report and Financial Statement. There is further an important feature of the Annual Meeting, that is, to give an opportunity to every member to bring forward any recommendations or

suggestions he may consider to be for the advantage of the Institute. We have also, of course, to receive the report of the Scrutineers, giving the result of the election of the President, Office-bearers and Members of Council for the new session or period of office. There are various other matters, which are given in the programme you have before you, so I do not propose to occupy your time by making any extended preliminary remarks ; but will immediately proceed to the business of the evening. I cannot refrain, however, from congratulating the members on the fact that we are advancing both numerically and financially, and advancing by no short steps. It is very gratifying indeed to know that the membership of the Institute has increased by thirty per cent. during the last five years, and that the total on the roll at the 31st of January this year was 1,229. This is a very substantial increase, and we may all feel highly pleased at the addition to our numbers, especially as we have every reason to hope that the Institute will go on progressing more and more. But for all that, gentlemen, I should like to say that in my opinion, if the marine engineers of this country were alive to the interests of their profession—I might say alive to their own interests and anxious to keep themselves acquainted with what is going on, and what is proposed to be done, in the engineering world—they would join the Institute in even greater numbers than they do. Every man, I think, should be solicitous for the reputation and the high standing of the profession to which he belongs, whatever it may be, and certainly marine engineers should be no exception to that rule. It may be there is a small section of marine engineers who are of the opinion that it would be of no advantage to them to become members of the Institute. I am sure they are mistaken, and even on the ground of actual value received—and there are many other important considerations—but even on the narrow ground of receiving an equivalent for their subscriptions, I have only to point to the papers read during the last session alone, or in fact to those read during any session, as a sufficient answer to any opinion of that kind. Just glance for a moment at the list. During the last session there were papers given on “The Application of Oxy-Acetylene Welding to the repair of Marine Boilers and Hulls,” “Improved Electrical Apparatus, for Warping, Winding, Hoisting, etc., on Board Ship,” “The Stability of Ships,” “Electro-Magnetic Transmission for Marine Propulsion,” “The Telemotor,” “The Internal Combustion

Engine," and so on. This is the merest conning over of the titles. These subjects are all of the greatest importance, and it behoves marine engineers to know something about them. Although it may be that a good many engineers have not the opportunity of becoming personally acquainted with these subjects in the course of their daily work, yet the important point is that if they are members of the Institute they have an opportunity of hearing or reading about them, and also the discussions thereon by practical engineers. I therefore hold that marine engineers generally would be wise in supporting this Institute. I say that here in the hope that my words may reach a wider audience. I am speaking from experience, and the experience of my life leads me to the conclusion that it would be well for the marine engineers of this country to support this Institute, and to take every opportunity of becoming acquainted with, not only what has been accomplished in the past, and what is being done in the present, but likewise what is suggested by progressive engineers may be done in the immediate future. I may have dealt with this point to the exclusion of others which might be considered quite as necessary to mention at our annual meeting, but I feel that the objects detailed in the Memorandum and Articles of Association, the work the Institute does, and its value to marine engineers, cannot be too widely known. There are other points I might have mentioned, but I will not occupy more of your time. Our first business is to appoint Scrutineers.

Mr. P. BOYD, R.N.R. (Member): I propose Mr. James Robertson and Mr. A. E. Sharp as Scrutineers.

Mr. W. S. HOWELL (Member): I have much pleasure in seconding the nomination of these gentlemen.

The motion was carried, and the Scrutineers retired to carry out the duties and report during the course of the evening.

CHAIRMAN: I will now call upon our Hon. Secretary, Mr. Adamson, to read the Annual Report.

The Hon. Secretary then read the Annual Report, as follows:—