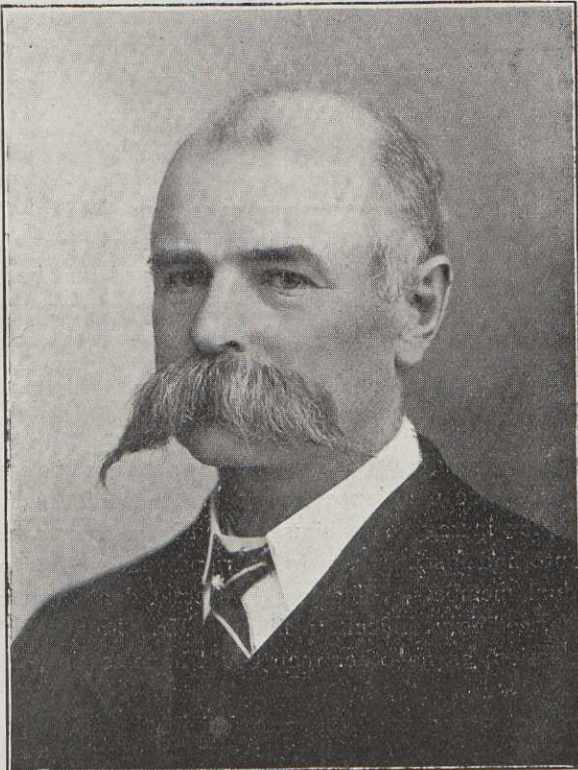


The PRESIDENT said that was the last meeting for the year. It was the last occasion upon which he would have the privilege of presiding for the present year. Under the circumstances he wished all the members the compliments of the season—A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Mr. J. A. SMITH reciprocated the sentiment on behalf of the members.

At 9.45 p.m. the meeting closed.

OBITUARY.



The late MR. A. W. CRAVEN, M.L.A., M.V.I.E., Etc.

The PRESIDENT said it was his mournful duty to announce formally to members that they had, since their last meeting, lost a very old and esteemed and valued member, Mr. A. W. Craven.

Mr. Craven had been a member of the Institute for upwards of 20 years, and during the greater part of that time, had been a member of Council also, and had held office as Vice-President. There was no doubt he was held in such high esteem among the members that if it had not been for the stress of his Parliamentary duties, he would have been in a position to accept the compliment of being elected to the presidential chair. He was one of those men who had fallen a victim to his patriotic service, for there was no doubt he had precipitated his early death by his severe attention to public duties. Mr. Craven was one of the few members of the profession who had attained to the dignity of a Parliamentary seat. Throughout his whole career he had shed much lustre on the profession. His professional knowledge had been invaluable to Parliament, both in matters of public works, and on the Railways Standing Committee. They all deplored his death as the loss of a personal friend, because few men possessed such a charming personality, and few had worked so enthusiastically for the welfare of the Institute. Steps would be taken to gather together the leading facts in Mr. Craven's career, and the Publication Committee hoped to place these before members in a permanent record. He moved that he be authorised to convey to Mr. Craven's relatives the sincere sympathy of the Institute in their bereavement, and that the motion be recorded in the minutes.

Mr. J. A. SMITH seconded the motion. He had known Mr. Craven for 20 years, and in his loss he felt he personally had lost a friend. Throughout that 20 years, never once had he heard Mr. Craven's name mentioned except in terms of the most sincere admiration in regard to himself, and in regard to his work. The Institute had lost a trustworthy friend, and so had many of the individual members. The loss had created a vacancy which would be exceedingly difficult to fill, for Mr. Craven had grown into the position, as no other man could hope to do for another generation.

The motion was carried, as recorded in the "Proceedings."

CAREER.

Although the late Mr. ALBERT WILLIAM CRAVEN was born in Yorkshire, he arrived in Victoria with his parents in 1858, when only two years old. He matriculated from the High School, Bendigo, and was then articled to Mr. J. B. Henderson (now

Chief Hydraulic Engineer to the State of Queensland), Engineer and Surveyor. Later, he served in the Victorian Lands Department, leaving that employment to engage in private practice. One of his earlier pieces of work, the great inclined shaft at the Long Tunnel Extended Mine, Walhalla, remains a notable piece of underground surveying.

Mr. Craven had been twenty-three years a member of the Victorian Institute of Engineers, of which he had been Vice-President, and was Member of Council. He had been for many years a member of the Victorian Institute of Surveyors, of which he was Past President, and Member of Council. Also he was a Past President of the Victorian Photographic Society.

In public life Mr. Craven held many and distinguished offices—for twenty-three years Member of the Legislative Assembly of Victoria; he had also been nine years its Chairman of Committees, and held that office at the time of his death. Also, he was a member of the Parliamentary Railways Standing Committee, whose duty it is to examine the merits of every proposed new railway, and advise Parliament thereon. Amongst other offices he was a member of the Government Examining and Licensing Surveyors' Board of Victoria.

There is little doubt that Mr. Craven's active, conscientious, and very close attention to his public duties, continuing until a few days prior to his decease, hastened the end, which occurred on November 28th, 1913.

INCORPORATION.

The PRESIDENT invited attention to an extremely important proposition—the Incorporation of the Institute—of which notice had been given by Mr. J. A. Smith. He would allow Mr. Smith to explain in detail the purport and effect of the resolution, but he would like to say, in presenting the business, that the motion was the culmination of a great deal of work and effort, chiefly on the part of Mr. Smith himself, during and since his occupancy of the Presidency of the Institute. It related to the proposition of the Incorporation of the Institute. Its object was to take advantage of the provisions of the Companies Act and law on the



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