

CONGRESS
OF
Archæological Societies

IN UNION WITH THE

Society of Antiquaries of London,

JULY 7TH, 1909.

The Twentieth Congress of Archæological Societies was held on July 7th, at Burlington House ; C. H. Read, Esq., LL.D., President of the Society of Antiquaries, in the Chair.

The Congress was attended by Delegates from the Society of Antiquaries, the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland (2), the Royal Archæological Institute (2), the British (2) and Cambrian Archæological Associations, the British Record, the Folk-lore (2), the Huguenot (2) and the Viking Societies, and the Societies for Berkshire (2), Bucks, Cambridge (2), Carmarthenshire (2), Chester and North Wales, Cornwall, Cumberland and Westmorland, Leicestershire, Notts (Thoroton), Somerset (2), Suffolk, Surrey (2), Sussex (2), Wilts and Yorkshire, Members of the Council of the Earthworks and other Committees, and other Delegates who omitted to sign the Register.

The Minutes of the last Congress, held on July 8th, 1908, were read and confirmed.

The Report of the Council was read and approved, and the Statement of Accounts, audited by Mr. Wm. Minet, F.S.A., was read and adopted. The thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Minet for his services, and he was appointed auditor for the ensuing year.

The following were elected as the Council :—

The Officers of the Soc. of Antiquaries.

W. Paley Baildon, F.S.A.
Lord Balcarras, M.P., F.S.A.
Sir E. W. Brabrook, C.B., F.S.A.
Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, M.A., F.S.A.
W. J. Freer, F.S.A.
G. L. Gomme, F.S.A.
Emanuel Green, F.S.A.

W. H. St. John Hope, M.A.
Henry Laver, F.S.A.
Wm. Minet, F.S.A.
Canon Rupert Morris, D.D., F.S.A.
Ralph Nevill, F.S.A.
J. Horace Round, M.A., LL.D.
J. B. Willis-Bund, M.A., F.S.A.

Mr. C. F. Keyser expressed the regret of the Congress at the retirement of Mr. Ralph Nevill from the office of honorary secretary

that he had held for fifteen years ; the President bore testimony to the ability and discretion shown by Mr. Nevill in the discharge of the office, and a cordial vote of thanks was given to him by acclamation.

Mr. Nevill in thanking the meeting stated that reasons of health made him anxious to secure freedom from engagements ; he had also always been of opinion that honorary secretaries should not continue in office too long, but make way for new men ; he had wished to retire some years ago, had he been able to find some one to take up the work. Among the subjects that he had himself introduced, or been closely associated with, were Parish Registers, Churchyard Inscriptions, the Photographic Survey, the Index of Archæological Papers, Calendars of Portraits, Municipal and County Records, and the proposals for the formation of Local Record Offices, which, with slight modifications, had been adopted by the Royal Commission and incorporated in a Bill. He had always endeavoured to arrange that the Congress should take up work of various sorts, and should not confine itself to one particular branch, and should keep before it as its objects, not so much the promotion of pure archæology, as the assistance of the work of the local societies that it represented. The prospectus of the Congress showed the large amount of important work that had been done by it, and of late years the Congress had been able to make valuable representations to Government, many of which had had effect. The Congress had lost as members some of the earlier subscribing societies, but these were of unimportant character, and others of importance had joined, so that the Congress could now claim to be thoroughly representative.

Sir Edward Brabrook then, on behalf of the Council, proposed as honorary secretary Mr. A. G. Chater, who had shown himself an energetic secretary of the Earthworks Committee. Mr. Keyser seconded this, and Mr. Chater was elected, and expressed his willingness to accept the office. Mr. Nevill undertook to conclude the work of the present Congress.

Mr. Fry stated that as there appeared to be no chance of the Congress publishing the Bibliographies of printed Calendars that had been already prepared, the Committee had not taken further active steps. He asked that a certain sum should be set apart for the use of the Committee, and suggested that if an annual volume of Transactions were issued by the Congress it would get over the inconvenience of the issue of numerous small pamphlets. Mr. Phillimore supported this view, and expressed the opinion that it was not necessary to print copies for all members of Societies, but a limited number only.

Mr. Nevill explained that the method in the past had been to devote sums at intervals to different objects, and that he did not think the funds sufficient for annual grants. The funds had lately been devoted largely to Earthworks Reports, as to which something would be said later ; he should like to hear the opinion of the Congress as to the manner in which the Bibliographies should be published ; he thought they should be completed and kept up to date, but not published until a considerable number were ready so as to avoid

the inconvenience of small issues. His experience was that it was useless to expect secretaries of societies to undertake the great labour and expense of the issue of publications to selected members; the issue could be done to all members at little more expense and no trouble, as it was made with the annual volume of Transactions or with other annual notices.

Major Freer, F.S.A. (Leicester), said that in his experience the Reports were much appreciated by the body of members, and as an honorary secretary he confirmed the view as to the impossibility of selected issue.

On the suggestion of the President the question of the best method of printing the Bibliographies was referred to the Council, it being understood that money should be found for the purpose.

Mr. Nevill explained that owing to the falling off in the number of subscribing societies, and the increase in volume, Messrs. Constable had given notice that it was impossible for them to continue the publication of the Annual Index of Archæological Papers except at an increased rate. He did not think from his experience at the time the Congress published the Index that the price could be raised, and thought that Messrs. Constable had relied entirely on the subscriptions of the societies instead of appealing to a larger public as had been contemplated by the Congress. The Congress could have continued the publication but for the trouble caused by the desire of libraries and individuals to acquire copies. They were willing to pay the shilling which had been the charge, but the work of distribution was more than an honorary secretary could be expected to undertake. He had considered that an energetic publisher should be able to make the work pay.

Mr. Phillimore (Thoroton Soc.) said that he hoped the publication would in some way be continued; he considered it most valuable and pre-eminently a work for the Congress to undertake, as it summarized the work of the societies.

Major Freer deprecated any increase in the price, but hoped the publication would be continued, and Mr. Fry and many other delegates expressed the same views.

Sir Edward Brabrook, Mr. Minet, Mr. Gomme, and Mr. Phillimore were appointed a committee to consider what was best to be done.

Mr. Chater presented the Report of the Earthworks Commission, which proved full of interest, and will be issued separately. The original scheme being out of print, a revised scheme embodying the various annual Reports had been prepared, and by the help of the Society of Antiquaries and other Societies was now ready or issue at the price of 3*d.* a copy, or on reduced terms for quantities.

Dr. Williams Freeman who was engaged in scheduling the Hampshire camps gave some information as to this work. Instead of forty camps, as shown on the Ordnance Survey, there were seventy or eighty.

A discussion took place on the cost of the Annual Reports of the Earthworks Committee, which absorbed most of the funds at the disposal of the Congress. It was agreed that it was most important that these admirable Reports should not be curtailed as they had proved of the greatest value, and awakened great interest in a new department of Archæology.

Mr. Nevill asked if delegates thought that Societies would pay something for the copies they received ; as 15,000 copies were printed even such a small sum as two shillings a hundred would provide a great part of the cost, and such a payment would also meet the views expressed by Major Freer earlier—that the large societies had an undue advantage over the smaller.

Sir Edward Brabrook thought two shillings too little, but the Rev. F. W. Weaver, representing Somerset, with over 800 members, thought the charge should be kept as low as possible. Mr. Johnston, F.S.A., speaking for Sussex, with over 600 members, said the interest in the subject was increasing, and thought his society would pay two shillings and sixpence freely, and Mr. Denison, for Yorkshire, with 600 members, agreed to the charge of two shillings and sixpence, which was generally accepted.

The President drew attention to the fact that the Royal Commission appointed did not render unnecessary the work of local societies. The destruction done was largely the result of ignorance, and could be best combated by the spread of information.

Mr. H. D. Acland (Royal Institution of Cornwall) introduced the subject of stone monuments, which especially interested his society. He was a member of the newly formed society for the astronomical study of these remains, and had had his attention called to the sad destruction that still went on, owing largely to the public ignorance of their importance. The site of what was perhaps the oldest church in England—Withian, near St. Ives, founded by Breton missionaries—had been sold by the Ecclesiastical Commissioners to a Nonconformist who refused to allow any exploration. Menhirs were still removed to form gate posts, and numerous stones duly recorded on the Ordnance Survey had now disappeared, and stone circles were still destroyed to form road metal.

He advocated the provision of 6 inch Ordnance maps on which the existence of all monuments could be underlined in red ; also that any inspector appointed should have power to expend small sums in fencing and protecting stones.

He said that he had found schoolmasters take the greatest interest in the subject, and that by interesting their scholars they had done a great deal to stop destruction.

Canon Warren (Suffolk) said that the same conditions prevailed in Devonshire, and instanced a case in which a farmer had deliberately destroyed a stone circle because of the number of visitors who were attracted by it.

Mr. Major (Somerset) suggested that landlords should put a clause in their leases insuring the preservation of such antiquities.

Mr. P. H. Johnston thought the suggestion to interest schoolmasters most valuable, and the Rev. F. W. Weaver wished to include schoolmistresses.

Mr. Edward Owen introduced himself as delegate for the Royal Society of Antiquaries of Ireland, and Secretary of the Royal Commission on the Ancient Monuments of Wales. He stated that the Commission had made a special point of asking for information from the schoolmasters, and in Montgomery had issued a circular and schedule, with a list of all known monuments in each parish, to the schools as well as to the clergy. Information received in consequence had been of great value. He complained of the callousness of local authorities and of Government authorities.

The Office of Woods and Forests had given to a quarry company a lease of the important stone fortress of Pen Maen Mawr, and this was now doomed.

Mr. R. Garraway Rice, F.S.A. (Sussex), said that he had found schoolmasters and mistresses of great assistance in the collection of prehistoric implements, and boys had taken up eagerly the work of finding such; it was, however, only a few in his county who could be interested.

The Rev. F. G. Walker (Cambridge) wished to say a good word for the parsons who were continually appealing for guidance and help; he had himself made much use of schoolmasters, who were often agents for local papers. Two years ago he had excavated a tumulus two miles from Cambridge, and in consequence of a notice in the paper, the site was visited on a Sunday after by 2,000 people who drank the public dry, and caused him to receive a letter of thanks from the brewers. School museums created an interest, and he had found boys quite useful in excavating, and in keeping an eye on road material.

Mr. Nevill pointed out that at the first Congress he advocated the provision by the societies of 6 inch Ordnance maps, on which everything of interest should be noted. His Surrey Society had purchased a set, and found them most useful, but he was afraid not much had been done in the way of record. Subsequently the Society of Antiquaries had drawn up a scheme for archaeological maps of counties on which everything known could be recorded by agreed symbols indicating character and date. Several maps of counties had been issued, but it appeared impossible to get the work done generally. The scheme of marks should certainly be adopted by anyone who was working on maps.

The President said that the subject of stone and prehistoric monuments was one that specially interested him. When Lord Avebury's Bill was passed, strong objection was raised to interference

with the rights of private property, but it was possible that there might be more chance now for the passing of even such drastic measures as those proposed by Mr. Acland. He himself had once devised a scheme for preparing illustrations of the principal objects of prehistoric interest that could be circulated and exhibited in schools; no doubt many flint and other implements might then be preserved that were now thrown away. Possibly the Congress might, in conjunction with the Society of Antiquaries, develop such a scheme.

The Rev. E. Goddard (Wilts) thought such diagrams would be most useful, and on his proposal, seconded by Canon Morris, it was resolved—"That the Council of the Society of Antiquaries be asked to consider the possibility of preparing, in conjunction with the Congress, a scheme for circulating diagrams of prehistoric remains to all educational institutions."

Dr. Read then left the chair, which, after a vote of thanks to him, was taken by Mr. C. F. Keyser.

On the motion of Mr. Freer, the attention of societies was invited to the desirability of their providing and marking 6 inch maps according to the scheme of the Society of Antiquaries.

On the proposal of Mr. Acland the secretary was directed to write to the Royal Commissions on Ancient Monuments of England and Wales, expressing the great satisfaction with which the Congress viewed their appointment, and their earnest hope that some measures for the preservation of the monuments might follow in consequence of their reports.

Mr. Nevill reported a letter from Sir H. George Fordham, Chairman of the Cambridgeshire County Council, pointing out the incorrectness of the statement in the Minutes of the Congress of 1908, that the Tithe maps were in the custody of the Clerks of the Peace. According to the Act one copy was to be deposited with the Registrar of the Diocese, and the other with the Incumbent and Churchwardens of the Diocese.

The latter have, in perhaps the majority of cases, disappeared. The Inclosure Awards ought to be in the custody of the Clerks of the Peace, but are often missing.

Mr. E. Owen stated that complete sets of the Tithe maps were in the hands of the Board of Agriculture.

Mr. Keyser said that it would be valuable if returns were obtained by County Councils of all such documents in parish or other hands.

Major Freer stated that this had been done in Leicestershire and the results printed, and also in other counties.

The Rev. F. W. Alington (East Herts), on behalf of Mr. W. B. Gerish, honorary Secretary of his Society, brought forward a proposal that the Record Office should be asked to provide a set of their

publications to be issued on loan to workers unable to attend public libraries. Sympathy was expressed for the object of the motion, though it was not thought practicable, and it was not carried.

The following resolution, proposed by Mr. Ralph Nevill, of which notice had been given, was seconded by Canon Morris, and supported by many members, and carried unanimously : it was thought that the object desired by Mr. Gerish might in this manner be achieved.

“That where Archæological Societies representing counties have libraries, Government be asked to supply copies of the Record Office publications on condition that such libraries are maintained in an efficient and proper manner.”

Mr. Johnston drew attention to action lately taken in the Diocese of Chichester, in consequence of which the Bishop had appointed a standing committee of archæological experts to advise on all cases in which a faculty was applied for. He thought that action might profitably be taken by the Congress to promote the general formation of such Committees.

The meeting cordially agreed with this view, and the hour being late, asked Mr. Johnston to bring the matter forward at the next Congress.

On the motion of Dr. Gaster (Folk-lore Society), a vote of thanks was passed to the Chairman, and to the Society of Antiquaries for the use of the room.

RALPH NEVILL,
Hon. Secretary, 1909.

CASTLE HILL,
GUILDFORD.