

Minutes of a meeting of the Council of the Astronomical Society of South Africa held at the Wesleyan Church School, Rosebank, on Monday, 15th August 1927, at 8 pm.

Present

In the absence of the President Dr Roberts, the Chair was taken by Dr. Spence Jones, a Vice-President; Messrs Forbes, Long, Mason, Reid, Schreyer, Smith & Troughton (Hon. Secretary)

Alternates

The Secretary reported that Dr Roberts regretted his inability to be present, and had appointed Mr. Cox as his alternate. The Council approved.

Messrs Troughton had appointed Mr. Skewes.

Mr Jackson - - - - - Forbes, and

Mr. Stevens - - - - - Mason

The Secretary had informed Mr. Wood that Mr. Inghelty was willing to act as his alternate, and had suggested to Dr. Halim that Capt. Cameron-Swan on his return to South Africa would probably be willing to act for him. No reply had been received from Mr. Wood or Dr. Halim. A notice of the meeting has been sent to Mr. Inghelty, but he was absent thro' indisposition.

Minutes

The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and confirmed. The Secretary reported the voting for the new Council elected at the Annual Meeting. Over 60 ballot papers were sent out of which 33 were returned. The Council confirmed the decision of the Secretary & the late President that it was unnecessary to seek confirmation of the Council's action in approving ~~the~~ appointment of alternates in certain cases prior to the recent amendment of article VII of the Constitution. The Secretary read the Johannesburg Centre's Annual Report and ~~the~~ Financial Statement and the names of the new Officers and Committee of that Centre, which included 6 members of Committee instead of 5 as provided in the Centre's Rules dated 8th August 1923. The attention of the Centre would be drawn to this apparent discrepancy.

Correspondence The Secretary laid on the table the letters received and copies of those written since the last meeting. The following were considered: letter from Johannesburg Centre of 21 June forwarding Reports and also suggesting an amendment to the Constitution which was in the form of a resolution by the Centre as follows: "Submitted that Article ~~XIX~~ of the Constitution be amended, the words 'not being domiciled in South Africa' to be deleted and the Article to read as follows - 'The Council shall have power to elect as an honorary member of the Society any person who has rendered special service to Astronomy'". The Secretary had replied that the proposed amendment had not been submitted in due form, viz: before 31st May and signed by 5 members, and that he would have no opportunity of before the circulation of the ballot paper of consulting the Council as required by Article XXII of the Constitution. After discussion the Council agreed that the matter be left in abeyance.

Letter of 2 July from the Natal Astronomical Assn. forwarding a donation of £5, which has been acknowledged with the Society's thanks. Letter of 4 August from Dr Roberts who expressed his pleasure at being elected President and his wish to carry out all the necessary duties in his power.

Letter of 5 August from Mr. Hooper regarding his theory of "rotating stars". The Chairman had read the letter and considered no action was

Extract from letter from Mr. Mackenzie respecting a proposed time signal at Grahamstown to be given at 8 p.m. by means of the electric light. ^{called for.}

Members two
year in
arrear
The Secretary had written to each Centre enquiring if, in conformity with By-law 3, there were any members two years in arrear with their subscriptions. The Cape Centre had furnished a list of such members and associates, some of whom had recently been written to. Of the rest, the Council ordered 4 names to be struck off as the addresses were unknown, and directed the Secretary to write to certain others informing them of the position.

Financial
position The Treasurer reported a balance in hand of £27.4.6: the Council passed accounts for printing Ballot Paper (£1.5.0) +

wrapper (X.1.2.6), and for next meeting of June 8th, ± 1 .

Director of Observing Sections

Mr Reid was thanked for his services and reappointed Director of the Comet Section. He mentioned that in comet-sweeping he sometimes came across suspected variable stars and it was suggested that he should report such discoveries to the Variable Star Section who would endeavour to follow them up.

Dr Morris was ordered to be thanked for his services and was reappointed Director of the Mars Section.

Mr. Emsw was ordered to be thanked for his services and was reappointed Director of the Variable Star Section.

The formation of a Computing Section was held over until the next meeting when it might be known what support it was likely to have.

Editor
Librarian

Dr. Spencer Jones was thanked for his services and reappointed Editor. Mrs Forbes was thanked for his services and reappointed Librarian.

He stated that if possible he would provide a small bookcase to contain the Society's Library, so as to render the books available for exchange at meetings of the Cape Centre. It was thought that the Johannesburg Centre should be informed that these books were available, and the Secretary of that Centre should be notified that books might be borrowed through him.

Report of Journal Committee

The Editor mentioned the matter for the next Journal, some of which had already gone to the printer. After discussion the Council approved the inclusion of a composite map of Mars at its 1924 opposition drawn by Mr. Jacey who had provided a block; also one page of drawings and a full page composite map of the planet at its 1926 opposition, submitted by the Director of the Section in his recent report. The Secretary was instructed to ask the publishers if they could supply a copy of the new edition of Young's "Manual of Astronomy" for review in the Journal.

New Journal
 Committee
 Wilson C. Long and McIntyre and the Secretary were reappointed
 as the Journal Committee.

Next Council
 meeting
 The Secretary hoped to arrange the next Council meeting when
 Dr. Roberts was in Cape Town so that he could preside.

The Chairman stated that a successor to Dr. Halpern at the
 Royal Observatory was arriving shortly.

The meeting then terminated.

C. W. Roberts
