

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MAY, 1969, GENERAL MEETING

The May General Meeting of the Institute was held in Kelvin House, Johannesburg, on 21st May, 1969, at 4.30 p.m.

Mr J. K. E. Douglas (Vice-President) was in the Chair.

There were also present twenty-two Members, including Messrs F. P. Bath, M. Bareza, A. R. C. Fowler, D. M. Jamieson, C. M. Mavrocordatos, D. G. Maxwell and J. A. Nixon (Council Members), Messrs T. Davidson, G. L. Diering, E. T. Dunstan, D. E. H. French, K. Hodgson, O. A. E. Jackson, A. F. Lee, A. Louw, D. L. Starkey, R. K. Wheeler and M. Youngworth.

Four Associate Members including Messrs D. Blair Hook and G. R. Still. One Student Mr N. A. Barcza.

Thirteen Visitors, including Messrs S. H. Ash, D. L. G. Bayne, E. Bayne, S. Bell, W. S. Garrett, L. S. Gibbs, R. C. Hamilton, M. Maguire, D. Rose and J. D. van Niekerk.

Total Present: Forty-one.

OBITUARY

The Vice-President: "It is my sad duty to announce the death of the following member of the Institute:

Thomas Spence Haldane, Member, who joined the Institute in 1924 and passed away on 21st December, 1968.

As a mark of respect to the memory of the deceased and in sympathy with the bereaved, those present stood and observed silence for a few moments.

MINUTES

The Vice-President requested that confirmation of the minutes of the previous meeting be held over as they would only be appearing in the *Journal* of the following month. He also requested that confirmation of the minutes of the 75th Anniversary Meeting be held over.

MEMBERSHIP

The Vice-President: "I have much pleasure in announcing that the names of the under-mentioned candidates have been published in accordance with By-Law 5.2.2, and Council has elected them to membership of the Institute in the following grades:

Members: Gideon Jacob Haumann, Peter John Cumming, Ian Stanley Dudman, Roderick Goldston Murchison.

Associate Members: Francois Alwyn Beyers Fouche, Alan Marsh, Johannes Petrus van der Westhuysen, Waldo Edmund Stumpf, Ian Nicholas Ridley.

Affiliates: Lutgerus Kolver Jooste, Roger Ainsley Ralph Kebble, Edward John Wainwright, Lewis William Davies.

Graduate: Clive Graham Knobbs.

MEMBER TRANSFERRED TO A HIGHER GRADE

From Student to Associate Member: Diethard Otto Eduard Fahrback.

I welcome the newly elected members to the Institute and congratulate the member who has been transferred to a higher grade." (*Applause*).

GENERAL BUSINESS

The Vice-President asked whether there were any matters to be raised under this heading, and then proceeded to the next item on the agenda.

PAPER FOR PRESENTATION

The Vice-President called upon Mr Garrett to present the paper entitled: "Flooding at the West Driefontein Mine" written jointly with Mr R. R. M. Cousens, which is being presented jointly by the Institute and the I.M.M., London.

The Vice-President: "Gentlemen, I am sure you will agree with me, that we have not only listened to a most interesting presentation of a very good paper, but I am sure every one of us has been very appreciative of the tremendous trouble Mr Garrett has gone to, to demonstrate the design of these plugs. I would like on your behalf, to express our very sincere thanks to him and to his co-author for this very fine paper. This paper is an authentic record of one of the most outstanding events in our mining history. The unprecedented and completely unexpected inflow of huge quantities of water into one of our richest mines could easily have been one of our greatest tragedies. Despite the most stringent precautions, which the authors have described, the mine was almost lost to an inflow of water on a scale which was greater than anyone could have anticipated. It must have been a terrifying experience for all those directly concerned. We who read the newspapers at the time, were very sympathetic, but courage, endurance and engineering skill averted a tragedy. Not only was the mine saved but what is more outstanding, it was done without a single loss of life or an accident. This is truly a magnificent achievement and we in South Africa, can be very proud of it.

We are very grateful that the full technical story has now been put on record, not only through the medium of this Institute, but also through the I.M.M. in London. While we sincerely hope that there will be no further similar occurrences this record will, I am sure, provide a textbook, for the future. The experience gained will no doubt help tremendously in the problems of mining below the water compartment in the dolomite areas of the West Rand. The sharing of technical knowledge will undoubtedly help to solve these problems and this Institute is pleased that you have chosen it as the medium for spreading this information."

Messrs. L. T. Campbell Pitt, R. Buley, F. J. Bayley, Dr N. G. W. Cook (in conjunction with Mr K. Hodgson and Mr H. Wagner) and Mr Diering contributed to the paper. (These contributions will appear in a later issue of the *Journal*.)

PAPERS OPEN FOR DISCUSSION AND CLOSURE

The Vice-President: "In view of the lateness of the hour, I would suggest that anyone wishing to contribute to these papers should submit their contributions to the Secretary.

In conclusion, we would like to express our very great thanks to the authors of this paper, and to all the contributors this afternoon, and before leaving, can we show our appreciation in the usual way.

I wish to thank members and visitors for their attendance and now declare the meeting closed."

The meeting closed at 6.05 p.m.