

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

SINCE the last meeting of the Society in October 1929, the Council has to record the deaths of seven members:

John H. Edmonds, elected in 1918, died October 27, 1929. Long known to most of us as the able and faithful custodian of the State archives, his regular attendance at our meetings, as well as his constant willingness to help all investigators, will be greatly missed.

William B. Scofield, elected in 1927, died January 22, 1930. He was one of Worcester's best known and philanthropic citizens and was a frequent visitor to the Library up to the time of his long final illness.

William H. P. Faunce, for thirty years president of Brown University, died January 31, 1930. Elected in recognition of his scholarly attainments only as recently as 1928, he had never attended a meeting, but he had planned to address the Society at its meeting last October.

William H. Taft, elected in 1912, died March 8, 1930. The leading speaker at the Centennial of the Society in 1912 and for many years a member of the Council, he was always much interested in the Society's progress and wrote frequent letters in the Society's behalf to aid in increasing its funds and its collections.

Samuel Morris Conant of Dudley, elected in 1909, died March 16, 1930. With scholarly tastes, he was especially interested in the history of his own town; the valuable collection of Conant Papers now in the Library came as his gift.

Claude H. Van Tyne, elected in 1922, died after a long illness on March 21, 1930. Although distance

from New England had prevented attendance at the meetings, he was a good friend to the Society and frequently made use of the Library in his researches.

Justin H. Smith, elected in 1909; died March 21, 1930. Long professor of history at Dartmouth and a historian of high repute, he showed many kindnesses to the Society and an unflinching interest in its work.

Obituary sketches will appear in the printed proceedings of the April meeting. With the exception of President Taft and Professor Van Tyne, all of these members were close friends of the Librarian and he wishes to record his personal sense of loss and his sorrow for their passing.

The library building of the Society at Worcester continues to function as one of the most commodious and best planned structures of its kind, after nearly twenty years of use; but no building is perfect and like many edifices unable to withstand the severity of New England winters, the first defects show in the roof. Apparently for some years past water has been working its way in between the inner and outer walls, and the marble copings on their top courses were gradually being forced out of line.

The Bishop Company was engaged to remedy the situation and had to remove much of the marble facing at every corner and recement it to the main structure in a more permanent form. The cost of this rather expensive undertaking was \$1867.89 which has been charged to the original cost of the building.

The proceedings of the last meeting in October have been somewhat delayed due to an unexpected difficulty in the reproducing of some thirty pages of manuscript, as well as to the completion of the index; but the issue should be out before the end of summer.

The work in the Library, due to greatly increased correspondence and unusually large accessions, has made the need of a larger staff seem more imperative than ever. Since this is a report of the Council and not of the Librarian, all consideration of the Library's

growth and its accessions will be deferred until the annual meeting, due to the most fortunate clause in the By-Laws which requires from the Librarian only an annual report to the Society in October. The members should be informed, however, of two very notable gifts to the Library—one, the large and comprehensive collection of Vermont history and literature from Mr. Matt B. Jones and the other the Sidney L. Smith collection of engravings largely acquired through the generosity of Herbert E. Lombard and the gifts of Charles E. Goodspeed.

Fortunately the funds of the Society continue to grow, even though not perhaps in proportion to the material received and the work done. From the estate of John W. Farwell, the Society has received the sum of \$5,000, a bequest from our late member who for many years was one of the most familiar figures at the meetings. Also from several members gifts varying from \$100 to \$500 have been made to the Special Gifts Fund, which allow the Library to acquire needed material that it could not possibly obtain out of its regular funds. This particular fund for the past few years has been a source of great relief, and with its aid few really valuable opportunities offered to us have been neglected.

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For the Council

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