

CALEDONIAN SOCIETY. TWENTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING.

The twenty-seventh annual meeting of the South Australian Caledonian Society was held at Bricknell's Cafe on Tuesday evening. There was a large attendance. The chief (Mr. J. W. Sandford) presided. The annual report, which was adopted, stated:—

During the year 7 members have been lost by death, 8 by departure from the State and resignation, and 5 new members have been elected, the total members at present on the roll being 313, in which number 18 life and 8 honorary members are included. The obituary list includes the name of a past chief of the society (Mr. Alvaus MacDonald), whose tenure of the premier office constitutes the record period for which it has been filed by any one member. The other members who have passed over to the great majority, the numbers in brackets signifying the year in which they joined the society, were Messrs. James Duncan (1881), Allan MacFarlane (1881), Dr. Wm. Campbell (1882), David Bell (1882), John McTaggart, T. B. Oliver (1884). Mr. James Duncan died since the last quarterly meeting, and we record our high appreciation of his personal character and business ability. The gathering together of such a list, each name in which stands for solid achievement in various departments of State citizenship, emphasises the heavy loss the complete obituary of one short year means to the society, while at the same time it demonstrates the value to the community of the Scots colonist. The social gatherings of the society during the year drew large attendances, and afforded members and their friends very considerable enjoyment. The fact that no public entertainments have been promoted by the society for over two years, owing to the failure after repeated endeavor, to secure the Town Hall for a single night—a state of things due to the civic regulations, which bear hardly upon local societies, to whom in their capacity as citizens the hall belongs—led the council to contract for a series of three concerts by a company of Victorian artists, under the direction of Mr. Gregor Wood. The council regret that the financial result was not better, especially as this came as an addition to a loss of £24 occasioned by reason of the cancellation of a contract for three concerts by Miss Jessie MacLachlan, due to severe illness overtaking her in New Zealand, which necessitated the abandonment of her Australian engagements. These setbacks constitute the chief factor in the presentation of a financial statement less satisfactory than has been experienced for many years, but your council are satisfied that with hearty co-operation on the part of all members the overdraft will soon give place once more to a credit balance.

In moving the adoption of the report, the Chief referred regretfully to the death of the loyal Scotsmen whose names had been mentioned. Although to some it might appear that the work of the society had been

mentioned. Although it might appear that the work of the society had been lax, the council had been most energetic in their endeavors to extend the organisation. A committee had been formed, and would in future meet monthly instead of quarterly. The quarterly meetings would be devoted more particularly to the transaction of business matters, while intermediate gatherings would probably be utilised to provide opportunities of a literary or social nature. This would result in bringing members into closer touch with each other. The bairns' dances constituted one of the finest sights in Australia, and their classes were really necessary to the society, for from them it would have to draw its younger members. The society was in a position to find employment for brother Scots who came out from the old country, and during the present week one immigrant from the land of the haggis had been placed in a situation. They were somewhat behind financially, and although the money could be easily raised, the council had in view something beyond that.

Mr. J. Drummond, in seconding the motion, said it was monstrous that local bodies and artists should have to engage the Town Hall for three nights in succession before they could book it for an engagement more than a month ahead. This showed that there was plenty of room for a new hall.

Mr. H. G. McKittrick stated that although the society's concerts were not a financial success, artistically they were the best he had attended in the State.

Several new members were enrolled. The balance-sheet showed a debit bank balance of £74. The following officers were elected:—Chief, Mr. J. W. Sandford; chieftain, Mr. D. W. Gray; directors, Messrs. W. J. Hill, G. McEwin, G. Waddell; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. F. Key; secretary, Mr. H. Tassie; hon. auditors, Messrs. A. D. Young and A. Ross Scott; hon. pipers, Messrs. D. E. McDonald and W. McLennan.

A musical programme followed, songs being rendered by Messrs. C. Tweeddale, W. W. McLellan, J. Hodge, F. W. Smyth, R. McK. Gollan, and Brooker.