

## Somerset Earthworks Committee.

*President* :—Prof. W. BOYD DAWKINS, D.Sc., F.R.S.

*Secretary* :—Dr. A. BULLEID, F.S.A., Dymboro, Midsomer Norton, Bath.

*Treasurer* :—Dr. C. BALFOUR STEWART, Huntspill, Highbridge.

*Director of Excavations* :—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, Taunton Castle.

A COMMITTEE Meeting was held on June 23rd, 1914, at 5.30 p.m., at the Guildhall, Bath, when the following members were present : Prof. W. Boyd Dawkins, Messrs. Tite, Stewart, Bothamley, Pritchard, Major, Hamlet, Gray, and Bulleid.

After the election of the officers the following resolutions were carried :—

1. That the four officers shall be elected annually.
2. That one-third of the Committee shall retire annually, but that the retiring members shall be eligible for re-election.
3. That a small Sub-Committee be appointed, consisting of Prof. Boyd Dawkins, and Messrs. Tite, Hamlet, Stewart, and Bulleid, to arrange with Mr. Gray the conditions under which he, as Director of Excavations, will be willing to work, and also to discuss the question with the Council of the Society, and report to this Committee.

The following subjects were considered :—

4. The formation of a British Association Committee to work conjointly with that of the County. On account of the Association Meeting in Australia, this matter was postponed for a future committee meeting.
5. With regard to the sites to be selected for future excavation, this question was discussed at considerable length, but owing to want of time, was ultimately adjourned for another meeting.
6. It was proposed that the next Committee Meeting should be held at Bristol (*sine die*).

## Bath and District Branch.

*President*—The Right Hon. Lord HYLTON, F.S.A.

*Hon. Treasurer and Secretary*—Mr. THOS. S. BUSH, 20, Camden Crescent, Bath.

*Hon. Excursion Sec.*—Mr. GERALD J. GREY, Collina House, Bathwick Hill, Bath.

SIX excursions had been arranged for the season, 1914, but owing to the war two fixed for September and October were cancelled. On April 22nd, visits were paid to the churches of St. Peter, Camerton; St. Nicholas, Radstock; and St. Andrew, Holcombe. On May 18th, St. James, Trowbridge; St. Leonard, Keevil; St. Mary, Steeple Ashton, and the Manor House and Vicarage. On June 15th, Gough's Cavern, Cheddar; the Churches of St. Andrew, Cheddar; St. Mary Magdalene, Wedmore; St. John Baptist, Axbridge, and King John's Hunting Lodge. On July 10th, the Church of the Blessed Virgin and St. Melorus, Amesbury; the Excavations at Old Sarum; the Church of SS. Peter and Paul, Heytesbury, and St. John's Hospital.

Two interesting addresses, each illustrated by lantern slides, were given at the Literary and Scientific Institution, Bath. The first on January 15th, by the Rev. Ethelbert Horne, on "Scratch Dials," and the second on February 19th, by Mr. Gerald J. Grey, on "Grotesque Gargoyles."

## Glastonbury Abbey Excavations.

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### REPORT OF THE GLASTONBURY ABBEY EXCAVATION COMMITTEE, 1914.

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*Chairman and Secretary*—The Rev. C. H. HEALE.

*Vice-Chairman*—The Rev. W. T. REEDER.

*Treasurer*—Mr. H. ST. GEORGE GRAY.

The Revs. Preb. J. HAMLET, F. W. WEAVER and A. J. HOOK,  
and Messrs. J. MORLAND, E. SWANWICK and ROGER CLARK.

YOUR Committee have to report that since the last accounts were published they have received in subscriptions and donations the sum of £100 18s. 5d.

There has been no increase in the number of annual subscribers, but the Abbey Trustees have liberally subscribed, and several members of our Society, as well as other kindred societies, have generously contributed to the Fund.

This year there has been a decided falling-off in the amount collected in the boxes in the Abbey grounds. Last year £31 13s. 6d. was obtained in this way as against £19 16s. 11d. this year, but this decrease is accounted for by the outbreak of war, which prevented many Americans and other tourists from visiting the Abbey.

More of the earth would have been removed this year had the Committee been able to find persons willing to take it, but it is hoped to have the whole of the unsightly heap cleared away at an early date.

This season two men were engaged in digging up to October 3rd; the Committee however did not think it advisable to

continue the excavations during the winter months, and this will partially account for the larger balance in hand this year than last.

The work has again been carried out under the personal supervision of Mr. F. Bligh Bond, F.R.I.B.A., with the help of his assistant, Mr. H. Wescombe, to whom the Committee wish to express their best thanks.

Thanks are also due to Mr. St. George Gray for acting as Treasurer, and for his success in obtaining funds for defraying the expenses connected with the excavation work.

## Statement of Accounts for 1914.

## DONATIONS, ETC., RECEIVED TOWARDS THE EXCAVATION FUND.

[Those marked with asterisk (\*) are Annual Subscriptions].

|                             | £  | s. | d. |                               | £    | s. | d. |
|-----------------------------|----|----|----|-------------------------------|------|----|----|
| Balance brought forward     | 37 | 10 | 5  | *Dudman, Misses (2) ...       | 1    | 0  | 0  |
| Trustees, Glastonbury       |    |    |    | Farrer, Rev. Preb. W. ...     | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| Abbey ... ..                | 20 | 0  | 0  | Hobhouse, Rt. Hon. H. ...     | 2    | 2  | 0  |
| Do. for Merrick & Son's     |    |    |    | James, E. Haughton, Esq.      | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| Bill ... ..                 | 20 | 5  |    | Jenner, Lady ... ..           | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| Box, Glastonbury Abbey,     |    |    |    | Paynter, J. B., Esq. ...      | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| (Jan. 1—Oct. 3) ...         | 19 | 16 | 11 | *Shirreff, J. H., Esq. ...    | 0    | 10 | 0  |
| Sale of Reports, 1913 ...   | 0  | 9  | 0  | Somerville, A. F., Esq. ...   | 5    | 0  | 0  |
| Merrick & Son, man's time   | 1  | 4  | 9  | Thompson, Miss Archer...      | 2    | 0  | 0  |
| Antiquaries, Society of ... | 2  | 2  | 0  | Tite, Charles, Esq. ...       | 0    | 10 | 6  |
| Archæological Institute,    |    |    |    | Vassall, H., Esq., F.S.A. ... | 5    | 0  | 0  |
| Royal ... ..                | 2  | 2  | 0  | Waldegrave, Rt. Hon.          |      |    |    |
| Bagehot, Mrs. Walter ...    | 1  | 1  | 0  | Earl ... ..                   | 5    | 0  | 0  |
| Bouverie, H. H. P., Esq.    | 5  | 0  | 0  | Wells N. H. & A. Society      | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| Bouverie, Miss ... ..       | 2  | 0  | 0  | Were, Francis, Esq. ...       | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| British Archæol. Assoc. ... | 5  | 5  | 0  | Weston-super-Mare Branch,     |      |    |    |
| Broadmead, W. B., Esq.      | 10 | 0  | 0  | Som. A. & N.H. Soc. ...       | 2    | 2  | 0  |
| Bulleid, Dr. A., F.S.A. ... | 1  | 1  | 0  | Woodhouse, A. E. C., Esq.     | 1    | 1  | 0  |
| Clark, Roger, Esq. ...      | 1  | 0  | 0  |                               |      |    |    |
| Cowan, T. W., Esq., F.L.S.  | 1  | 0  | 0  | Total Receipts                | £160 | 9  | 3  |

## EXPENDITURE FROM JAN. 9th, 1914, to DEC. 31st, 1914.

|          |   | £    | s. | d. |
|----------|---|------|----|----|
| 1914.    |   |      |    |    |
| —        | Labour to Oct. 3, 1914 ... ..   | 48   | 19 | 0  |
| Feb. 17. | Hauling Earth from the Excavations ... ..   | 4    | 3  | 4  |
| Mar. 26. | Merrick and Son, Miscellaneous Repairs and<br>digging; also Stakes, 1908-1914 .. .. | 20   | 5  | 8  |
| Aug. 26. | Wheelbarrows ... ..   | 1    | 8  | 0  |
| Oct. 3.  | Mr. F. Bligh Bond's Expenses ... ..   | 3    | 0  | 0  |
| Oct. 7.  | Honorarium (H. Wescombe) ... ..   | 2    | 2  | 0  |
| —        | Postages and Telegrams ... ..   | 0    | 9  | 6  |
| Mar. 29. | 50 Reports reprinted ... ..   | 0    | 6  | 6  |
| June 30. | Printing ... ..   | 0    | 8  | 0  |
| June 30. | Cheque Book ... ..  | 0    | 1  | 0  |
|          | Balance in hand (Dec. 31st, 1914)   | 79   | 6  | 3  |
|          |   | £160 | 9  | 3  |

H. ST. GEORGE GRAY, *Hon. Treasurer.*

## MEMORANDUM OF EXCAVATIONS DURING THE YEAR, 1914.

A considerable amount of work has been done during the summer and early autumn. A large section of the area immediately to the east of the Refectory and south of the Chapter-house has now been cleared, and a mass of foundation work exposed. This includes a massive block of masonry running southwards, and lying more or less on the presumed line of the eastern face of the block of buildings fencing the east alley of the cloister and its extension to the south parts of the monastery.

The boundary-line is clear, but the dilapidation of the walls themselves within the boundary is so extreme that until the excavation has proceeded further no satisfactory plan can be made.

A small section of plinth, as for a light partition or passage-wall, is *in situ*—pointing to a continuation of the adit to the Refectory cellar, in the east wall of which the existence of a blocked doorway will be remembered.

Traces of a tiled floor were found a little to the north of this, and numerous excellent specimens of loose tile. Among the small relics found, the most interesting is a fragment of a convex lens of polished quartz which was discovered in the rubble at a depth of five feet or so, and just above the foundations. This has been subjected to a jeweller's test and is pronounced to be the hardest rock-crystal. No coins or tokens have been found. There is always a dearth of these, and this fact warrants the belief that after the Dissolution, very enthusiastic search was made for anything in the shape of "treasure."—FREDK. BLIGH BOND, Oct. 22, 1914.

With reference to the last sentence of Mr. Bond's report, the Committee think it will be interesting to print the following extracts from the Rev. Chancellor T. Scott Holmes'

account of Glastonbury Abbey in the *Victoria County History, Somerset*, vol. II :—

On 2 May, 1539, Cromwell's agent sent to the Treasury from the West of England 493 ounces of gold, 16,000 ounces of gilt plate, and 28,700 ounces of parcel gilt and silver plate.

The Abbey of Glastonbury was again visited in Sept. 1539, when the servants of the abbot were discharged and a search was made for valuables. £300 in cash was soon found, and they wrote to Cromwell to say, " we have found a fair chalice of gold and divers other parcels of plate which the abbot had hid secretly from all such commissioners. . . ."

On 28 Sept., they again wrote to Cromwell that they had found money and plate hidden in secret places in the monastery, preparatory to being sent out of the country.

On 24 Oct., another harvest of valuables was sent up to the Treasury, viz., 71 ounces of gold with precious stones, 7,214 ounces of gilt plate, and 6,387 ounces of silver. They are described as the possessions of attainted persons.

Cromwell himself notes the value of that which had come into the King's hand as follows :—" The plate of Glastonbury 11,000 ounces and over, besides golden, the furniture of the house at Glastonbury, in ready money from Glastonbury £1,100 and over, the rich copes from Glastonbury, the whole year's revenues from Glastonbury, the sums due to Glastonbury £2,000 and above."