

IS:
cellency The Governor & Lady Brooks

IAN:
hn Newman-Morris, Kt., C.M.G.

HAIRMAN:
G. Norris, M.A.
on. Sir. Herbert Olney, Kt.

REASURER:
slie McConnan, Kt.

HON. SECRETARIES:
G. Tuddenham, M.A.
V. H. Dobson

MINUTE SECRETARY:
A. Marchant Penfold

FIVE COMMITTEE:
E. Atkinson, F.C.I.S.
R. Dossetor
F. Dyson
M. Ebeling
leith Mackay, J.P., F.H.A.
F. Meier
M. G. Pardy
N. Spittle
D. C. Urquhart.

Old People's Welfare Council

VICTORIAN COUNCIL ON THE AGEING

FIRST ANNUAL REPORT.

I have the honour to present the First Annual Report of the Old People's Welfare Council in Victoria.

Since the inaugural meeting on 30th April, 1951, under the chairmanship of the Rt. Hon. the Lord Mayor, at which His Excellency Sir Dallas Brooks commended the cause to the community, and the Hon. W.O. Fulton, representing the Premier, gave assurance of Government support, much careful planning has been done. The provisional committee appointed at that meeting drew up a Constitution, which was submitted to the Council on 4th July and adopted. At that meeting also the permanent committee was elected for the ensuing twelve months.

There have been three other meetings of the Council - in May & December of last year and April of this year. Besides receiving interim reports from the Executive, members heard the following guest-speakers:- May: Mr. John Moss, C.B.E., Chairman of the N.O.P.W.C. of Great Britain; December: Col. R.L. Elliott; April: Dr. E. Cunningham Dax. Helpful recommendations were made in the course of the general business of these meetings and have been acted upon by the Executive.

appointments. - There have been fourteen meetings of the Executive at which the attendance on the whole has been regular. The following appointments have been made:- Mrs. W.H. Dobson and Mrs. F.G. Tuddenham were appointed Joint Hon. Secretaries, Sir Leslie McConnan agreed to accept appointment as Hon. Treasurer, and, on his return from overseas, Col. R.L. Elliott was co-opted as an Executive member. In December, Mrs. W.H. Dobson was granted leave of absence, as it was her intention to visit England and the Continent. According to letters received, she has been doing a great deal of practical research into the work for the Aged, and will give the Council the benefit of all the knowledge thus gained when she returns.

trons. - In September a letter was received from Government House advising that His Excellency, the Governor, and Lady Brooks had kindly consented to become Patrons of the Council. We greatly appreciate their action in this matter.

xies. - It was agreed that when a member of Executive is prevented from attending a meeting he or she may send, in writing, the name of a proxy to attend instead; a record is to be made in the Minutes and the proxy will have a vote on all questions.

an of action. - It was decided to set up sub-committees to consider different aspects of the work so that a complete survey could be made.

Constituent bodies were circularised to get a report of the scope of work done by them. Sub-committees were set up: on accommodation (Messrs. Atkinson & Mackay), visiting (Mrs. Dyson) and, at a later stage, fuel & heating (Mrs. Urquhart). Through the first committee a report was received of a Conference of Superintendents and Accountants of Country Benevolent Homes, in which were given particulars of existing accommodation, additions already commenced and others projected, and estimates of District requirements. The bed situation was considered desperate, needing immediate attention. At least 5,000 beds were required. Various bodies furnished information about visiting. The third committee conducted enquiries regarding gas and electricity restrictions, and also the supply of fuel to old folks. As a result of the representations of one member to the Mayor of Prahran, a number of hot-water bottles were made available to old folk who had no other safe means of heating.

Approach to Municipal Councils. - In August it was decided that contact should be made with all suburban Municipal Councils, asking them to call public meetings with a view to setting up recreational centres for old people. All suburban Councils were circularised and an offer was made that members of the Executive would be willing to wait on the Councils to explain plans and to help in organising such meetings. On invitation members visited the following Councils: - Brunswick, Collingwood, Fitzroy, Richmond, St. Kilda, Malvern & Oakleigh. The outcome of these visits was that the Executive came to the conclusion that, while welfare work was well established in some Municipalities, lack of finance limited this work in most cases, while in other Municipalities it precluded its establishment at all.

It was decided therefore to seek the assistance of the Government, and on Wednesday, 26th March, the members of the Executive waited on the Premier, with the request that financial assistance should be given. Mr. McDonald received the deputation sympathetically, acknowledged the importance of the work and promised that he could recommend to his Government that financial support should be given to any Council which brought forward a practicable plan.

It is considered vitally important to approach this work on the municipal level, so that help may be given to old folk in their own homes, to enable them to stay in familiar surroundings among their friends instead of their being removed to institutions which are already crowded to capacity. It is envisaged that, following the British scheme, such help should include (i) Home Help on an hourly basis; (ii) Home visiting, and, if necessary, nursing; (iii) Recreation and fellowship provided by clubs, and (iv) Provision of hot meals - in clubs, or, where necessary, in their own homes by the "meals-on-wheels" service.

After the deputation to the Premier, a further letter was sent to the Councils, reporting what had been done and urging that the Councils should prepare such a plan and submit it to Mr. McDonald, and that they should in the meantime inaugurate an Old People's Club so that the hardships of the winter might be mitigated. A similar

letter was sent to the Metropolitan Sectional Council of the Municipal Association in the hopes that some corporate action might be taken. This letter, however, was too late for the May meeting, but will be dealt with in August. Members have since visited Chelsea and Mordialloc Councils, met an appointed representative from Moorabbin and have been invited to visit St. Kilda, Box Hill and Hawthorn.

sits.- During the year the Executive visited Mount Royal and the South Melbourne Elderly Citizens' Club where they were entertained at lunch. Members were impressed with the splendid work being done in each place.

gratulations.- We have watched with interest the establishment of a free Chiropody service for pensioners at Hawthorn, and of an Elderly Citizens' Association at Kew. We wish to congratulate those responsible for these services to the old people in these Municipalities.

anks.- The thanks of this Council are accorded to our guest-speakers at Council Meetings; to the National Council of Women of Victoria for making their room available for Executive meetings and for allowing the use of the address, etc.; to the Melbourne City Council for their hospitality for our Council Meetings; to the Citizens' Welfare Service and the Council of Social Services for offers of assistance; to the Lord Mayor's Fund and other donors, for donations; to Miss Vicars Foote of the Albion Secretarial Service for her ready and generous help in the duplication of letters, etc.; to our capable and willing Minute Secretary, Mrs. Marchant Penfold, who has done so much to further the interests of the Council since its inception.

We look forward to a year of busy activity and feel confident that all our preliminary planning will bear fruit in the establishment of clubs for elderly citizens in many Municipalities. Our greatest need at the moment is for office accommodation in the City, so that our work may be carried on efficiently.

C. LILA G. TUDDENHAM,

Joint Hon. Secretary.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Receipts

Expenditure

Donations -		Petty Cash (Mrs.M.P.)	£10: 0: 0
Sir John Newman-Morris	£10: 0: 0	" " & Bk.Draft	
Sir Herbert Olney	2: 2: 0	(Mrs.D.)	2:11: 4
Mr. D.R.Dossetor	10: 0: 0	" " (Mrs.T.)	2: 3: 6
Mrs. Carnegie	10:10: 0	Stationery	8:12: 1
The Lord Mayor's Fund	100: 0: 0	Duplication	1: 3: 0
		Balance at Bank	108: 2: 1
LILA G. TUDDENHAM,	£132:12: 0		£132:12: 0
ctg.Hon.Treasurer.			