

I had intended giving a short resumé of the history of the Association since its inception, but I find our Secretary has anticipated me by preparing a very full and concise report dealing with the matter.

The Council has prepared a draft set of By-laws to submit for your approval to-day; on behalf of the Council I can say the By-laws have received very careful consideration. Members of the Council have devoted a very great deal of care and time to their preparation, and at the last meeting of the Council the By-laws were read clause by clause, some slight alterations being made, and as they now stand were approved of by the Council.

As I intend to retire to-day from the President's chair, which I have occupied since the first provisional organization, a term of office which I think far too long and which should be limited to one year, I take this opportunity of thanking the officers and members of the Council for the prompt and ready assistance they have given me; the President to be may have as good a support, but he cannot have better.

I must also refer gratefully to the assistance given to us before incorporation by those whom you will hear referred to to-day as Charter Members.

One word more and I am through; let us, forgetting that there have been dissensions among us, work together for the welfare of our profession and Association, and in every way encourage the younger writers to become members, for it is to them we must look for the future of our Chartered Stenographic Reporters' Association; the boys will be men.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The Secretary then read the Report of the Council prepared by him for the year, as follows:—

"The members of the Council, in presenting their first annual report, have to express their feelings of regret that, owing to a combination of circumstances beyond their control, the past year has been a period of comparative inactivity on the part of the Association, notwithstanding the Council's earnest desire to enter upon at the earliest possible moment and actively prosecute the work for the furtherance of which the Charter of the Association was sought and procured.

"In entering upon an explanation of those circumstances, a short narrative of the inception and progress of the movement which led to the incorporation of the present Association may not be deemed out of