

## RAND PIONEERS.

THE "RAND PIONEERS" Association was instituted at a meeting held in Johannesburg on Wednesday, 8th July, 1903, and was first suggested by Mr. Edgar Rathbone. The objects of the Association are, primarily, the maintenance of the *esprit de corps* and the keeping alive of the spirit of good-fellowship existing amongst the pioneers of the Witwatersrand goldfields; the preservation and recording of interesting data and documents with the view of their ultimate publication; social intercourse, &c., &c. Originally membership was restricted to those who resided on the Rand for a reasonable period previous to 31st December, 1889, or, having arrived shortly before that time, have remained for a period of at least two years thereafter. Recently, however, the time limit has been extended to 31st December, 1890, and the constitution otherwise altered to permit of the admission to membership of sons and direct male descendants of members or pioneers who are or might have been eligible as members. A Women's branch, on the same lines as the parent Association, is also in course of formation, and forms of application for membership of both Associations can always be had from the Secretary.

From its inception, the Association has had a most useful and successful career. Commencing with a comparatively small membership, it has, with a better and gradually widening knowledge of its objects and usefulness, steadily grown in favour, and the membership at present numbers over 600 with no apparent cessation of applications for admission. The membership fees are one guinea entrance money, and a like amount for annual subscription.

The financial year ends on 31st August, and the annual general meeting takes place in the first fortnight of September. Committee meetings, as a rule, are held twice a month, and oftener if necessary for the election of members, &c. The members dine together annually in September, on the anniversary of the proclamation of the goldfields. Social meetings of the members are also held at intervals, and special general meetings when required for the transaction of business.

During its existence the Association has successfully interested itself in many public questions, giving special attention to placing on a satisfactory basis the relations between the white and native populations. It has altogether earned for itself due recognition as a useful public body of weight and influence. Of the numerous questions successfully dealt with may be mentioned the following:—Preservation of the old nomenclature of Johannesburg streets identified with the early history of the Rand and its makers; prohibition of natives on foot-paths; regulations for natives travelling on railways; bye-laws for the better regulation of street traffic in Johannesburg and cycle riding by natives; amelioration of relations between the white and native populations; Asiatic Question, &c., &c.

In September, 1904, the Association published its first annual report, a handsome volume containing reproductions of many views of early Johannesburg, &c., and the appendices afford much interesting information. The publication is issued to members, and is intended to be a yearly one. Through its medium it is hoped to concentrate for preservation pictures and photos of many of the fast disappearing scenes and places associated with the building-up of the Rand.

The Association issues to each member an artistic diploma of membership, and a by no means uninteresting feature is its "Photographic Album of Pioneers," which is rapidly assuming large dimensions.

The following are the office bearers for the year 1904-5:—

*President.*—Sir George Farrar, D.S.O.

*Vice-President.*—Colonel Bettington.

*Members of Committee.*—Edgar P. Rathbone, Major Maynard, R. G. Campbell Pitt, T. M. C. Nourse, Fred. J. Moller, Dr. J. Wright Matthews, W. K. Tucker, C.M.G., George Kent, J. Dale Lace, and Daniel Strachan.

*Secretary and Treasurer.*—Dav. Dalgety, Solicitor.

*Offices.*—30, Old Stock Exchange Buildings, Simmonds Street, Johannesburg. P.O. Box 2998.