

Companies have been amongst the earliest to recognise the large economy thus obtained.

In 1887 Mr. Purdon visited India and reported upon tramway projects for Madras. His wide experience and practical knowledge of the subject led to his being fully occupied with parliamentary schemes for tramways, and upon these he was busily engaged when his premature death occurred on the 11th March, 1897, after a few days' illness. Mr. Purdon's genial and sympathetic nature, straightforwardness of character and abundant energy, combined with his varied training, helped him greatly in his professional career and brought him a large circle of friends. He was elected an Associate Member on the 2nd March, 1886.

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CHARLES WARREN ROBERTS, born on the 13th July, 1852, was the son of Mr. H. Beaver Roberts, solicitor, of Bangor. In September, 1871, he was articled to the late Mr. C. E. Spooner, the Engineer of the Festiniog Railway, under whom he was engaged in surveying and laying out the North Wales Narrow Gauge Railway. After the expiration of his pupilage, he managed a slate quarry in Carnarvonshire belonging to his father, and was subsequently employed in constructing railways at various quarries in Wales and Cumberland. At the end of 1880 he proceeded to Brazil, and was for some years in the service of the Donna Theresa Christina Railway Company.

Mr. Roberts returned home in 1887, having been offered by Messrs. J. W. Greaves and Sons the management of their extensive slate-mines at Festiniog. He soon made for himself a reputation as a most able manager, and became known as an authority on the working of slate-mines. Mr. Roberts died at his residence, Plas Weunydd, Blaenau Festiniog, on the 11th May, 1897. He was elected an Associate Member on the 31st May, 1881.

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JOHN THORNHILL, born on the 1st June, 1853, was the third son of the late Mr. John Thornhill of Cork. After going through the engineering course at Queen's College, Cork, he proceeded to India, and in April, 1874, obtained an appointment in the Public Works Department, being posted to the North-Western Provinces, where he served up to the time of his death. He was first employed on general provincial works in the Allahabad District,

and in 1875 was transferred to the Kumaon District, where he remained for over seven years and gained considerable experience in the construction of hill roads. He was in charge of the cart road to Ranikhet, a military station, situated at an elevation of over 6,000 feet, and also of other works of communication, in a difficult mountain country, which involved the erection of several suspension, lattice-girder and other bridges, at considerable elevations, in situations where the difficulties of carriage and labour were considerable. He was subsequently employed as District Engineer in the Allahabad, Banda, Cawnpore, Shahjahanpur and Bareilly Districts, and officiated as Divisional Engineer in the Allahabad and Agra Divisions, in which latter charge he was employed when he died on the 17th September, 1896, having contracted fever while on inspection duty in the district. Mr. Thornhill was elected an Associate Member on the 4th December, 1883.

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GEORGE WYLIE, born at Kincardine on the 9th October, 1860, was educated at the Dollar Academy and at the Royal Indian Engineering College, Coopers Hill, where he gained the scholarship of the Public Works Committee of the Council of India in 1881, and the Fellows' Scholarship in the following year, being also made a Fellow of the College. After the usual practical course he joined the Public Works Department of the Government of India in November, 1883, and was employed on special duty in the Aligarh Division, on the Ganges Canal and on the Machua Weir. In January, 1885, he was transferred to the Mainpuri Division, and after six months' service there was posted to the Etawah Division, Lower Ganges Canal, where he remained for seven years, gaining much experience in the working of silt traps. In 1892 Mr. Wylie was transferred to the Anupshahr Division for a few months and thence to Hardwar, where he superintended the putting in of the headworks of the Ganges Canal. In January, 1894, he was appointed Executive Engineer, third grade, and was posted to the Meerut Division, where he served first as subdivisional and afterwards as divisional officer until his death, from enteric fever, on the 23rd December, 1896. Mr. Wylie's services were fully appreciated by those under whom he acted and by whom his early death was much regretted. He was elected an Associate Member on the 14th January, 1890.

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