REG. 30·9·27

JUDICIAL PHILATELIST

Hobby of Sir George Murray

VALUABLE STAMPS

Among South Australians who at an early age probably worried their families and friends for postage stamps is Sir George Murray (Chief Justice).

Sir George devoted his attention to South Australian stamps only, and was always on the look-out for rare and valuable specimens. He is now the fortunate possessor of what is believed to be the only collection in the world containing samples of the stamps used in every South Australian Government before the days of those surcharged "O.S."

In 1913 the late Parl of Crawford (president of the Royal Philatelic Society) parted with his famous collection of South Australian departmental stamps. Students and collectors of these stamps had longed for years for a sight of this collection, and wondered just what individual treasures it contained. They knew that it comprised many rare and precious stamps and, thanks to the public spirit of Sir George then Mr. Speaker Murray in purchasing the collection, South Australia became its home.

Illuminating Details

By the courtesy of Sir George the writer was privileged to see the stamps. The collection is housed in four albums. A description of the stamps is given thought out, showing clearly all details of perforation, paper, watermark, and varieties.

The loose-leaf sheet elegant testimony to the great care bestowed by the late Lord in the arrangement of the stamps and the illuminating notes—written by his own hand—evince a sound knowledge of the different varieties.

After purchasing this collection Sir George added to his own valuable specimens, and the volumes are among his most treasured possessions.

The departmental stamps were issued from 1868 to 1874, being superseded in the latter year by one officially surcharged stamp in each denomination for all departments.

Governments in 1868 must have spent money recklessly, for each department of the Civil Service had its own stamp, surcharged—for "over-printed" as the term is in these days—in blue, or black with initials of the department. Thus Architecture Chief was indicated by the letter "A," Auditor by "A.O.," Surveyor by "S.," Secretary to the Governor by "P.S.," House of Assembly by "H.A.," and so on.

Sir George pointed out that considerable interest would arise in some instances regarding the interpretation of the surcharged letters. For example, "B.D." when used "Bridge" by one authority to be "Births and Deaths," and by another as "Barrack Department." "D.W." was ambiguous as "Dramatic Department," "Convict Department," and "Control Department," with reference to the early convict days. Another has been said, "The interpreter who gave 'Convict Department' for 'C.D.' shows a strange want of acquaintance with colonial history. Amusement, rather than indignation, is caused by such a slur upon the province which has never received a single convict.

These surcharged "G.T.'s," said Sir George, "were used by the officials of the Goolwa Tramway, the first system of horse railway which ran from Strathalbyn to Goolwa. To this explanation one objection, viz., G.T. as really an error, and should be G.R.T., as you see, of one denomination only (1/), and that are only used other known copies in existence." The explanation, however, clearly visible, supports this contention.

The Earl of Crawford had written at the time of a Northern Territory stamp that it would be unique, but Sir George Murray was the possessor of six when he made his collection.

In the series of those used by the private secretary to the Governor it is interesting to note that the denomination changed as first printed, but was afterwards decreased. There are 1/, 10d., 9d., and 6d.

A twopenny departmental stamp, surcharged "G.F." (Gold Fields) is the only one issued, and there are many others of extreme rarity.

Forgeries Included

Below many of the sets are forgeries—that is, forgeries only so far as the surcharged letters are concerned. Genuine stamps have been perforated by unscrupulous persons with the initials of departments in the hope that they would command high prices from collectors. They were not quite clever enough, however, for a close look indicates a marked difference in the formation of the letters.

In some cases departmental stamps are found on sheets of the head of Queen Victoria stands out clearly, and many variety is given by temporary creases in the paper, by a slightly sloping letter, and shifting

Some (by a mistake on the part of the Government Printer) are printed on both sides, some are rouletted at the edges that is, with uneven segments instead of the more symmetrical perforations.

The whole collection is an interesting study in the evolution of the postage stamp and of the history of South Australia before 1874.

NEWS 29·9·27

University Examination Fees.

"Reason," Unley:—"Hard-up Scholar" has voiced the feelings of hundreds of students. As a father of three children in the Education Department I agree with him that the fees are too high. It is the extras that bear harshly.

The reply by Mr. F. W. Eardley (Registrar of Adelaide University) is unsatisfactory.

Why should "Hard-Up," whose pen name is sufficient guarantee of his earnest endeavor to make good, be required to pay toward a national examination which may not be of interest to him.

"Daybreak," Norwood:—Many poor students will be thankful to "Hard-up" for having drawn attention to the increase of entry fees for the University examinations this year.

According to the reply of the Registrar the examiners will receive more money than previously, the results will be published easily before Christmas unless the same old policy continues.

The belated publication of the results robs the academical year of a great deal, as much interest is lost. All results should be printed three weeks from the close of the examination if quick methods are employed in the tabulation of the results.

"Disgusted Scholar," Mount Gambier:—I heartily agree with "Hard-up Scholar" in his views regarding University examination fees.

I should like also to know what new examinations have been factored to raise the fees to be raised for these examinations. Why are they doubled for the comprehensive examination when not so many supervisors are required?

Mr. Eardley replied as follows:—"The correspondents have misread my reply. I shall be glad to see any parents and let them have what information they desire. All teachers are represented on the Public Examinations Committee, which has full information."

NEWS 29·9·27

ROSEWORTHY OLD SCHOLARS.

Annual Reunion.

A large and happy crowd of former students of the Roseworthy Agricultural College assembled in Wyatt's Rooms, King William street, on Thursday, for the annual dinner of their association; over which Mr. W. J. Rutford presided.

Professor J. A. Prescott proposed the Agricultural College, and welcomed the guests present. He said that it was claimed that Roseworthy was the parent of all agricultural colleges in Australia. It was founded in 1885, and in that year it turned out, and there was a hope among it concerned that the present link between college and the old boys would be strengthened. It might become necessary to establish an advanced course in agriculture which would be in the hands of the University. Professor Lowrie was the head of the agricultural authority in Australia, and more like attending to it than a lord, and Colebatch also ranked high. He hoped that the experimental work conducted at Roseworthy, and the Waite Institute hoped to co-operate, for it had practical results to do the work itself. He hoped that the mass of extraordinarily valuable figures compiled at Roseworthy would be analysed for the benefit of the Commonwealth. Mr. Birks was well worthy to follow in the footsteps of Mr. W. J. Colebatch, the late Principal.

Mr. W. R. Birks, in response, said that he would agree with the laudatory remarks concerning improvements of the college men. Recently New Zealand had invited Mr. Sugg to become its fruit expert, and Roseworthy engaged a poultry instructor from this State and old boys and students at Roseworthy were taking a leading part in agricultural education in every State. Agricultural education was prominent nowadays that a great responsibility devolved on Roseworthy College. In the past its great aim was to make more two work on the farm, but in future its duty must be to train students to stand alongside the experts. Australia as dominated by the senior generation, which was one reason why he returned from Deakin. The sourcing had been given to him by the Department of Agriculture, the college staff and prominent outsiders. He had found a sympathetic Minister and administration, and that all with whom he came in contact were working hard to make the college a success. The preliminary trouble was practically non-existent, and the high standard of behaviour among the students had made him wonder whether they were healthy. (Laughter.) He was sure that they had imbibed the traditions of the college and would be a credit to it.

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1927

TRAINING OF BACKWARD CHILDREN

It is encouraging to know that the training of the backward child has in South Australia gone a step beyond the suggestion stage.

Dr. Constance Davey (psychologist to the Education Department) told the Agricultural Bureau Congress for women something about the "catch-up" classes which have been started. Children who through lack of opportunity or the natural provision of slow reasoning powers are behind in their studies are now grouped in special classes. With teaching which is more or less individual they are afforded a chance to make up leeway and take their places in proper classes.

The subnormal or mentally deficient child presents a more difficult problem. If each one of this class is to be given the right which he or she has to be a useful member of society there is but one way of doing it. As Dr. Davey said, a special school must be established.

There are fortunately not many of these subnormal children in the State. They are, however, scattered over a wide area. It would be neither economical nor conducive to the best results to establish more than one school for the whole of South Australia. They should all be collected there.

No two mentally deficient children are alike in their proclivities. They cannot do ordinary school work. But unless they are hopelessly insane, they have some ability which, if discovered and directed into the right channel, would make them self-supporting citizens. To test that ability and to develop it would be the work of experts in psychology.

It has been proved in other countries that they can do it. The mentally deficient child can be helped to overcome the handicap with which he or she begins life. If for no other reason, then humanitarianism alone demands that a special school be established here for these unfortunates.

The Government and public-spirited citizens can assist. Some slight resistance will perhaps come from parents. Many are loath to acknowledge that they have mentally deficient children, and when they do are reluctant to part with them.

It must be proved to parents that special training is beneficial to the child and the lack of it detrimental to his or her wellbeing and happiness. They will then surely not place further impediments in the path of progress for the child. If they are reasonable they will realise that it is not kindness to permit these children to grow up as encumbrances.

NEWS 13·10·27

CANCER RESEARCH

No Action by Adelaide Council

Adelaide City Council at its meeting today decided to take no action with regard to the suggestion of the Mayor of Brisbane that the Commonwealth Government be urged to established a cancer research organisation.

At the same time it was pointed out that the council appreciated the importance of the question.

REG. 3·10·27

FIFTY YEARS AGO.

From The Register, Monday, October 7, 1877.

We are pleased to note from the report of the proceedings of the Council of the Adelaide University that Professor Ulbo proposes giving 12 lectures on practical botany in the Botanic Gardens—in the early mornings during the closing months of the present year. These should be very interesting, and will doubtless be largely attended.

MAIL 1·10·27

Music Examinations.

The Conservatorium will re-open on Monday morning after a fortnight's vacation. In that period the public examinations in music under the auspices of the Australian Examination Board were held. There was a noticeable advance in the number of entries received for Adelaide. Those for theory numbered 430 against 420 last year, and practical subjects reached 720 against 650 for 1926.

The practical subjects embraced piano, violin, 'cello, and singing. The largest number of entries were for piano, with the violin next.

Examinations were held in Adelaide, Broken Hill, and many country centres. Mr. F. W. Homewood, of the Melbourne Conservatorium, was one of the examiners assisted Dr. E. Harold Davies.

Dr. Davies will leave for Western Australia on October 11 to conduct similar examinations in Perth, and will be assisted by Prof. Bernard Heinze, Director of the Melbourne Conservatorium.

Mr. Charles Schlisky examined candidates at Broken Hill, and Mr. William Silver at the Clare centre.

The largest increase in numbers was in Grade IV., theory and practice, in which two exhibitions are given to the most distinguished students who have gained honors. Two scholarships to the value of £30 each are also given in Grades I. and II. for theory, which entitles the successful candidates to the Mus. Bac. course and for which are to be taken with any approved teacher.

Dr. Davies will leave for England on November 24. It is expected that Mr. F. G. Reimann will be appointed Acting Director in his absence.

Mr. Clive Carey, who visited Sydney, where he met with some concert appearances and assisted with broadcasting programmes, will sever his connection with the Adelaide Conservatorium at the end of the year and will return to England.

Friends of Mr. Edward Goll, of Melbourne, will regret to hear of the death of his wife, which occurred last week. Mr. Goll is a distinguished pianist, and his recitals in Adelaide with Miss Margaret Sutherland, his pupil and assistant, are well remembered by music lovers.

REG 1·10·27

The Council of the University has appointed Mr. J. G. Wood, B.Sc., assistant lecturer in Botany. In 1924 Mr. Wood was awarded a science research scholarship by the Commissioners of the exhibition of 1851. He recently resigned his scholarship after research in the physiology of plants, under Dr. F. F. Blackman, at Cambridge.