ADV. 8-6-27

THE RENAISSANCE IN FLORENCE.

LECTURE BY PROFESSOR HANCOCK.

The first of a course of three lectures on the Florentine Renaissance was delivered by Professor W. K. Hancock at the University on Tuesday evening. The lecture was a large attendance, and the lecturer dealt chiefly with Lorenzo de Medici, the second lecture he will discuss Savonarola, and in the third Leonardo da Vinci. He also shown to illustrate the art of the period. Florence, the lecturer said, was an industrial and commercial city of a modern type. It was not, however, content with mere comfort. Nor did it know anything of modern "culture," with its implied antithesis between the real business of life and a luxury of the few. Its ingredient of a class of rich cultivating those graces for which ordinary men had no time. In Florence beauty was the right and the delight of all citizens; it was as necessary as a love of food.

The love of liberty, like the love of beauty, had deeply penetrated the people and made destroy the liberty of Florence. It was sometimes said that the life of the people amused with games and drunk with beauty, while they lished away their liberty. He admitted that Savonarola proclaimed by "virtue the advantage" but this had been the normal practice in Florence since the Middle Ages. The Medici had substituted a stable despotism for an unstable oligarchy. They were realist statesmen, who recognised that nothing could be done if they they ruled by right of their efficiency. They did not attempt to make life easier by concessions down to politics and economics. Lorenzo's prudent administration spent £2,000,000 on public buildings, and founded the first public library in Europe. He ransacked the world for ancient manuscripts, and spent much energy in the issues competent to edit them. "What the Medici world achieved was been of the Italian nation had not devoted its energies to the encouragement of liberal learning," said the lecturer, "could have not been possible." Lorenzo de Medici grew up in an atmosphere of learning, poetry, and the arts. He was a Lorenzo, by professing reluctance to accept the chief place in Florence, in the year 1469, when he was but 20. He saw that the pursuit of pleasure would interfere with the pursuit of beauty and wisdom, and that it would lead to the ruin of the city. The prince, like any puper, had to pay attention to the more material side of life. In controlling that machinery he derived some artistic satisfaction. Italy, like ancient Greece, was a group of cities, and the ability of states seeking to achieve a balance of power, and at the same time to preserve their liberty at the expense of their neighbors. Two large modern states, France and Spain, were ready to take advantage of the Italian cities to invade and conquer them. Lorenzo's skill postponed the inevitable. He spoke like a juggler keeping five balls in the air and at the same time looking over his shoulder and trying to persuade the people to keep the ring. This feat he performed successfully. His death was the signal for the Italian cities, and closed the golden period of the Renaissance.

Lorenzo, however, was not all politician. Machiavelli's "political man," like the "economic man" of the political economist was a fictitious creature. Well it was, with Lorenzo because he would not fit in with his theories. Lorenzo was a poet, and he was playing about the floor with children—a favorite occupation of poets. But Lorenzo was always forgetting that he was a statesman and making a mere child, or an artist, or a spectacle out of himself. Lorenzo was not the "the universal man"—the man who could do everything—but he was a statesman, and the first statesman of Italy, and one of the best scholars of his age, was also a fine poet—the best Italian poet since Dante and Arioto. The lecturer gave examples of the versatility and charm of Lorenzo's poetry. Life in Florence was joyous for all, not only for those at court. Florence was a prosperous city, and knew how to play. Some of the games instituted by Lorenzo remained to this day. The stern moralists who rebel at such diversions as the Florentines had earned their bread, and wonder how they could have gained bread, the games was a good cry, for without bread the body could not live, and without some splendor and gaiety the spirit must die. The art of Lorenzo, however, was but a short-lived springtide of Renaissance, and the Renaissance was a protest against this free and joyous attitude of life, which the "barbarians" were moving to invade Italy.

ADV. 10-6-27

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL NOMINATIONS.

At the meeting of the Senate of the University of Adelaide, to be held on Wednesday, an election will be conducted to fill the two vacancies in the council caused by the deaths of Professor E. H. Rennie and Mr. Justice Poole. The nominations received are:—Dr. A. M. Cudmore, Dr. D. Simpson Newland, Sir Douglas Mawson, Professor T. G. B. Osborn, and Professor T. Bradford Robertson.

ADV. 10-6-27

INTER-STATE UNIVERSITY DEBATES.

Teams representing the Universities of Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne, Queensland, and Tasmania will compete in the inter-State University debates, to be held at Adelaide in August. Many interesting subjects have been selected by the universities which will participate. At the University of Adelaide has not won the contest for four years, every effort is being made to form a strong team here.

ADV. 10-6-27

THE JOSEPH FISHER LECTURE.

The biennial lecture under the auspices of the Adelaide University, known as the "Joseph Fisher Lecture," will be delivered this year by the Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) on July 17, 1927. In 1926, Mr. Joseph Fisher paid the sum of £1,000 to the University for the purpose of promoting with the income thereof, and the annual grant payable in respect thereof under the University Act, the study of economics in Australia. In 1926 a medal, called the "Joseph Fisher Medal of Commerce," is awarded annually to the candidate for the degree of commerce who, on completing the course for such diploma, is in the opinion of the examiners, the most distinguished and most worthy of the award. There has also been established a lecture on a subject relating to commerce, called the "Joseph Fisher Lecture," to be delivered in the University every alternate year, and subsequently published. Last year the medal was not awarded. The last lecture was delivered in 1925 by Sir Henry Braddon, and the subject was "The Guilds."

ADV. 10-6-27

also REG 4 NEWS

CONFERRING DEGREES.

A special meeting of the council of the University of Adelaide will be held in the classics lecture-room, Wednesday, for the purpose of conferring the following degrees:—Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery, Herbert George Kelsey; Bachelor of Science, Mervyn Alexander Rankin (in absentia) and Alfred Eric Scott; ordinary degree of Bachelor of Arts, Robert Franklin Booker, Claude Hampson Coats; Bachelor of Engineering and diploma in applied science, Rex Lyson Cormack Calder, Harold Pfiama Matthews (in absentia). Members of the senate and friends of the candidates are invited to attend. The members of the senate and council will wear the academic costume proper to their respective degrees and offices.

REG 10-6-27

SOIL SURVEY.

Professor Prescott's Report.

At the last Agricultural Bureau congress a resolution was passed urging upon the Government the necessity for instituting a soil survey of the agricultural areas of the State. This resolution was referred to the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, and Professor J. A. Prescott reported as follows:—

The purpose of soil surveys is twofold—(1) as a means of soil classification on which to base the development of a new area; and (2) for aiding agricultural practice in existing farmed areas, in both cases associated soil analysis is of value. It enables soil investigators and others to correlate soils and crops, to direct experimentation relations, and to place the advisory services to farmers on a more secure scientific foundation.

Methods and Organizations.

The organization of soil surveys differs in different countries. Soil surveys are at present being actively carried out in the United States, Russia, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, and probably other countries. In small areas, such as are involved in Great Britain, the geological maps are used as a basis for classification, coupled with the division into districts of similar climatic characteristics. It must be understood that the geological survey of Great Britain shows considerable, with special reference to surface drift formations, which, in most other countries, would be considered as soil formations. Its maps are of value not only to the agriculturist, but also to the pottery worker, brickmaker, builder, and architect. Soil survey in Germany is usually carried out by the advisory chemist attached to each university or agricultural college, or by the colleges at Wye (Kent), and covering the three centuries—Kent, Surrey, and Sussex. This method of organization ensures considerable detail both in the field work and in laboratory investigation, and is very suitable for a closely settled agricultural community. In Canada and the United States soil survey is carried out independently of geological maps, although, of course, made use of them. The soils are examined with respect to what is known as texture profile, in addition to the soil and subsoil. In Russia the basis for classification is the physical character of the soils which are grouped as sands, clays, loams, silts, and various combinations of these characters. In Russia the classification is based on climatic considerations, and the Russian methods have proved so successful in dealing with large-scale survey work that they have profoundly influenced developments in other countries, even in the United States.

Work in This State.

In Australia quite a considerable amount of rough soil classification has been carried out by the surveyors of the Lands Departments. In South Australia the surveyors have felt for some time past the need for improvements in their methods, and such improvement is at the present time being effected. In Queensland a survey has been initiated under a strong committee, and four men—a district agricultural officer, a soil chemist, a botanist, and an entomologist—are already in the field, north of St. Lawrence. The purpose of this survey is to determine the agricultural possibilities of tropical Queensland. In South Australia information about soils is scattered, but a considerable amount of investigation work has already been done. The chemical laboratory at the Waite Institute is at present engaged in collecting all the information available, and has started a detailed examination of one or two important soil types. The work already done may be classified as follows:—(1) Reports of the early explorers of the State; (2) the work of the investigation Department; (3) Dr. Teale's work on the Kuitpo Forest areas, and a reconnaissance survey of Kangaroo Island; (4) Mr. Spoll's work on the south-east, the field work of which is probably the best so far carried out in this State; and (5) Mr. Jacobs' work from the Waite Institute in extension of the work of Dr. Teale to the areas south of Kuitpo. Detailed work has been done at the irrigation settlements on the River Murray will be begun shortly at the Waite Institute.

Value of Soil Survey.

The value of the soil survey work already carried out is illustrated by a few examples that have already appeared under our notice. There is a group of soils derived from the sediments of the Lower Cambrian complex, which give rise to a stunted native vegetation, and are found in Mount Lofty Ranges, Kangaroo Island, and Eyre's Peninsula. These soils have been noted by a number of pastoral writers, but no agricultural or chemical work has yet been done on them. The physical properties of the soil have a very important bearing on the suitability of the flats at Booborowie for lucerne, and the loams at Georgetown for wheat. The texture of the soil is very important in determining the suitability of many of the Adelaide Hills soils and River Murray soils for fruit-growing. Similar considerations apply to the development of vine-growing areas, and to forestry development. The existence of topographical and detailed geological maps would make the task of carrying out a soil survey much easier than it is at present, and any extensive soil survey organization in this State should enlist the co-operation of all the departments concerned.

NEWS 9-6-27

UNIVERSITY COUNCIL

Nominations for Vacancies

Nominations for the two vacancies in the Council of Adelaide University caused by the deaths of Prof. E. H. Rennie and Mr. Justice Poole are:—Dr. A. M. Cudmore, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., Dr. D. Simpson Newland, C.B.E., D.S.O., M.D., M.S., F.R.C.S., Sir Douglas Mawson, O.B.E., B.E., D.Sc., F.R.S., Prof. T. G. B. Osborn, D.Sc., and Prof. T. Bradford Robertson, Ph.D., D.Sc. Elections will be held at the senate meeting on Wednesday.

NEWS 9-6-27

MODERN INDUSTRY

Demand for University Men

VIEWS OF PROF. GOODRICH

"Modern industry demands University trained men; the old prejudice against the University product has practically disappeared in America at any rate," declared Prof. Carter Goodrich (assistant Professor of Economics at Michigan University), who is visiting Adelaide.

"The younger generation of industrial magnates are graduates themselves, and look for men of similar calibre to staff their businesses," he added. "I am told, not, of course, quite so that America utilises its University men. Anyone wanting help, from a waiter to a window cleaner, in an emergency, sends to the nearest University—and gets it.

"This is possible because of the thousands of men and women who are working their way through the Universities. Whenever they are free they will take any odd job that is offered. It is not uncommon to find a student taking care of children or tending furnaces in his spare time. Vacations are devoted wholly to harvesting, fruit-picking, etc.

"This does not entail any loss of caste. Sandwiches plays no part in American student life. The only disadvantage to the student is that the course naturally takes him longer than his more fortunate fellows who can devote their whole time to study."

Incorrect Impression

Prof. Goodrich said that liberal people soon was made by the Universities for their graduates. Fellowships enabled brilliant students to continue post graduate work.

He was anxious to correct the impression that the magnificent endowments for which Australian institutions were envied throughout the scholastic world came wholly from individuals. The graduates associations were instrumental in raising much of the money. Vassar, for instance, received £800,000 from a drive instituted by its former students.

Universities looked larger in the public eye of America than in Australia, he continued. On a population basis nearly four times as many students were in attendance attended universities. Three-quarters of a million students were enrolled. In so cosmopolitan a community this led to some astounding of mixing. Racial prejudice, however, did not debar foreigners from taking part in social or sporting life.

"At my own university last year," he said, "a Russian Jew captained the football team, and the team included Germans, Italians, and Poles. Feelings against negroes, however, is still strong, and there is no intermingling of the black and the white in sport."

Sport of Paramount Importance

Prof. Goodrich added that the negro population of America was undergoing a renaissance, "and that it had produced many brilliant artists, doctors, and lawyers."

Sport was of paramount importance. He thought that the intensive training necessary for success in sport was a good thing, academic side much of the energy which was its due. Nevertheless, it had been shown that the universities had produced a good deal of great student, and no man was eligible for the teams unless his classroom record was approved.

"Physical discipline is demanded of all graduates," he said. "At Michigan University no student can take his degree unless he can swim a certain distance. He can not take his degree unless he has swimmed before I was awarded my bachelor of arts degree. Other universities have different requirements, but nearly all involve some physical test."

Asked how the prohibition issue affected university students, Prof. Goodrich replied that he preferred to dodge the question. He did not think it played an important part in student life.

General Trend of Study

"The general trend of study is veering toward the social sciences, such as economics, history, and sociology," he said. "Discussion is far more important than lectures in the universities today. I personally, I have never delivered a lecture in my life. My work is to guide the discussion along the lines of the assigned readings.

"Relations between American students and teachers are much closer than in Australia. There is probably less respect, or perhaps less outward show of respect, but I do not think that this lessens efficiency."

What was taught and the manner of teaching were generally left to the discretion of the lecturers, and in such debatable subjects as ethics. There had been flagrant cases of interference when the teaching was considered too radical.

An association had been formed among university professors, who undertook to investigate and publish the circumstances leading to the dismissal of lecturers. As a rule university authorities were anxious to preserve amicable relations with the staff.

Prof. Goodrich attributed much of the crime in America to the clash between old and new ideals which occurred when foreigners settled in America.

"The children soldenly find that all they have been taught to believe is wrong," he continued. "Their family and family traditions are utterly at variance with their new environment, and from the resulting fix evolves the type surveyed of crime."

REG 13-6-27

ALSO ADV.

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS.

The Chancellor (Sir George Murray) the Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), Mr. F. W. Eardley (Registrar), and other members of the Council of the University of Adelaide, waited on the Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler) on Saturday morning and had an informal chat regarding University requirements.