

# AUSTRALIAN FLORA

## SAVING NATIVE TREES

### Canberra Herbarium Suggested

(SPECIAL TO "THE NEWS")

LONDON, May 29.

Dr. Arthur Hill (Director of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew), who recently, by official request, studied Australasian problems in botany with their relation to agriculture, published important observations upon his return to Britain.

He said that Australia was at a disadvantage botanically owing to its distance from world centres of botanical activity.

Dr. Hill suggested that it would be a great gain to the scientific work of the Commonwealth if one of the younger Australian botanists was sent to work at Kew for a short period.

Dr. Hill was greatly impressed with the Australian botanic gardens, particularly those of Melbourne and Sydney, and with the "excellent Technological Museum" at Sydney, but he stressed the need for a national Commonwealth herbarium, where all historic and representative Australian collections could be maintained and studied.

#### Beautiful Eucalyptus

Great developments might be expected from the activities of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research so long as it was provided with sufficient funds.

Dr. Hill felt that a discordant note was being struck by the introduction of the quickgrowing conifer Pinus Insignis, which was out of harmony with the native Australian eucalyptus.

Pinus Insignis, he said, yielded returns quickly, while native trees were slow of growth, and difficult to transplant. He hoped, however, that a serious attempt would soon be made to plant native trees and to preserve them in the beautiful eucalyptus forests which was one of the arresting features of the Australian landscape.

#### National Garden

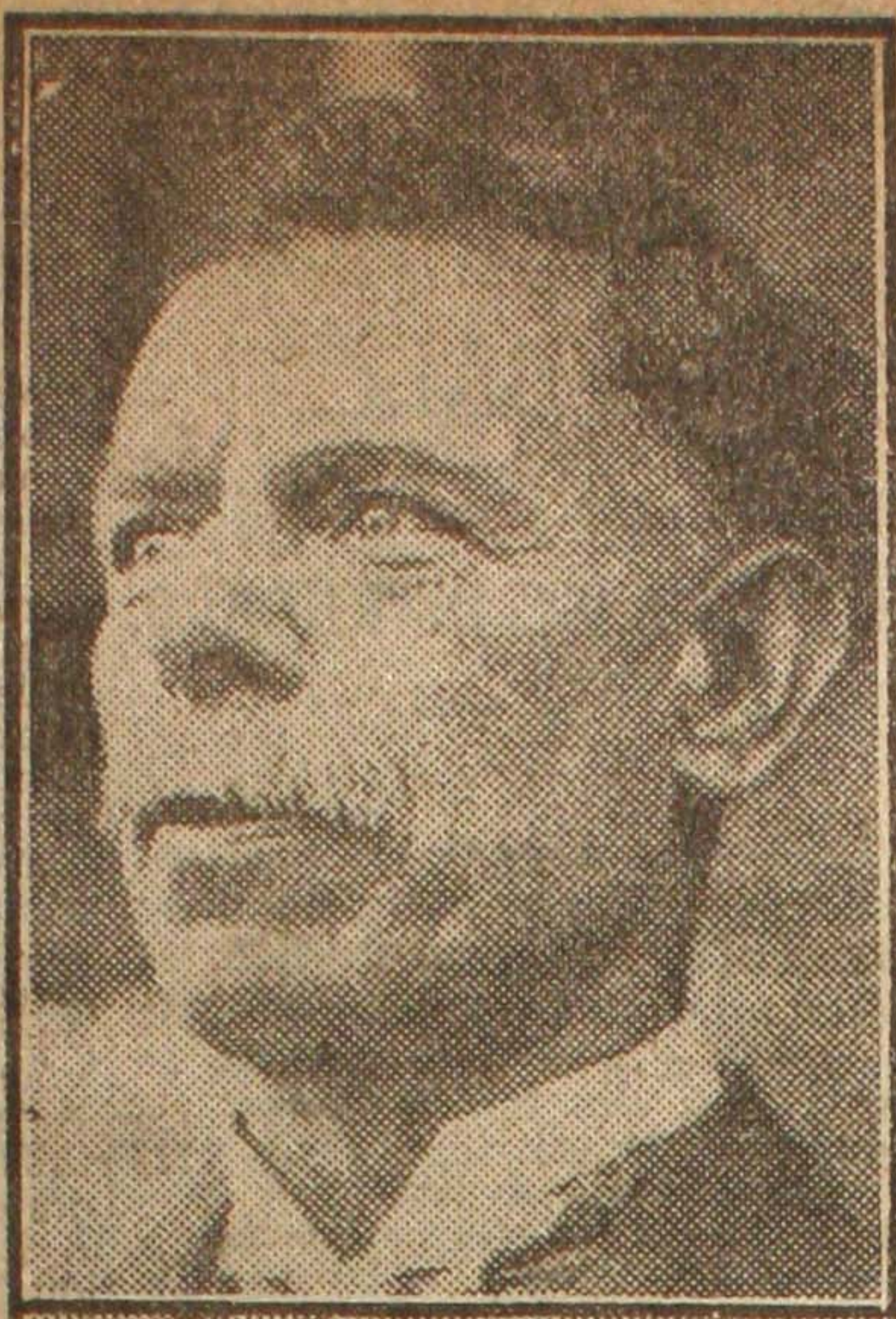
With the establishment of Canberra as the centre of the scientific research work of the Commonwealth it was essential that a national herbarium be formed there.

There should be a bontanic garden, which would not only be valuable to the forest officers of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, but also, together with the herbarium, be essential for the botanical work of the universities.

An excellent site for such a garden existed between the new forestry building and the university site. It should in a few years be a place of beauty and dignity.

Dr. Hill, as a botanist, deplored the serious destruction of native vegetation in Western Australia, owing to the rapid spread of agriculture. It was, of course, a necessity, but he hoped that steps would be taken to make careful study of native flora before it was too late, and to reserve certain areas where peculiar plants might remain undisturbed.

# A DISTINGUISHED AGRICULTURAL SCIENTIST.



SIR JOHN RUSSELL.

Sir John Russell, D.Sc., F.R.S., director of the Rothamsted Experiment Station, Hertfordshire, who has come to Australia to consult soil and agricultural experts, will reach Terowie this evening by the East-West express. He will be met at Port Augusta by Professor A. E. V. Richardson, of the Waite Institute. Sir John will be the guest of Mr. John Melrose at Uooloo on Friday evening, and will inspect that district on Saturday. He will arrive in Adelaide on Sunday evening by the East-West express.

Sir John Russell will remain in Adelaide for a week, and will deliver lectures on Wednesday and Friday evenings at the Brookman Hall, School of Mines. On Tuesday he will visit Roseworthy College accompanied by the Deputy Director of Agriculture (Mr. W. J. Spafford). On Thursday he will visit the Chateau Tanunda wine cellars, and on Saturday journey via Mount Barker to Wood's Point on the River Murray, where he will inspect the reclaimed areas. He will join the express that evening at Murray Bridge for Melbourne.

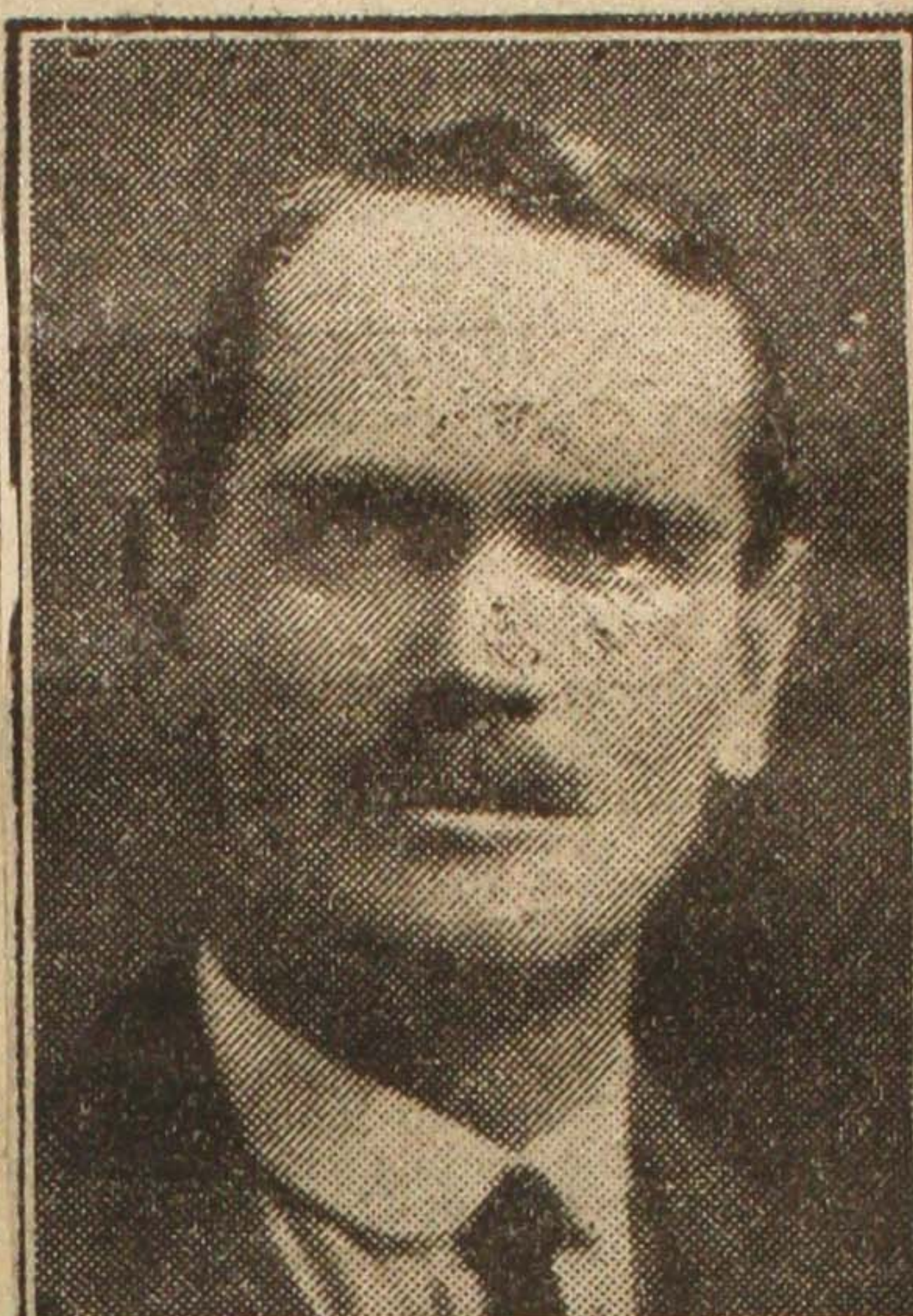
Born at Frampton in 1872, Sir John Russell was educated in Manchester, his principal subject at the University there being chemistry. After he graduated he was appointed lecturer in chemistry in his alma mater. Later he accepted the position of principal of the chemical department of the South-Eastern Agricultural College, Kent, and finally he was appointed a scientist for research in agricultural chemistry at Rothamsted. He was responsible for important increases in agricultural production during the war. He was one of the first of the English scientists to apply his energies to systematic soil survey, and he invented a simple appliance for measuring the rate of oxidation in soil. After long research he solved the problems associated with the partial sterilisation of soils. He is the author of "Soil Conditions and Plant Growth," and has written works specially for farmers and school children.

Sir John Russell, the distinguished director of the Rothamsted experimental station, England, who will give a series of lectures in Adelaide dealing with science and modern farming, and the Rothamsted Experimental Farm, will be met by Professor A. E. V. Richardson (the director of the Waite Institute) at Port Augusta on Friday evening. He will thence go to Terowie and spend some time at Mr. John Melrose's residence. After visiting the district around Uooloo, Sir John will come on to Adelaide, arriving on Sunday evening. He will deliver lectures and show lantern slides to illustrate his subjects at the Brookman Hall next Wednesday and Friday. On Thursday the lecturer will visit the Chateau Tanunda and Seppeltsfield wineries. He will leave for Mount Barker and Wood's Point, River Murray, on Saturday. Sir John will inspect the reclaimed swamps areas at the latter place, and on Sunday will leave Murray Bridge for Melbourne.

# WAITE INSTITUTE.

## Appointment of Entomologist.

The council of the University has appointed Dr. James Davidson to be head of the entomological department of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute. Dr. Davidson, who will take up his duties in September, is a distinguished member of the staff of the Rothamsted Experimental Station. He was born in 1885, graduated B.Sc. at Liverpool University in 1908, M.Sc. in 1910, and for theses on tick and insects received the degree of D.Sc. in 1915. From 1908 until 1911, in conjunction with Professor G. H. F. Nuttall and Dr. J. E. Robinson, he conducted extensive investigations on ticks, and agricultural and horticultural insect pests. In



DR. JAMES DAVIDSON.

1911 he was appointed Wolfe Barry Research Scholar in Economic Entomology at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, and later held a research scholarship in agricultural zoology under the British Ministry of Agriculture. Dr. Davidson conducted research studies in entomology under the late Professor Maxwell Lefroy in London and in many Continental laboratories—in Germany at the Royal Biological Institute for Agriculture and Forestry, Dahlem; in Italy, at the Royal Institute for Agricultural Entomology in Florence, under the late Professor Antonio Berlese, and at the Royal School of Agriculture, Portici, under Professor A. Silvestri; and in France at the National Institute of Agriculture, under Professor P. Marchal, Director of the Entomological Station, Paris. Dr. Davidson served throughout the war and commanded in the field a technical unit concerned with sanitation and the control of insects associated with the spread of disease for nearly three years. He served in Sinai during 1916-1917, during which time he received the rank of captain, and was mentioned in despatches. In 1918 he was transferred to the War Office for special entomological work in the Department of Hygiene. He was also a member of the British Repatriation Commission in Denmark, which was concerned with the repatriation of large numbers of prisoners of war from the Baltic ports.

is also the usual series of reviews, including those by Mr. A. L. G. McKay on the report on the financial effect of federation on South Australia and the reports of the special committee on the State finances.

# FORESTRY CONFERENCE.

## EMPIRE REPRESENTATIVES.

### ARRIVAL IN ADELAIDE ON AUGUST 28.

The Inspector-General of Forests (Mr. C. E. Lane-Poole) has made available the following bulletin issued by the Standing Committee on Empire Forestry:—

The opening date of the conference has been fixed with reference to the arrival at Fremantle of the Orana on August 21. Westward bound delegates will arrive in Perth on August 22, and those from Canada will leave San Francisco on July 26, and arrive in Sydney on August 16. Delegates from South Africa have the choice of two boats, the Runic leaving Cape Town on August 3, and the Benalla on August 2, both arriving at Fremantle on August 19.

The movements of the conference party have been provisionally arranged as follows:—Leave Perth August 25, arrive Adelaide August 28, arrive Ballarat September 2, arrive Melbourne September 3, arrive Launceston September 6, arrive Melbourne September 11, arrive Sydney September 13, arrive Brisbane September 19, leave Brisbane September 24, arrive Canberra September 26, leave Canberra October 2, leave Sydney October 4, arrive Wellington October 8. The conference closes on October 23. As regards the return journeys delegates bound for Great Britain may leave Auckland on October 23, arriving at Vancouver November 9, and London about November 23; those for Canada can also leave by the same boat. Delegates returning to India may leave Wellington on October 22, and Fremantle November 5, arriving at Colombo on November 14.

The list of delegates so far as is yet known in London is as follows:—Great Britain—Lord Clinton, Sir William Furse, Messrs. R. L. Robinson, H. A. Pritchard, R. D. D. Furse, F. M. Oliphant, and R. S. Troup. India—Messrs. C. G. Trevor, H. R. Blanford, S. H. Howard, Jacob, W. A. Robertson, and E. O. Shebbaare. Federated Malay States—Mr. G. E. S. Cubitt, Tanganyika—Mr. D. K. S. Grant. Gold Coast—Mr. J. R. P. Gent. Nigeria and Sierra Leone—Mr. J. Bunny. Cyprus and Palestine—Mr. A. H. Unwin. Kenya—Mr. R. Gardner. Mauritius—Jointly with South Africa. British North Borneo—Mr. D. D. Wood. The personnel of the Canadian delegation is not yet definitely known.

An additional item, "Labor in Relation to Forestry," has been placed on the agenda. About 75 papers, covering practically all the subjects on the provisional agenda have now been allocated to different forest officers to prepare for the conference. The Australian secretary of the conference is Mr. A. Rule, of the Australian Forestry School, Canberra.

# FAMOUS SCIENTIST

## Sir John Russell Arrives Today

### PROGRAMME ARRANGED

Sir John Russell, a distinguished agricultural scientist who is visiting Australia, will be met today at Port Augusta by Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute). He will proceed to Terowie, where he will be the guest of Mr. John Melrose at Uooloo, which district he will inspect tomorrow. He will arrive in Adelaide on Sunday by the East-West express.

On Monday Sir John will visit the Waite Institute, and on the following day he will inspect the Roseworthy Agricultural College, accompanied by Mr. W. J. Spafford (Deputy-Director of Agriculture). He will return to Adelaide that night.

On Wednesday he will lecture in the Brookman Hall at the School of Mines on "Science and Modern Farming." Next day he will visit Chateau Tanunda, Seppeltsfield, and Collingroce, and will be the guest of Mr. R. T. Melrose at Rosebank overnight. He will return to Adelaide on Friday, June 8, and that evening will lecture on "Rothamstead Experimental Station—How It Began and What It is Doing." The lectures in connection with the visit will be illustrated.

# UNIVERSITY CONFERENCE.

The National Federation of Canadian University Students has invited the student bodies of all British Universities to send delegates to an Imperial conference of students to be held either at Toronto or Montreal in September. The Canadian body proposes that Australian Rhodes scholars who are going to Oxford this year, should travel by way of Canada and represent their universities at this conference. The Victorian and Queensland Rhodes scholars for 1928 will attend on behalf of their respective institutions, but Mr. F. W. Wagner, the South Australian scholar, has already left for Europe. It is probable, however, that the Adelaide University will be represented. The proposed conference will continue the work of the First Imperial Conference of Students, held at Oxford in 1924, as a result of which national unions of students were formed in South Africa, Canada, and Australia, and inter-Dominion and other debating tours were made possible. The Canadian conference will consider such matters as scholarships and student loan schemes, openings for post graduate work, international student movements, student exchanges, tours, and travel facilities, and the organization of athletic and debating teams. General meetings of conference would also consider overseas settlement projects, Empire political problems, Imperial education, and the Empire and its relation to international law.

# THE ECONOMIC RECORD.

The Economic Society of Australia and New Zealand fulfills a most valuable function to the community in the propagation of economic knowledge through the writings of trained economists, especially in its journal, The Economic Record. The May issue, which has just been published, contains a number of timely articles, mostly of general interest. Professor R. C. Mills, of Sydney, discusses the financial relations between the States and the Commonwealth, with special reference to the new agreement. On a similar subject, Mr. W. F. Murphy, of the Hobart Bureau of Statistics, suggests that an attempt should be made to secure uniform income taxation in the various States. The Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. C. H. Wickens) compares the relative significance of primary and secondary production, and Mr. F. R. Mauldron, of the Melbourne University, draws attention to the problem of the mobility of labour in Australian industry. Referring to New Zealand there are examinations of infant mortality and the economic position of the New Zealand farmer. Professor Prescott, of the Waite Institute, discusses experiments conducted in South Australia in regard to the law of diminishing returns in agriculture. The topical notes embrace such subjects as international wage index numbers, the government of cities, the forecasting of business cycles, and the Australian Council of Trades Unions. There

# EDUCATION DIRECTORS.

Delegates to the conference of State Directors of Education visited the Waite Institute for Agricultural Research at Urrbrae on Wednesday morning. The conference will probably last until the end of next week.