

A advertiser 10-2-31

AUSTRALIA'S CRISIS

WARNING LESSONS FROM GERMANY

To the Editor

Sir—A presidential address to the Royal Statistical Society, delivered in 1925 by Viscount D'Abernon, British Ambassador to Germany during the inflation crisis, contains much valuable information for those who are supporting our Premier in his fight against the forces which nearly ruined Queensland, and are now hurrying a weak Prime Minister and an easy-going and divided nation down the path to disaster.

Lord D'Abernon pointed out that the German collapse was due to the following factors:—1. The excessive national expenditure, augmented by the reparations payments, under which burdens the Government, like those of the Commonwealth and New South Wales, refused to balance the Budget. 2. The fact that the German people, like many Australians, were ignorant of the dangers of inflation. 3. The successive doses of paper money, which depreciated so rapidly that the total value of the whole currency fell after each dose. (This is the answer to the advocates of limited inflation or "the release of credits," a useless and dangerous policy.) 4. The national loss of confidence, which was shown by the "flight from the mark," just as the rise in our rate of exchange shows a similar loss of confidence and a "flight from the Australian pound."

The German Government attempted to save the situation by exactly those remedies which are now being tried or advocated by the Scullin Ministry:—1. The increased taxation of persons and of companies. 2. A super-tax. 3. Further inflation. 4. New loans. 5. The use and depletion of the gold reserve. 6. A controlled exchange, such as Mr. Theodore has just advocated. These so-called remedies all failed. The mark became worthless and meaningless. The real wages of the workers fell to starvation level. Business and industry were destroyed, and almost all classes were utterly ruined.

The remedy was finally supplied through a restoration of public confidence by exactly those means against which the Scullin Ministry has so steadily set its face. The immediate results of the German reconstruction were amazing. "Nothing can be compared either to the abyssal depths to which the finances fell, or to the extraordinary recovery which followed the reorganization of the currency." In a few months the real value of the official currency in circulation rose from £10,000,000 to £113,000,000, and the value of the return from taxation almost doubled.

We can see, therefore, from the German crisis (and all such crises follow well-known paths) that the Australian difficulties are not only due to obvious factors, such as the fall in world prices, but that they are partly psychological, and partly due to the shocking policy of the central Government. The disaster can be met only by the restoration of public confidence, by genuine efforts to balance the Budget, and by the sane and tried methods of finance advocated by those experts whose advice Mr. Scullin has now rejected. It is equally evident that inflation, the "release of credits," and similar palliatives, which Mr. Theodore and his school are trying to force on the nation, will only serve to drive Australia deeper in the mire.

The Scullin Ministry has bitterly disappointed the moderate element of the Australian people. For many vital months the left wing majority has refused to follow the Premiers of the States in their efforts to balance the Budget and make adequate economies, with the result that public confidence is at zero, the bad policy of continued borrowing is becoming hopeless, and the rate of exchange shows that the flight from the Australian pound is well under way. If the inflationists are allowed to continue their policy they will make the unemployment, of which they are the chief cause, even more rampant; the real value of taxation will decrease; old age pensioners and others will receive less and less real money; the people will lose the greater part of their investments in life insurance companies and friendly societies; and, as in Germany, the real wages of workers will fall to the starvation line. The extremists have already destroyed our so-called "standard of living," and the huge numbers of unemployed show that we would be better off with costs and prices adjusted on the pre-war basis, under which we would again have the big export profits of the 1903-1911 period, and would be able to meet a large part of the interest on our foreign debts.

The first duty of the national Parliament, regardless of party, is the overthrow of a Ministry whose policy, or lack of policy, has been the primary factor in placing Australia in such jeopardy. The second duty of Parliament is not necessarily to force the expense and delay of a general election, but to install a proved, strong, trusted and experienced leader, who can inaugurate a moderate and patriotic Australian policy.

See. For such a task no name stands higher, and deservedly, than that of Mr. Lyons.—I am, Sir, &c.,
A. GRENFELL PRICE,
MA., F.R.G.S.

Adv. 13-2-31

RESEARCH STUDENTSHIPS

The trustees of the Commonwealth Science and Industry Endowment Fund are inviting applications for two senior studentships, one in plant genetics and the other in plant physiology. Each successful applicant will spend portion of the studentship in the council's laboratories at Canberra, and will probably be required to proceed abroad for one year. The terms provide for payment at the rate of £300 per annum, together with allowances for travelling expenses. Applicants must be University graduates in science and have attained a high standard in botany or agriculture. Some experience in research work is also desirable. Full details of the offer can be obtained from the secretary to the trustees, Science and Industry Endowment Fund, 314, Albert-street, East Melbourne.

Adv. 13-2-31

TEACHERS' COLLEGE

CONTROLLING OUTPUT

Abolition Not Called For

"South Australia has got over the same difficulty in another way," said the Director of Education (Mr. Adey) yesterday, referring to the decision to close down the Teachers' Training College in Perth.

Mr. Adey explained that the Western Australian department had become overstaffed. The same thing had happened in South Australia, due largely to the great reduction in resignations. Prior to 1929 an average of more than 200 teachers resigned from the service annually. In 1929 there were only 150 left the service, and last year the number was less than 100.

It was only by making compulsory retirements at the end of last year that positions had been found for last year's batch of graduates from the college, said Mr. Adey, and there were still a few awaiting appointments. About 220 students used to enter the college every Christmas, and additional batches of about 30 were taken on in May and August. The two small batches had been cut out, and the Christmas entrance reduced by about 40 per cent.

Mr. Adey said it was hoped to keep the supply equal to the demand in this way, without closing down the college altogether. It had to be remembered that teachers could not be made in five minutes, and closing the college would mean the cutting off of all supplies until two years after the college reopened.

Reg. 13-2-31

TEACHERS COLLEGE TO CONTINUE

Problem Of Overstaffing Overcome

The decision of the authorities in Perth to close down the Teachers' Training College there is not likely to be repeated in Adelaide, at least for some time.

"We had the same difficulty as they had in Perth, but we got over it in another way," said the Director of Education (Mr. Adey) yesterday.

"Our teaching department became overstaffed just as did the Perth department, due largely to the great reduction in resignations.

"It was only by making compulsory retirements at the end of last year that positions were found for last year's batch of graduates from the college, and there are still a few awaiting appointments.

"About 200 students used to enter the college every Christmas and additional batches of about 30 were taken on in May and August. The two small batches have been cut out and the Christmas entrance reduced by about 40 per cent.

"It is hoped to keep the demand equal to the supply in this way without closing down the college altogether."

STUDENTS SURVEY CAMP

Kuitpo Forest

On Monday morning several Adelaide University engineering students will leave for their annual survey camp at Kuitpo Forest, Meadows. Mr. R. C. Robins (lecturer in engineering at the University) will be in charge. The party will be away for three weeks, and during that time will be out for about seven hours a day practising with instruments. At nights star observations will be taken. One week has been set aside to carry out surveys for small engineering jobs such as a light dam or reservoir.

Adv. 16-2-31

PROSPECTING BY STUDENTS

Messrs. C. Yates, R. A. Duncan, F. Finlayson, F. J. Vierk, Sharp, S. R. Woodman, and E. R. Turner, engineering students at the Adelaide University, returned on Saturday from a five weeks' prospecting tour. They made their headquarters at Mylor, and many parts of the surrounding districts were prospected by the party. The students eventually worked on the two 12-ft. shafts which they sank, and where they found a little gold. The party will return to Mylor this week, where they intend to remain until the University opens early in March.

News 17-2-31

TRAINING TEACHERS

New System Suggested

"Self-appointed Commissioner," Adelaide:—Mr. W. J. Adey (Director of Education) recently stated that South Australia should not dispense with the Teachers' Training College.

Taxpayers desire to save any expense which can be avoided without detriment to the State. According to report the training of teachers costs the State about £55,000 a year. Is this justified if a less expensive system can be substituted?

University reports reveal that there are hundreds of graduates with degrees in art, science, and commerce who already possess literary qualifications to acquire which we pay our trainees heavily. Hundreds possess the leaving honors certificate. Many are eager to obtain positions.

Why admit probationers to the college for two to four years at the expense of taxpayers to obtain qualifications already possessed by scores of graduates and acquired at their own expense? True it is that the college also provides a certain amount of teaching practice, but the days set aside for this work would probably total about 60.

I suggest that the Government follow the example of Western Australia and close the college; call for applicants with specified literary qualifications for the teaching profession, select a limited number in, say, June, and send these to the practising schools for six months to concentrate upon teaching methods and practice. Then at the close of the year the most successful should be selected as teachers to fill the next year's vacancies. I think that the effect would be beneficial to the State.

New Blood and New Ideas

At present the department is too "inbred." Probationary students from the State high schools are instructed by teachers drawn from the same source. They are trained at the college by products of the same system, and are administered by inspectors, superintendents, and a director, all of whom have "grown up" within the department. Thus the whole outlook tends to be provincial.

The suggested practice of calling for graduates already qualified academically would bring new blood, new ideas, contributions from the large secondary colleges, as well as from technical, commercial, and agricultural schools, and from industry itself—a general leavening of the whole service. Added efficiency at minimum expense would send the taxpayer to the installment counter more cheerfully, knowing that another economy had been effected without loss to the State.

Adv. 23-2-31

Ina Fox, of Walford House School, has been awarded the Thornber bursary, which is given each year on the result of the leaving public examination.

Adv. 18-2-31

MR. H. THOMSON, K.C.

NEW PRESIDENT OF LAW SOCIETY

Mr. Harry Thomson, K.C., has been elected president of the Law Society of South Australia, in succession to Mr. T. S. O'Halloran, K.C., who has retired after having held the office for five years.

Mr. Thomson is a former member of "The Advertiser" literary staff. His father, Mr. George Thomson, was also a member of the reporting staff, and his grandfather Mr. W. H. Jeffery was for many years managing printer of "The Advertiser." The new president of the Law Society was educated at St. Peter's College, and after deciding to adopt the law as his profession, was articled to the firm of Varley and Evan, of which he is now a member. He had a brilliant University career, winning the Stow prize, and being selected Rhodes Scholar for 1909.

After a distinguished career at Oxford, Mr. Thomson was admitted to the South Australian Bar in 1913, and enlisted for active service in 1915. He gained his commission in the field, rising to the rank of major, and winning the Military Cross. He was prominently connected with the scheme for the education of A.I.F. troops while abroad. Three or four years ago he did especially good work when appearing for certain members of the police force before the Bribery Commission. In August last he was appointed King's Counsel with Messrs. G. C. Ligertwood and H. Mayo.

At the annual meeting of the Law Society held on Monday, Mr. T. S. O'Halloran, K.C., who has been a member of the council for nearly fifteen years and has acted as president for five years, retired from the office of president.

The following resolution was carried:—"That this society desires, upon the occasion of his vacating the office of president, which he has held for the past five years, to give expression to, and place upon record, its keen appreciation of the valuable services of Mr. T. S. O'Halloran, K.C., and, further, desires sincerely to thank him for the generous, wholehearted, and efficient manner in which he has upon all occasions carried out the duties of president."

Mr. O'Halloran Thanked

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Adv. 18-2-31

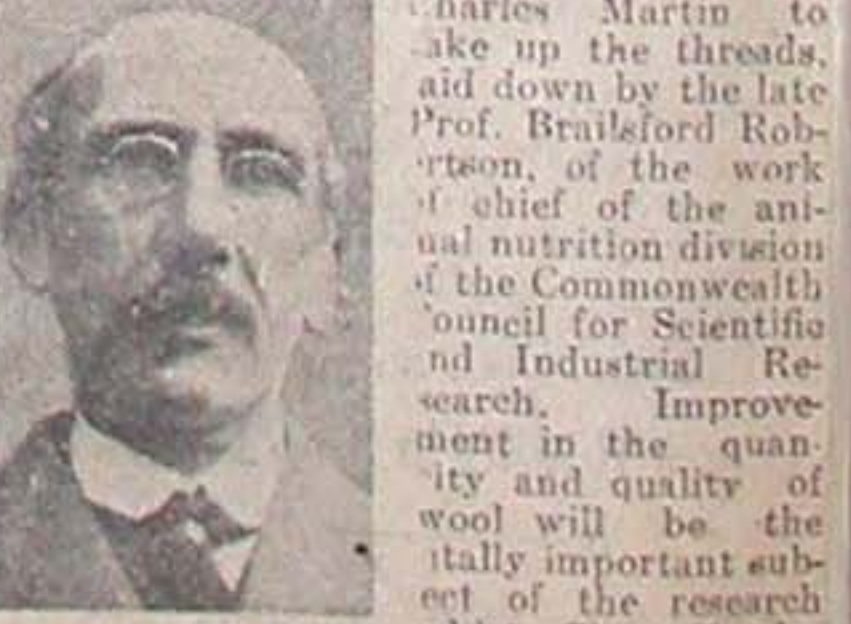
From Our Special Correspondent Perth, February 17.

New University College

St. George's College, the first University College to be affiliated with our University, will open at the beginning of the term with about 20 men. The authorities are satisfied, considering the times, St. George's has been built with part of the Hackett Bequest, and, as it has cost more than £100,000, and accommodates only 40 men, it will be realised that the accommodation provided for each deserves the term palatial. Much criticism of this lavishness has been heard, but now it is done, the students will reap the benefit. The site on the river is probably unsurpassed in the Commonwealth for beauty.

News 24-2-31

Adelaide scientific circles await with interest the arrival by the Ceramic on Monday of Sir Charles Martin to take up the threads, aid down by the late Prof. Brailsford Robertson, of the work of chief of the animal nutrition division of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Improvement in the quantity and quality of wool will be the vitally important subject of the research which Sir Charles will direct. He has had much experience at English and German research institutions and at Onderstepoort (South Africa).



Sir Charles Martin