

Mail 20-6-31

Adv. 24-6-31

# CHASING WILL O' THE WISPS!

## Inventors That Professor Chapman Has Met

PERPETUAL motion—universal power—men still dream of these things. Prof. R. W. Chapman, M.A., B.E., is the man who breaks their dreams. In the 40 years he has been at Adelaide University, more wild-cat schemes have been submitted to him than to any other man in the State. And he still dislikes telling a genuine inventor that he is chasing a will o' the wisp.

WHILE his reports have smashed many an inventor's hopes they have sent others away in the clouds.

Mr. Howard F. Hobbs was a recent one. The young inventor of "the gearbox" went to London last week buoyed up with Prof. Chapman's endorsement.

Others have crashed sadly. A little old man from Yorke's Peninsula wrote that he had discovered "perpetual motion." His device had all the simplicity of genius—but it had been tried 300 years ago. There was a cripple in Adelaide who brought his little home-made machine to the point of perfection—but it would not go.

"None of these men get beyond the point reached by seventeenth century investigators—but the difficulty is to convince them of that," sighed Prof. Chapman.

There was one exception—an engineer. He put a spring in a stamp for crushing ore, and expected it to do double duty as a squeezer.

"Would you rather be hit on the head with a pound of lead or a pound of feathers?" asked Prof. Chapman.

"With the feathers, of course," replied the astonished engineer.

"And the ore would prefer the spring," was Prof. Chapman's retort.

"Well, aren't I a — fool!" exploded the inventor.

Yet still they go on trying for perpetual motion. Only a few weeks after Prof. Chapman's report on a "universal power" device, came another "certainty" from the country.

It is not only in testing the practicability of new devices that the Engineering School at Adelaide University does community service. In it are tested the resistant powers of materials to be used in most of the important new structures erected in Adelaide.

And in it are tested most of the men who have "made good" in engineering in this State.

Some brilliant engineers have passed under Prof. Chapman. And the tall, spare man with the aquiline profile is not ashamed to admit that his greatest joy comes from their success.

They are in every State of the Commonwealth, holding high executive positions; they are in Malay States, in Siam, in the Far East, in the United States of America, and in Britain.



Prof. R. W. Chapman

Mr. Essington Lewis (managing director of Broken Hill Proprietary) is an "old boy" of Prof. Chapman; another is Mr. C. D. Gibb, recently appointed director of the Parsons Turbine Company in Britain.

Engineering was admitted to university curriculums under the bar sinister; for years it was very much a poor relation of the cleaner arts and sciences. In Adelaide University Prof. Chapman, then a young and brilliant graduate of Trinity College, Melbourne University, began with lecturing to evening classes in electrical engineering.

Many now well-known men attended those classes—Unbehann, of Unbehann and Johnstone; McLaren, of Newton, McLaren, and W. Inglis, power engineer for the Adelaide Electric Supply Company, were among them.

Until not so many years ago the engineering men were housed in underground caverns of Adelaide University; now they occupy a magnificent red brick building, and their equipment is equal to any.

Of recent years there has been a definite swing over to the value of engineering training. Governments have made substantial provision for it in technical colleges and apprentice training—but they have not yet made it an essential qualification for executives, as is done in America, and in a lesser degree, in London.

The Chair of Engineering was established at Adelaide University 24 years ago, and Prof. Chapman, who had already been on the staff for 10 years, filled it. He is thus the senior member of the University staff.

Prof. Sir William Bragg (then professor of physics) was in charge of his department when he joined 42 years ago.

Since 1916 Prof. Chapman has been on the council of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries, and since 1919, of Adelaide University. He is in addition president of the Astronomical Society of South Australia—his main diversion, apart from his work. His other is playing bowls with Marryatville Club.

His two sons are carrying on the family tradition. R. H. is chief engineer for South Australian Railways, and J. D. is Assistant City Engineer.

# SCIENCE OUTSTRIPS THE WORLD

## Professor Grant Outspoken ATTACKS POLITICS AND EDUCATION

Declaring that science had outstripped religion, education, and politics, Professor Kerr Grant, in an address last night, said that the educational system was hundreds of years out of date.

He said he would like to see far less reading and far more doing, that our education system was too bookish, and that he would like every school to have a workshop as well as a laboratory.

Speaking at the Charge Engineers' Association, Professor Grant said:—"Our political institutions today are exceedingly crude, and the management of the affairs of the country cannot stand comparison for one moment with the affairs of a well-managed business.

"Two years ago I told this association that I did not see any hope of salvation by measures which might be enacted by the people who got us in such an unwholy mess, and my fears have come true," he said. "Up to the present they have not succeeded in extricating us from the position, but we can congratulate ourselves that there are signs of better weather approaching."

### World Out of Joint

Professor Kerr Grant said that the world was out of joint.

"Progress in science," he said, "has outstripped religious, educational and political institutions and affairs. It has produced temporary dislocation in the civilised world and I think it is from that that we are suffering. To that extent only can science and industry be blamed for our present situation. It has been said that science and industry should take a 10 years' holiday to enable other institutions to catch up with them. That is neither possible nor desirable. It is for people in other walks of life to think as energetically and critically and act in accordance with it as scientific men have done. That is where the remedy is to be found.

"I know that there is a danger of advocating that the management of the country should be placed in the hands of trained men, and that it may give rise to discontent; but I say that the risk may be worth taking rather than putting, as we have done in the past, the management of the affairs of the country into the hands of men who are most evidently incompetent of managing them.

### Religion and Education

"I am quite emphatic that religion and religious institutions require a serious examination by those interested to bring them into line with modern thought.

"In education we want a new point of view. Our schools are based on those which existed several hundred years ago. We want a much larger basis of the scientific element in our educational programmes than we have today. The whole community should be raised in its knowledge of science and its competence in science. I am not thinking altogether of physical science. The people should know something of biology, the history of the world, economic principles, and something of the scientific method and its application.

### Aggregation of Capital

"When I was younger I had radical views on many subjects. I have changed them somewhat, but I have not given up that idealism to see a community which will be happy, contented, prosperous, and living on a higher level in every way than it is today. I do not think it will be achieved by any enforced political system—Socialistic or otherwise. Henry Ford has pointed out a better way. You are not going to make the poor poorer by making the rich poorer. For the development of modern industry it is desirable that capital should be aggregated. Where capital is held by a single person it is only held nominally. That person could not realise it. It is distributed throughout the whole community, benefiting many."

Adv. 17-6-31

Adv. 25-6-31

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Fisher and Dr. H. M. Fisher returned yesterday from England having travelled to Melbourne on the Moreton Bay, which did not call at the Outer Harbor. Dr. Fisher, a former Adelaide University and interstate fast bowler, has been doing post graduate work in Great Britain for 2 1/2 years. He was on the staff of the Rotunda Hospital, Dublin, where he secured diplomas in gynaecology and obstetrics, and later went to Edinburgh where he gained the fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. Afterwards he worked in St. Mary Abbots Hospital, London, and was on the surgical staff of the Chelsea Hospital for women, where he studied under Mr. Victor Bonney.

Mr. Gordon Mackay, formerly director of tutorial classes of the Workers' Educational Association and lecturer in economics at the University of Adelaide, has undertaken two years' research work in connection with the Chair of Imperial Economics. Mr. Mackay's latest book, "Experiments in Freedom in Education," will be published this month.

News 25-6-31

### ORGAN RECITAL

Mr. John Horner's weekly organ recital was given at Elder Conservatorium today. He played:—"Toccata and Fugue in D Minor" (Bach), minuet from "Julius Caesar" (Handel), "Grand Fantasia in F Minor" (Mozart), "Morning Song" and "Triumphal March" (Hollins). Mrs. Joy Badenoch sang Elgar's "Shepherd's Song."

Adv. June 1st 1931

The annual Listerian Oration for members of the British Medical Association will be held in the Darling Building on Wednesday, June 24. The oration will be delivered by Sir Charles Martin.