

News 9-9-31
ANY CHANCES FOR
OUR BOYS?

"Few," Says Former Head of Rostrevor

"WHAT chance does Australia give its clever boys?" Rev. Bro. D. G. Purton, former head of Rostrevor College, and now of St. Patrick's College, Ballarat, was asked today.



Bro. D. G. Purton

Bro. Purton would like to see more boys on the land.

"But not on marginal farms, where the price drops a penny the farmer goes out," he said. "Prof. Wadham, of Melbourne, says that the average yearly earnings of the marginal farmer are £113—less than a day laborer's wage."

Commerce offered the best opportunity in normal times, said Bro. Purton, but here there was a great need for more specialised training, particularly in the universities, and especially in economics. "I should like to correct a statement that I do not agree with Sir William Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University) when he says that the University does not permeate civil life as it should. He is right. South Australia stands alone in the Commonwealth for its interest in its university; but Brisbane, for instance, scarcely knows it has one. Which is all wrong. The University should be the very heart of the community."

NOT A NURSERY

"And if it is to be the centre of specialised training, it should not be a nursery too. That is what it becomes when boys and girls of 16 are admitted. Eighteen should be the minimum age. Admitting undergraduates of 16 as soon as they have passed the leaving examination means that the University must teach what properly should be done at school. There should be a matriculation examination, and an age limit if the University is not to waste its time."

Bro. Purton said that never had the spiritual call been stronger among Catholic youth than today.

"In Sydney there are 1,000 boys training for religious life; in my own school at Ballarat half the senior class will enter the priesthood," he said. "Parents are feeling the spiritual revival, too. A very satisfactory challenge to an age of agnosticism."

Bro. Purton will leave Adelaide for Ballarat on Saturday.

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INTER ALIA-MELBOURNE
Gossip

Duties on Books

There is a growing demand for the remission of the Federal imposts on books. Both at the University Council and the annual meeting of Robertson & Mullens, Limited, the biggest booksellers in the city, the matter has been discussed. Federal sales tax and primage duties amount to more than 19 per cent. of the invoice value and it is estimated that, with the adverse rate of exchange and the cost of freights, the cost of books in Melbourne is about 80 per cent. more than in London. The freight and the exchange rate are inevitable, but it is being strongly urged that the primage duty and sales tax should be remitted. The Customs Department even charges sales tax upon books imported direct from London by scholars for their own use, although, of course, they have no intention of selling them.

The Director of Education (Mr. Hansen) believes that the burden upon the parents of children attending the high schools will be serious. The University Library is already feeling it. The University Council is communicating with universities in other States with a view to considering whether a combined protest should be made.

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Professor Hicks's Opinion
Professor F. S. Hicks, of the Adelaide University, said he had studied in Germany for about two years all told. He had done post graduate work there. The examinations at German Universities were uniform, and a person who qualified in any one of them could practise medicine and surgery in any part of Germany. The studies of the German medical man compared in standard very favorably with the standard in this State. He regarded the standard as being higher than that in South Australia, taken from the school to the final examinations. In Germany the M.D. degree included surgery.

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ARID FLORA RESERVE

Through the generosity of Messrs. A. E. Hamilton and Wilcox, the University has been enabled to establish a reserve at Koonamore, consisting of 1,500 acres, for the study of arid flora. The area is under the control and direction of the botanical department of the University, and Mr. J. G. Wood, in a report on a recent visit there, states:—"The most gratifying observations as the outcome of this visit have been the truly enormous increase in numbers of seedlings and young plants of the salt-bush on certain of the quadrats and the remarkable regeneration of bluebush following the recent good year. This is the first time that considerable quantities of these plants have appeared on the reserve since its enclosure. The remarkable powers of regeneration of blue bush may be realised when I state that bushes have developed from small patches of latent cells in what have apparently been dead remains for at least ten years to our certain knowledge."

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FEES FOR EXAMINATIONS

The acting Minister of Education (Mr. Denny) stated in the Assembly yesterday, in answer to a question by Mr. Nicass (Lab.) whether the children of people in necessitous circumstances could sit for public examinations without the payment of fees, that the examinations were not controlled by the department. He understood the fees covered the cost of the examinations. The department had no funds available from which fees could be paid.

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News also 10-9-31

Professor H. J. Wilkinson has been appointed honorary consulting anatomist to the Adelaide Hospital.

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VERCO MEDAL FOR MAWSON

Polar Exploration Recognised

THIRD RECIPIENT

Ability Widely Extolled

Sir Douglas Mawson, who, particularly for the practical results achieved, is one of the most outstanding polar explorers, was presented with the Sir Joseph Verco Medal, a Royal Society award, by the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven), at the society's rooms, Institute Buildings, last night.

"There cannot be a greater test of character than polar exploration," the Governor said. "Sir Douglas Mawson must have inspired his men with the type of leadership which makes men surprise themselves with what they achieve."

In a stirring account of the work and adventures of Sir Douglas Mawson, the senior vice-president of the society (Professor T. Harvey Johnston), who was a member of the last two expeditions organised by Sir Douglas Mawson, and was a fellow student at the Sydney University 27 years ago, said that Mawson's fame as an explorer and geographer was so great that one was apt to overlook his fine record of physical, geological and mineralogical research work.

The memoirs and transactions of the society for the past 25 years contained many of his papers relating to the structure of Central and South Australia, and numerous papers had appeared in British and American journals. His earliest expedition was one in 1903 to study the geology of the New Hebrides. Soon afterwards he was appointed to the geological staff of the Adelaide University.

With Shackleton
His first experience of polar condi-

Continued

tions was obtained as a member of Shackleton's British Antarctic Expedition (1907-9), in which he, in company with his teacher, Professor (now Sir Edgeworth) David and Dr. McKay, made the first ascent of Mount Erebus (13,350 feet), and later discovered the South Magnetic Pole.

Dr. H. R. Mill, in his "Life of Sir Ernest Shackleton," in referring to the work of David and Mawson on those occasions, said that they "proved themselves to be worthy to rank with the foremost polar explorers of all time." Professor David, in his account of the South Magnetic polar journey, wrote of Mawson:—"He had throughout the whole journey showed excellent capacity for leadership, fully justifying the opinion held of him by Lieutenant Shackleton when providing in my instructions that, in the event of anything happening to myself, Mawson was to assume leadership."

Australian Expedition

"The experience gained in that expedition was fully utilised when Mawson planned the Australian Antarctic Expedition, which carried out such excellent work during 1911 to 1914, contemporaneously with the last Scott (Terra Nova) Expedition, and with Amundsen's bold dash to the South Pole." Professor Johnston said.

Professor Johnston quoted passages from Gordon Hayes's "Antarctica," in which the author stressed the fact that 17 University men were included in the personnel of "the finest expedition that ever sailed to either of the Polar regions." He wrote that the British were only feeling their way in Antarctica and serving their novitiate in its exploration until Sir Douglas Mawson's expedition, which might be held as a model for others to copy.

"Mawson's results far exceed all others (Amundsen's, Scott's, two Shackleton's)," Hayes wrote, "because he made the greatest inroads into the unknown with the finest scientific staff. No other expedition equals the Australasian one in the wealth and importance of the data collected and in results generally."

Tragic Experiences

"Mawson's tragic experiences in his far-eastern journey, so simply told in his diary, and recorded in his book, are known to all of us—the loss of Nimble and most of the dogs and food down an enormous crevasse, and then the death of Mertz, and the long, dangerous, solitary journey which led Mawson back, worn and starved, to safety, just in time to see the relief ship disappearing in the distance," said Professor Johnston.

"Hayes, in referring to Mawson's action regarding Mertz, says—'This is one of the finest examples of heroism that even the exploration of Antarctica has produced. The moral effect of this second fatality must have been dreadful. One Antarctica explorer told the author that he was doubtful whether any other man but Mawson would have survived the ordeal. Nearly every factor of hardship incidental to Polar travel had to be endured. His only hope was that if he could get near enough to the base, his diary might be discovered with his body, and thus the discoveries made by his party would not be lost.'"

Latest Expeditions

"The call of the Great White South was responded to again, and after years of preparatory work, the British, Australian, and New Zealand Antarctic Research Expedition was launched. Scott's old ship, the Discovery, being made available for extensive exploration and oceanographic work in the Antarctic and Sub-Antarctic.

"I believe that the results, when published, will indicate that the 1929-30 and 1930-31 voyages will have resulted in the exploration of a much greater length of the Antarctic coastline and a more intensive oceanographic study of the Antarctic waters than has been accomplished by any other expedition to date, and the credit of this is due primarily to Sir Douglas Mawson's leadership, organising ability, wide experience, his knowledge of men, and his appreciation of scientific team work," Professor Johnston said.

Sir Douglas Mawson, acknowledging the medal from the Governor, said he was deeply sensible of the honor conferred on him. He stressed the importance of having the right men on the expeditions, and said the success of the expeditions was due to the type of men who made the voyage.

Sir Douglas Mawson is the third recipient of the Verco medal, presented by Sir Joseph Verco. The previous awards were to Professor W. Howchin, geologist, and Mr. J. M. Black, botanist.

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PLASTER CASTS OF NATIVES' FACES

Timid Blacks Submit to Demands of Science

No matter how remarkable are the plaster casts of the faces of Central Australian natives exhibited at the meeting of the Royal Society last night, more remarkable still is the fact that the natives submitted to the demands of the scientists.

The casts were obtained by a recent anthropological expedition arranged by the University and the Museum. They have been prepared by the curator of the Museum (Mr. Hale) and Mr. N. B. Tindale, and made life-like by coloring by Dr. T. D. Campbell.

Professor T. Harvey Johnston pointed out that, though the natives had been subject to a punitive police party not so long ago, and one of them had been taken in manacles from his native district to stand his trial for murder, the scientists had trusted with them and the natives had trusted the scientists.

The natives had allowed the scientists to spread plaster over their faces, leaving but tiny holes for their nostrils, so that casts could be made. Without moving a muscle, which would have spoiled the cast, the natives had remained with the plaster over their faces for an hour, until it set. One of the natives was a girl whose language no one understood, and another was an old man with a flowing beard. "So keen was he to have his face mask made—or perhaps it was for the stick of tobacco offered as a reward—that he had his beard taken off, making him look as young as the rest of the band," Professor Johnston said. That all showed the good relationship that was possible between the natives and scientists.

Adv. 12-9-31

The following have been appointed to the teaching staff of the Canberra University College:—Lecturer in public administration and finance course, Professor L. F. Giblin; lecturer in Latin (part 1), Dr. L. H. Allen; lecturer in French (part 3), Mr. J. F. M. Haydon.

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Dr. Ian Hamilton, of Glenelg, who has completed three years' post-graduate study in surgery in England and on the Continent, returned with his wife by the Mongolla on Saturday. Dr. Hamilton worked in Paris and Strasbourg, and at the London, St. Bartholomew's, King's, Middlesex, and other hospitals in England, and qualified as a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons.

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Australian Photographs Win Award

LONDON, September 11.
An Australian, Dr. William Delano Walker, has been awarded the Royal Photographic Society's medal for a series of photographs illustrating the life history of the kangaroo. Dr. Walker is also showing an interesting series of studies of aborigines.

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DENTIST TO PRINCESS ELIZABETH

Dr. Keith Laws Returns a. e. g. B.D.S. 1925

To attend Princess Elizabeth and the Duke of Gloucester, was one of the experiences of Dr. Keith Laws, the Australian dental surgeon, during the time he has studied and worked abroad.

Dr. Laws, accompanied by his wife (formerly Miss Pauline Foote, daughter of Mr. W. H. Foote, the well-known orchestral conductor, of Adelaide) has returned to Australia by the Mooltan, which berthed at the Outer Harbor on Saturday. He studied at the Adelaide and Sydney Universities, and obtained the degree of doctor of dental surgery at the Harvard University, U.S.A. During an absence of about three years, Dr. Laws travelled in almost every country in the world. He is a son of Dr. Keith Laws, headmaster of the Kogarah school, Sydney.