

world travelled, used to conversing on equal terms with leading statesmen of the old world. Sir Walter Young, in all his brilliant career, has never wished to figure in any more spectacular role than that of the quiet man who went on with the job.

Yet he has been one of the foremost figures behind the scenes in the last few years of hectic finance, and the strong and far-seeing mind behind the State Government, which, thus fortified, showed other Australian Governments the way.

Always Ready

All statesmen are not the elected of the people. Sir Walter Young has never chosen that way of helping, but never once has he refused to give of his great intellectual resources; he has been ever ready on all occasions, and he has been an influence of supreme importance in pointing the way in the last two years, with advice which the passing weeks are proving extraordinarily sound.

His services were first sought for the State when the Butler Government appointed an expert committee to study the financial position in 1927, but it was when the State was found to be in a tight corner in 1930, and the Advisory Committee was formed by the Hill Government that he played a part which had never before been required of any private Australian citizen. And no man was better equipped.

No better index to the character of the man could be given than to quote from the letter in which he tendered his resignation as chairman of the Advisory Committee when the work of that committee was completed last year.

"As orally mentioned to you," he wrote to the Premier, "I am desirous of retiring from the Advisory Committee on State Finance, owing to pressure of work, and I think the time has now arrived when I may reasonably be permitted to ask the Government to accept my resignation. The main function of the committee was to advise the Government in regard to the budgetary position of South Australia. This has been done. The problem for the time being is merged in the Premier's Plan, recently adopted in the Melbourne Conference. The Premier's Plan has demonstrated to Australia the right path to pursue, and I highly appreciate the part played by yourself at the various conferences. Probably no country has a better chance of recovery than Australia..."

While Mr. Hill battled courageously in the open for the adoption of sound financial methods, Sir Walter Young, as head of the committee, worked indefatigably in the background, supporting him with facts and advice. It is typical of the man and of his capacity for hard work, his doggedness and his temperament that he probably never expected any other verdict than victory for the methods he advocated.

War Time Service

Sir Walter Young rendered great service to the country during the war. The Prime Minister (Mr. Hughes) recognised that his qualities were an asset to the Commonwealth and to the Empire. As a member of the Commonwealth Shipping Board during the war Mr. Young gave sound service, and as vice-chairman of the Commonwealth Central Wool Committee, he displayed that outstanding ability which led to his appointment in 1920 as chairman of the London executive appointed to negotiate with the British Government on the Australian carry-over wool. He was also a member of the Advisory Committee of the Australian Wheat Board.

In 1917, he visited the United States on an important special mission for the Commonwealth Government, and in the following year was made a C.B.E., an honor which he did his best to conceal. At the Imperial Conference in 1923 he was one of the most valued of the Australian Prime Minister's commercial advisers. Overseas his expert knowledge of finance brought him into contact with leading Empire statesmen who were quick to recognise the intellectual power of the quiet, modest Australian business man. There is a well authenticated story of a certain member of the House of Lords who, during a conference at which Sir Walter expressed his views, said warmly "Why, this man knows more than all of us."

As a member of the Committee of Inter-Imperial Exchanges of the Imperial Economic Conference, Sir Walter Young was associated with Sir Otto Niemeyer, of the Bank of England, who visited Australia last year.

In his private capacity, Sir Walter Young is managing director of Elder, Smith & Co., Limited, with which firm he started as a boy at the age of 15. Perhaps his greatest delight is his week-end visits to his country home near Mount Pleasant, where the oversight of his flocks is his recreation.

Mr. E. T. Crutchley, C.M.G.

Canberra, December 31.

The honor of Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St.

Michael and St. George has been conferred by the King upon Mr. E. T. Crutchley, British Government representative in Australia.

This announcement was made by the acting representative (Mr. Hankinson) on behalf of the British Government, today.

Mr. Crutchley is on his way to England.

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: SATURDAY, JANUARY 2, 1932

PRIMITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

It will be agreed by most people that the Australian aborigines are dying quite rapidly enough, without the rate of their disappearance being exaggerated, as apparently it was last week by Dr. Basedow, in a lecture before some learned society in Paris. A dozen years, he was reported to have said, would see the last of the race, a statement incorrect even if, as suggested, it were intended to apply to our own State alone, since it will take more than twelve years to dispose of our 2,426 natives of full blood. It will be conceded, however, that Dr. Basedow was only anticipating the inevitable; for the best that can be hoped for the seventy or eighty thousand survivors of the Stone Age on this continent, is to preserve them a few decades longer from the withering touch of civilisation. Their segregation alone has thus far saved them. But for our "magnificent distances" they must long since have gone the way of the Tasmanians. Their hunting grounds must naturally contract with the extension of white settlement, and Dr. Basedow is not the only Australian who realises that, if science is to make the most of its opportunity for investigating the customs and beliefs of the most primitive of human races, there is little time to be lost.

Professor Porteus, whose new treatise on the blacks is reviewed in another column, must be congratulated on the use he made of an opportunity presented three years ago for anthropological research on the north-west coast of Australia, and in Central Australia. He found groups of natives still carrying on a primitive existence dating back for thousands of years. The problem he set out to solve was the psychological response made to their environment by the oldest race on earth, the object being to obtain material for a judgment on their mental status. At one time the blacks were regarded as at the lowest stage of degeneration, and incapable of advancement, but this estimate Professor Porteus, like other recent investigators, has shown to be false. He proves that, in their reaction to their environment, they have intelligence enough to develop exactly the system of government most conducive to their welfare. Civilisation, it is a lamentable truth, had its beginnings in the combative spirit. Throughout history others besides Rob Roy have followed

... the good old rule, the simple plan. That they should take who have the power.

And they should keep who can. From the possibility of accumulating property in this way, sprang the monarchical system, rulers having something to fight for, inherit, and bequeath. But in the wilderness, where the lot of our blacks was cast, there has never been anything to fight about. As, with obvious truth, Professor Porteus observes, "If there were no tribute that primitive man could levy on the conquered, and if he had more territory than he could roam over, what would be the psychology of tribal fighting?" A Caesar, an Alexander, or a Napoleon, as he adds, would be lost in the Australian Never Never.

Even a chief implies a state of warfare necessitating a leader to stand behind. And the warlike spirit being of necessity non-existent, (aboriginal battles are pour rite, so trifling are the casualties), some principle of tribal government had to be found other than that implied in a despotism. If we ask what form would suit the aborigines best, the answer is exactly what they themselves made in committing their destinies to councils of elders. If there was no human foe to be feared, the deficiency was more than made good by Nature, with flood, drought, fire, and pestilence; and if these perils were to be successfully met, obviously the right people to look to for guidance would be those old enough to have passed many times through them.

Hence, while the tendency of civilisation is to treat old age as a disability, among the blacks it commands a respect approaching veneration. Nor is the experience it implies the only reason, for the elders are the repositories of the traditions and rules of their tribes, which, in the absence of written records, must otherwise be lost. As Alexander Goldenweiser puts it, "The man who has passed through all the different age periods and ceremonial initiations, has been a leader in the chase, and, as an elder, has taken part in the deliberations over peace and strife, has told and retold stories and experienced the tragic emergencies of primitive life, has talked with his own elders, and picked up whatever knowledge they possessed," would naturally command reverence and admiration, and be turned to for advice in doubt, perplexity, and danger. He would be a bulwark of law and order and established routine. There is no doubt that the aged use their powers most unscrupulously for their own aggrandisement. They have the pick of the food and the women; and, to retain their authority, they exaggerate the importance of their rites and ceremonies the number and complexity of which are kept at a high level for no other purpose than to render themselves, as exclusive masters of these formalities, indispensable. Sir George Grey, in his journals of his expeditions in the west in the early forties, ascribed a detrimental influence to these tribal elders, attributing to their policy of stifling all projects involving change, the stationary position of the race for thousands of years. Eyre had the same view, as Frazer has today; and there is no doubt that there is much to be said for it. If the elders had not, for countless generations, affirmed the dependence of natural growth on magic, the principle of germination might have been discovered, and with it the art of cultivation, and the aborigines might have made that stride towards civilisation which is represented by the passage from hunting to agriculture. Still, taking into account the inconstancy of food supplies, and the extent to which, in other respects, the blacks are at the mercy of Nature, Professor Porteus's contention may be conceded, that "the collective wisdom or experience of the old men is the thing which has greatest community value." It is they who, in time of drought, direct the exodus of the tribe to fresh woods and pastures new, who have acquired by experience a knowledge of the topography of vast areas, and of where springs are to be found, who have the secrets of water-bearing trees, and ways of exploiting all possible sources of food. All that Professor Porteus is concerned to show, is that the oligarchy of the aged implies, no deficiency of intelligence in the blacks, but rather the contrary; for it is the form of administration best suited to desert life. But it is one thing to extol the intelligence of the aborigine, and lament on sentimental grounds his disappearance, and another to regret that he has not survived and flourished along with white civilisation. Fortunately, there is no occasion to consider whether we would really wish to see Australia confronted, like South Africa or America, with a growing racial problem. The only question given us by Fate to solve is, how to mitigate the inevitable lot of a dying race.

Mail 2-1-32

Adelaide University was the first of the Australian universities to provide for the granting of degrees to women, and was the first to institute a commercial course.

News 4-1-32 167
70,000 BOOKS BEING REMOVED

New University Library

The task of removing the 70,000 volumes from the main University Building to the new Barr Smith Library, situated to the east of Darling Building, was begun this morning. Specially constructed conveyances with three shelves, and carrying about 70 volumes, are being employed. The law library, which is in the main building, and the medical library in Darling Building, will remain in their present quarters.

It is expected that the Barr Smith Library Building, which was completed a few weeks ago, will be officially opened toward the end of March.

ADV. 5-1-32

BARR SMITH LIBRARY

Transfer Of Books From North Terrace Begun

When the Adelaide University opened on a modest scale in 1874 it had no library. Today it has more than 82,000 books. Up to yesterday most of these were in the main building on North terrace. Now they are being transferred to the handsome new building at the rear of the University, known as the Barr Smith Library.

The moving of the books, which cover almost every branch of learning, was begun yesterday. They will be shifted section by section, so that their existing arrangement will not be disturbed. Specially constructed trays to fit on trucks have been made to facilitate the work. These are lowered out of a window on the top floor by means of a cable, placed on rubber-tired trucks, and wheeled to the new building. The Barr Smith library is on a level many feet below the main building, and a special wooden bridge has been built to assist in the transfer.

The library is a gift to the University from Mr. T. E. Barr Smith to commemorate the work of his father. It is a magnificent building, especially the interior which was designed by Messrs. Wood, Bagot, Jory, & Laybourne-Smith, after Mr. Walter Bagot, who supervised the work, had inspected the best libraries in Europe with the intention of embodying the latest ideas in the new structure. The reading-room can accommodate 340 persons in comfort. The present storage will take 150,000 books, and provision is made for expansion up to 600,000 volumes. The cost was £33,000. The prevailing color scheme is fawn and gilt. The lighting is excellent. The building includes offices for the staff of the library, and many modern conveniences.

Arrangements for the formal opening of the library early in the first term are now in hand.

News 7-1-32

Rye-wheat Experiments at Waite Institute

Scientists at Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Urrbrae, are experimenting with a rye-wheat hybrid discovered at Roseworthy Agricultural College. English scientists have evolved a similar type.

"Although it is too soon yet for us to determine its true value, I do not think it will revolutionise agriculture here," said the assistant geneticist at Waite Institute (Mr. H. C. Gurney) today. "Rye-wheat would be probably more effective in Russia, Germany, and England than in Australia because, being winter-hardy, it would perhaps be better suited to the climates in those countries."

"The rye-wheat hybrid, in my opinion, may not be of any more benefit to Australia than other crosses between ordinary bred wheats, which are drought-resisting and disease-resisting."

News 7-1-32

Dr. A. R. Southwood, who has been acting chairman of the Central Board of Health since the retirement of Dr. Ramsay Smith some time ago, was, in Executive Council today appointed chairman of the board. He was also appointed chairman of the advisory committee under the Food and Drugs Act.