

Ref 20-1-30
Adelaide Men To The Front 1930

...Basis of Growth." "The Principles of Biochemistry" and "The Physical Chemistry of the Proteins." He was a prominent and regular contributor to many foreign scientific journals, and founder of "The Australian Journal of Experimental Biology." Professor Robertson was an indefatigable worker and a brilliant leader in his special field. The loss of such a distinguished scientist in the prime of his intellectual powers would be severely felt, both by the University and the Commonwealth. His position as chief of the animal nutrition division of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research was one of the most important scientific posts in the Commonwealth. With a team of co-workers whom he had gathered round him he was actively investigating the problems relating to the nutrition of sheep and the production of wool. Those researches on which he had concentrated his attention since taking the leadership of the division of animal nutrition promised to yield results of incalculable value to Australia. His loss would be deplored not only by all Australians, but also by scientists and others all over the world.

"The influence of his inspiring leadership," said Professor Richardson, "his strong personality, and the memory of his unselfish devotion to scientific research will ever remain with those who had the privilege of working with him. A great man of science has passed away, but his works will survive because of their unique contents, and because they are models of scientific endeavor."

"Fearless and Courageous"
The lecturer in physical chemistry at the University of Adelaide (Dr. S. W. Pennycuik) said the news of the death of Professor Robertson, at the height of his activities and intellectual powers, would be received with extreme sadness throughout the scientific world. "Only nine months ago," said Dr. Pennycuik, "I brought to him kindly messages of respect and admiration from innumerable scientific workers in England, America, Austria, and Germany." His untimely death, he added, would be felt as a personal loss by hundreds of workers in overseas laboratories, and even by many who knew him only by repute. At the age of 28 Brailsford Robertson had achieved a world-wide reputation. In his virile writings he had challenged the sacred dicta of the scientific giants of the day, and he lived to justify his opinions. His best known text books, "Principles of Biochemistry" and "The Physical Chemistry of the Proteins," were written at that time, and they were characteristic of the man, fearless and courageous, vigorous and outspoken, clear, comprehensive, and extraordinarily thorough. His range of scientific knowledge extended far beyond his own particular life's work, for he was a vigorous thinker in all branches of science. Loyal alike to his friends, to his convictions, and to his work, he was a man to be respected and to be loved. Only those who knew him intimately could appreciate the tremendous amount of achievement he had crammed into his brief life, and the sacrifices he had made. Pleasure and recreation were always sacrificed for the calls of the laboratory, and his loyalty to his work undoubtedly led, directly and indirectly, to his untimely death. His scientific programme was planned for years ahead, but it was not to be. He who fought so manfully to wrest from nature some of the most jealously guarded of its secrets, the secrets of life itself, was now dead. Australia could ill spare such a gallant son.

Tribute from Staff
The Registrar of the University of Adelaide (Mr. F. W. Eardley) said everybody at the University regarded Professor Robertson with the profoundest affection. They felt his death as a personal loss, as he endeared himself to all members of the staff by his friendly ways.

"Loss to Pastoral Industry"
The president of the Stockowners' Association (Mr. P. A. McBride) said the death of Professor Robertson was a serious loss to the pastoral industry, as well as to the University. The professor was engaged in research work which was of vital interest to pastoralists.

Mr. J. Neil McGill, a former president of the association, said Professor Robertson's good qualities and the valuable nature of his work were recognised by all pastoralists, who deplored his untimely death. His work in connection with field research stations in various parts of Australia must have resulted in great benefit to the industry.

The secretary of the Stockowners' Association (Mr. E. D. H. Virgo) said the death of Professor Robertson was a direct loss to every stockowner in Australia, a loss to the Commonwealth, and the Empire, and as the results of his work would have been available to the world, his death must be regarded as a loss to the whole world. He was recognised as one of the leading scientists of the world in the sphere in which he worked, and it would be wonderful to find one to continue the time involved, work which the professor had introduced. The estab-

ishment of field stations in various centres of the Commonwealth which he had kept under his own personal supervision would, it was hoped, be carried on, but as so much of the work was in its initial stages extreme difficulty would be experienced in continuing without a break the sequence of operations. Any stockowner who had any difficulty that required an explanation regarded the professor as a friend as well as a scientist, and that, to a very marked degree, was the secret of his success.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

SYMPATHY WITH FAMILY

The following telegram has been sent by the Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator J. J. Daly) on behalf of the Commonwealth Government to members of Professor Robertson's family:—"Please accept the deepest sympathy of the Prime Minister, members of the Commonwealth Government, and myself in your sad bereavement. If it is any consolation to you to know, we regard the professor's untimely end as a national calamity. He has left behind him a wonderful record of scientific research, which will inspire those who follow and remain indelibly imprinted upon Australia's record of progress."

Senator Daly, speaking as Minister in charge of the Commonwealth Council of Science and Industry, said he desired to identify himself absolutely and sympathetically with all that had been said by those more intimately acquainted with the professor. He was a great scientist and a great man. He gave ungrudgingly and without stint to the nation he loved, the best that was in him. He left behind a name which his fellow countrymen would delight to honor and a claim to their gratitude which admitted of no denial.

Prof. Brailsford Robertson

Tremendous Worker, Says Colleague

"NO man could go on working as he did; he worked beyond the capacity of any individual," said Mr. C. T. Madigan, acting professor of geology at the University.

"He was one of the most popular men on the science staff. He was a hard worker for the University, and students.

"He was one of the few men who, while wholeheartedly immersed in scientific work, found time to devote himself to outside interests."

"The influence of his inspiring leadership and strong personality, and the memory of his unselfish devotion to scientific research will remain with those who worked with him," said Professor A. E. V. Richardson, of the Waite Research Institute.

The Premier (Mr. Butler) said:—"Professor Brailsford Robertson was one of Australia's most brilliant scientists. The value of the work he was accomplishing cannot be estimated."

Senator Daly, Vice-President of the Federal Executive Council, and Minister in charge of the department in which Professor Robertson worked, said:—"He was a great scientist and a great man. He gave of his best to the nation ungrudgingly."

"It will be absolutely impossible to replace him," said Professor Kerr Grant. "Professor Brailsford Robertson was a remarkable man. He was a strenuous worker, and a man of very large mind. His great knowledge of biochemistry—especially in dietetics—which he was placing at the service of the community, made him one whom the State could ill afford to lose. His animal nutrition research work was of great value. It is gratifying to know that before he died he laid down sound lines which others can follow."

Mr. P. A. McBride, president of the Stockowners' Association, said that Professor Robertson had been engaged in a work of immense import to the pastoral industry. His death would be one of the most serious losses experienced by the country.

Mr. J. W. McGill, a former president of the Stockowners' Association, said:—"I know of no one we could so ill spare at this juncture, because he had a full grip of the great problem on which he was engaged. He told me he was expecting great results from his work soon."

"SACRIFICED HIMSELF FOR SCIENCE"

Adelaide Colleague's Tribute (To the Editor)

SIR—The news of the death of Professor Brailsford Robertson, at the height of his activities and intellectual powers, will be received with extreme sadness throughout the scientific world. Only nine months ago I brought to him kindly messages of respect and admiration from innumerable scientific workers in England, America, Austria, and Germany. His untimely death will be felt as a personal loss by hundreds of workers in those laboratories, and even by many who knew him only by repute.

WORLD-WIDE REPUTATION

At the age of 28 Brailsford Robertson had achieved world-wide reputation. In his virile writings he had challenged the sacred dicta of the scientific giants of the day, and he lived to justify his opinions. His best known text books, "Principles of Biochemistry" and "The Physical Chemistry of the Proteins," were written at this time, and they were characteristic of the man, fearless and courageous, vigorous and outspoken, clear, comprehensive and extraordinarily thorough.

His range of scientific knowledge extended far beyond his own particular life's work, for he was a vigorous thinker in all branches of science. Loyal alike to his friends, to his convictions, and to his work, he was a man to be respected and to be loved.

TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT

Only those who knew him intimately could appreciate the tremendous amount of achievement he had crammed into his brief life, and the sacrifices he had made. Pleasure and recreation were always sacrificed for the calls of the laboratory, and his loyalty to his work undoubtedly led, directly and indirectly, to his untimely death.

His scientific programme was planned for years ahead, but it was not to be. He who fought so manfully to wrest from Nature some of the most jealously guarded of its secrets, the secrets of life itself, is now dead. Australia can ill spare such a gallant son.—Yours, S. W. PENNYCUICK, The University, Adelaide.

"Wonderful Record Of Scientific Research"

"Professor Robertson's death is a national calamity," said a message last night from the Federal Cabinet.

"He has left behind him a wonderful record of scientific research which will inspire those who follow and remain indelibly imprinted upon Australia's annals of progress."

News 20-1-30

REMAINS CREMATED

Funeral of Prof. Robertson

MANY ATTEND SERVICE

Indicative of the high esteem in which the late Prof. T. Brailsford Robertson was held was the large and representative gathering which attended his cremation at West Terrace Cemetery today.

Prof. Robertson, who was professor of biochemistry and general physiology at Adelaide University, and chief of the animal nutrition division of the Commonwealth Council of Scientific and Industrial Research, died on Saturday.

On the arrival of the cortege at the cemetery chapel a short service was conducted by Rev. H. R. Cavalier.

Pallbearers were Senator J. J. Daly (Vice-president of the Federal Executive Council), Prof. R. W. Chapman (acting vice-chancellor of Adelaide University), Prof. A. E. V. Richardson (director of Waite Agricultural Research Institute), Prof. Kerr Grant (professor of physics), Dr. R. H. Palleine, and Mr. H. R. Marston (chief biological officer at the animal nutrition division).

Senator Daly represented the Federal Government. Among others present were the following:—Sir George Murray (Chancellor of the University), Dr. A. M. Cadby (more), Dr. F. S. Hone, Dr. W. Ray, and Messrs. W. R. Bayly, W. J. Young, W. J. Labister, K.C. (members of the council), Mr. Justice Richards, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Sir Lancelot Stirling (president of the Legislative Council), Mr. W. J. Adey (Director of Education), Dr. Charles Fenner (superintendent of technical education), Prof. L. G. Melville (professor of economics), Prof. A. R. Macbeth (professor of chemistry), Prof. J. A. Fitz Herbert (professor of classics), Dr. E. as cable editor, and then transferred to Harold Davies (director of Elder Conservatorium), Mr. W. H. Foote (teacher of music at conservatorium), Prof. J. A. Prescott (professor of agricultural chemistry at Waite Agricultural Institute).

Dr. Jethro Brown, Drs. S. W. Pennycuik (lecturer in chemistry), James Davidson (entomologist at Waite Agricultural Institute), S. L. Dawkins, Ray, Hone, and Messrs. F. W. Eardley (registrar of Adelaide University), G. McRitchie (secretary of the Workers' Educational Association), A. J. Morrison (Deputy Town Clerk of Adelaide), E. Fairhall, F. Kenneth Milne, E. V. Clark (lecturer in engineering), R. J. M. Lucas, Charles R. Hodge, W. Fuller, Walter Bagot, J. Wood (lecturer in botany), S. Russell Booth, James Counsell, E. W. Lines, R. G. Thomas, and L. Laybourne Smith, Revs. W. Jarrett and C. E. Schafer, and Mrs. McCoo Hill.

I ASKED Dr. Pridmore if he would drop me a line from the West, and I have just received the following letter written from Dwellingup:—"I have gathered these notes for you from Brian about the South Australians in the Forests Department. The offices held by South Australians are:—Conservator of Forests, S. L. Kessel; Assistant Conservators, T. N. Stoaite, A. C. Schedley. The forests are divided into eight divisions, and three of these are under the control of South Australians — Dwellingup, B. H. Bednall; Mundaring Weir, A. Harris; Collie, D. Moore. All these men have Adelaide B.Sc. degrees. Kessel is also a B.Sc. Oxon.

News 23-1-30

UNIVERSITY BUILDINGS

Work Begun at Urrbrae

£15,000 FOR LABORATORY

The University of Adelaide has launched an impressive building programme. Work began several weeks ago on the John Darling laboratory at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute at Urrbrae. Cheary Bros. are the contractors. The building is estimated to cost £15,000.

It will be an addition to the John Melbourne laboratory already erected. The upper story of the building will be used for soil research purposes, under the direction of Prof. J. A. Prescott, and the lower story will be for agricultural students.

The University will be responsible for the erection of the building, but the cost of equipment and upkeep will be borne by the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

Plans and specifications for the Barr Smith Library are being prepared, and tenders will be called probably in February.

This building will face a north-easterly direction across Jubilee Oval toward Frome road. It will occupy a site immediately east of the refectory steps. The council of the University has £32,000 in hand, which amount is the gift of Mr. T. E. Barr Smith.

Parliament last year passed a Bill giving the University for higher education purposes the ground formerly occupied by the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society for exhibition purposes.

After the erection of the Barr Smith Library the Bonython Hall will be built on the North terrace frontage, facing Pulteney street.

Adv. 23-1-30

TASMANIAN UNIVERSITY

PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS APPOINTED

Hobart, January 22. Acting Professor T. Hytten, M.A. (Tas.), has been unanimously appointed by the special committee to fill the chair of economics made vacant last year by the resignation of Professor J. B. Bridgen.

Professor Hytten, who is a naturalised British subject, was born in Norway in 1890. He was engaged for a time in journalistic work on the mainland, but came to Tasmania in 1910 as general secretary of the Workers' Educational Association. Later he joined the staff of the "Evening News" as special writer on foreign affairs. With the demise of the "News" he joined the staff of the Adelaide "News," but in 1926 returned to Tasmania as lecturer in economics at the Tasmanian University. He continued in capacity until the resignation of Professor Bridgen last year, when he was appointed acting professor. He graduated at the Tasmanian University, taking his B.A. degree in 1922. In 1929 he passed in the honors examination at the Tasmanian University (economics school) with first class honors, taking his M.A. degree.

News 23-1-30
University Council

Sir George Murray (Chancellor of the University of Adelaide) will preside at a meeting of the council of the University at 3 o'clock tomorrow afternoon.

Reference will be made to the death of Prof. T. Brailsford Robertson (professor of biochemistry and general physiology). It is not likely that the appointment of a successor to the late professor will be considered tomorrow.