

Reg. 23-1-30

Reg. 25-1-30

NEW POWER PLANT FOR UNIVERSITY TRIBUTE TO PROF. BRAILSFORD ROBERTSON

S.A. University Men To Go To Workshops Abroad

BROKEN HILL, Wednesday.—Excavating for the foundations of the oil power plant to serve the mines is now in hand.

Four men from Broken Hill and four from the Adelaide and Melbourne Universities have been selected to go to engineering workshops in Switzerland and Great Britain, where the machinery for the plant is being manufactured.

The University men, of whom two are already abroad, are Messrs. John Hunter Leask, Robert Pringle Kay, L. C. Connor, and J. A. Simpson.

The Broken Hill men will go on the large bay, which is due to leave on February 1. They are Messrs. Harry Sugars, Charles Pett, T. R. Palmer, and Victor Johnstone.

Reg. 24-1-30

“CHAIR OF OBSTETRICS NEEDED AT VARSITY”

Dame Janet Campbell Supported

PLAN EVOLVED 7 YEARS AGO

FOLLOWING the publication this week of the report of Dame Janet Campbell, senior medical officer for maternity and child welfare, Ministry of Health, London, the general opinion of the medical profession and women's organisations is that now is the time for the establishment of a chair of obstetrics at the Adelaide University.

Dame Janet said: "There is reason to be concerned at the excessive risk mothers in Australia are called on to face."

Dr. F. S. Hone, lecturer in preventive medicine at the Adelaide University, who was a member of the Royal Commission on Health, the recommendations of which on the subject Dame Janet Campbell has quoted with approval in her report, said yesterday—"Provision was made about seven years ago for the establishment of a chair of obstetrics at the University, and certain of the Marks bequest was set aside for the purpose. Further action was postponed until better facilities could be provided for teaching in practical obstetrics. At that time it was proposed to build a women's block at the Adelaide Hospital. Plans were drawn up and land was set aside, but, owing to the financial stringency, it has been delayed."

In the meantime teaching of obstetrics to medical students has been reorganised at the Queen's Home, and a certain amount of the residential accommodation has been provided for students there. It is recognised that the accommodation made is not completely up to the standard set by the latest resolution of the General Medical Council in England. Also, with there is not yet sufficient accommodation for the requirements of nurses and medical students for the most thorough practical retraining in obstetrics.

"ONLY SMALL SUBSIDY"

"We have done all we can to urge the Government to do something for us, but all it does is to give us a small subsidy," said the president of the Mothers and Babies' Health Association (Mrs. Napier Birks).

"We hope a lot of notice will be taken of Dame Janet's report. In the past commissions have not done any good. In Queensland the work is absolutely under the control of the Government. The work in New South Wales and Victoria is subsidised by the municipalities and the Government."

"What we want here is to have our own money. We could do ever so much with a bad the money. Each year we concentrate on some small thing. This year we are building a cottage at Port Adelaide."

"I have thought for a long time that there should be a chair of obstetrics at the University," said Mrs. T. R. Bowman, ex-president of the National Council of Women.

The Public Health Department is not well organised in South Australia. At present things are not at all satisfactory. Until the Government sees the necessity for making the Public Health Department in Adelaide we will not make the progress we should."

"We want a department with a Minister of Health, not a Board of Health pushed on an already overloaded department."

adv. 25-1-30

Mr. J. M. Black, honorary lecturer in systematic botany, has been appointed by the council of the University of Adelaide to the University at the fifth annual botanical conference to be held in August at Cambridge.

The great services rendered to science and to the University of Adelaide by the late Professor T. Brailsford Robertson were referred to at the meeting of the Council of the University yesterday.

"The death of such a man at the zenith of his powers is a world-wide calamity," said the Chancellor (Sir George Murray). "A worthy successor may not appear for many years."

The council placed on record its profound sense of loss sustained by the University through Professor Brailsford Robertson's death.

Reg. 25-1-30

Professor A. C. D. Rivett, chief executive officer of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, is expected to arrive from Melbourne about next Wednesday. He will discuss the appointment of a successor to the late Professor T. Brailsford Robertson, chief of the animal nutrition division of the council.

adv. 25-1-30

LATE PROFESSOR BRAILSFORD ROBERTSON 25 JAN 1930 TRIBUTE BY SIR GEORGE MURRAY

The Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray), at a meeting of the University Council yesterday, referred with deep sorrow to the incalculable loss that had been sustained through the death on Saturday last of Professor Brailsford Robertson.

"The loss is shared by every member of the University, and will be felt throughout Australia and in every part of the world where a special study of bio-chemistry is made," he said. "A fine tribute has already been paid to his memory by Professor Kerr Grant, and I can do little more at the present time than add a few details within my own personal knowledge. Robertson was one of our own graduates, who, like Professors Cleland and Davies, rose to the distinction of occupying a chair within the University."

Described as a Genius

"As a student, Sir Edward Stirling said of him that he was the only one he had ever taught whom he should unhesitatingly describe as a genius. Professor Loeb prophesied of him that he would become as famous as Lord Kelvin. At the time of his death he was engaged in research work on animal nutrition and the growth of wool that would have been of national importance to Australia. He was also carrying on investigations which had so far advanced that he lately said 'Two more years and I'll solve the problem I have worked at all my life.' In addition to his other activities, he was the principal director of the Animal Products Research Foundation of the University, and the writer of its annual reports, and was one of the managing editors of the 'Australian Journal of Experimental Biology and Medical Science,' which was endowed by Sir Joseph Verco. He also contributed articles to scientific journals published in England, America, France, and Italy. One of the latest was a comment on the Darwinian and Weissmann's theories of organic evolution in the light of later biological discoveries."

World-wide Calamity

"The death of such a man at the zenith of his powers may truthfully be described as a world-wide calamity. A worthy successor may not appear for many years. But with all his knowledge, so wide and so profound, he had a well-balanced mind in every relation of life. He was wise in counsel, patient of ignorance, kind-hearted, affectionate, and, like many learned men, a lover of children. To his wife and family our sympathies go out in full measure. Our loss is great, but their loss is infinitely greater. Without saying more, I beg to move—That this place on record its profound sense of the loss sustained by the university through the death of Professor Robertson and his heartfelt bereavement they have suffered."

The motion was seconded by Sir Langdon Bonython, who, with Dr. F. S. Hone and other members of the council, referred to the great services rendered to science and to the university by Professor Robertson—and carried."

The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1930

FORESTRY PROBLEMS

There are signs of an awakening in all the States to the value of their timber resources. South Australia, as the Premier pointed out in our columns last Saturday, has special cause for satisfaction in the attention now given to her forests. During the past three years about 38,000 acres have been added to the area devoted to tree cultivation, which now amounts to 286,262 acres. In former days scant importance was attached to the natural forest areas of Australia, which were unnecessarily exploited in the supposed interests of settlement. Only a week or two ago the Minister for Lands in Queensland was deploring the ruthless alienation of forest lands which on the accession of the present Government to office he found still proceeding. He claimed to be the first Minister to place an absolute embargo on the practice, and foreshadowed legislation permanently preventing this alienation except by Parliamentary authority.

The supposition, whether well or ill founded, is that it would be easier for a Parliamentary majority than for an administrative department to resist the importunities of would-be selectors, but the Queensland Minister for Lands recognises that the greatest friend of afforestation, after all, is public opinion, which he pledges himself to keep acquainted with every development of the subject. Any ignorance that may prevail is not confined to Queensland. Were public opinion throughout Australia generally as well informed as it ought to be, the mistake would have been avoided, which, as Professor A. J. Ewart, of Melbourne, complained last week, was committed when the forestry school was removed from Adelaide to Canberra. Originally the Commonwealth contented itself with decentralising various activities in which it claimed to be interested, instead of taking them immediately under its own wing. The money the control of these would have cost it was proposed to distribute in the form of subsidies for three professors in as many State Universities. The arrangement was accepted by the universities, but was afterwards varied, to the indignation of Melbourne, whose university had been promised the Chair of Public Health. Inter-State rivalry may account for this chair and that of anthropology both going to Sydney; but Professor Ewart holds the personal will or caprice of Mr. Lane Poole, Inspector-General of Australian Forests, directly answerable for the removal, soon after its establishment, of the School of Forestry from Adelaide to Canberra, an infelicitous step, as Professor Ewart shows, for the proper place for a school of forestry is a university and not a non-university centre. As he rightly contends, it is an erroneous, however popular, idea that centralisation means democratisation, the truth being that it is rather a step towards autocracy, as Napoleon III saw when he had every shred of power in France vested in Paris. In the matter of afforestation such centralisation involves a good deal of overlapping with resulting extravagance and, further, makes for inefficiency, since, as Professor Ewart points out, though it is for the State services that the training at Canberra is intended, and though their requirements may vary, the States have no voice in regard to the training, curriculum, staffing, management, or examinations at the Canberra school, which again, has not the facilities either for training or research enjoyed by some of the States.

Professor Ewart can see no justification for the Canberra venture, and advances his own State as one which

is unlikely to benefit from it. He has a particular grievance against Mr. Lane Poole for what is construed as a disparagement of the Creswick Forestry School, which is four years older than he supposed and dates back some twenty years. In the matter of forestry Victoria must be conceded to have done very well, especially at Creswick. The plantation which preceded the school in that district was begun on a piece of hungry country which in years gone by had been turned over and over by diggers. But, as Mr. Butler claims, it is to South Australia that the honor belongs of being "the first part of the British Empire to have grown and milled its own timber." Both operations it is now conducting at a cost reduced during the past three years in the case of planting by more than 50 per cent., and in that of milling by more than 30 per cent., results of vital importance in this age of competition. It is well that the subject should be kept before the Australian people, if only as emphasising the importance of afforestation as a source of revenue and employment. Last year the British Empire Forestry Conference estimated that directly and indirectly 183,480 wage-earners in Australia were dependent on her forests, and that seventy years hence, all being well, the number will have risen to 800,000. But afforestation has other advantages on which speakers at the conference expatiated, and which were illustrated last week by Mr. D. S. Middledin, supervisor of forests in the Plenty Ranges, Victoria, who described the wanton destruction of trees in the mallee as "appalling," and explained the blinding storms of dust blown down to Melbourne from the mallee by this denudation. None too soon the Victorian Minister of Forests is talking of legislation to render compulsory on all farms the planting of 5 per cent. of the land with timber, and of requiring by law new settlers to refrain from cutting out timber over a similar area. The influence of forests on streams and water supply is a subject that should be taught in rural schools, the evidence being conclusive as to the necessity of forest covering on the watersheds and upper reaches of streams if a pure water supply is to be permanently maintained, serious floods prevented, and hilly country protected from erosion.

News 29-1-30

Bunday Prize for Verse

The following subject for 1930 has been prescribed by the University of Adelaide for the Bunday Prize for English Verse—"Six sonnets on any subject in the Petrarchan or Shakespearean form." Entries for the prize must be submitted to the registrar of the University not later than Monday, March 31. The value of the prize is £10.

Graduates and undergraduates are eligible, provided that they have entered upon their studies not more than six years before the date fixed for sending in the poems. No award was made last year.

adv. 1-2-30

ANIMAL NUTRITION RESEARCH

Dr. A. C. D. Rivett, chief executive officer of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, who arrived in Adelaide on Thursday to discuss with University authorities and others the question of an appointment to the position of head of the animal nutrition division of the council rendered vacant by the death of Professor Brailsford Robertson, stated yesterday, prior to leaving on his return to Sydney, that several weeks would probably elapse before the appointment was made. The executive of the council would make a recommendation to the Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Daly), who would make the appointment. Meanwhile the work would be carried on by the present staff.