

duty to say something with reference to the national benefactor in whose honor it has been erected, and, if I can, to offer some sort of explanation as to why there has been all this delay in erecting a memorial, seeing that John Ridley invented his reaper 90 years ago, and curiously enough that its first and successful trial took place within a few yards of where we are gathered this afternoon—to be precise on land which is now the site of Wayville.

At the time everybody realised the obligation the community was under to Mr. Ridley. He was a man of sterling character, but very diffident, and with no desire to advertise himself—content with the reward which came to him in the consciousness that he had been of service to the people amongst whom he lived. There is proof of this in the fact that he never patented his invention and absolutely refused to accept reward of any kind. The patent rights, had they been retained, would have meant, to quote the well-known words of Dr. Johnson, "growing rich beyond the dreams of avarice." Mr. Ridley deliberately sacrificed all on the altar of patriotism. Let there be no misconception. He knew what he was doing and fully realised the value of his invention. On all sides he received thanks—from Government House, from the Legislature, and from meetings of representative citizens. He wanted nothing in the way of monetary payment, and when he had to accept the sum of about £60 "as evidence of the appreciation of some of his fellow colonists," he made the amount £100 and handed it to what is now the Public Library. If ever a man deserved a memorial John Ridley does. It ought to have been in existence long ago, but the circumstances to which I have referred, to some extent at any rate, furnish an explanation.

Continuing his remarks in asking the Governor to open the Ridley memorial gateway at the Wayville Showgrounds yesterday, Sir Langdon Bonython said:—

John Ridley brought from England one of Watt's beam steam engines. It was installed at Hindmarsh and there the first flour was ground from South Australian wheat. His connection with farmers resulted in his wondering whether it would not be possible to invent a machine which would materially simplify harvesting. Other people talked, but he concentrated on the problem and eventually, to the astonishment of everybody, solved it.

When the first trial took place we can in imagination see the harvest field and hear the farmers discussing Mr. Ridley and his wonderful machine. But we have more than imagination to go on. Mr. F. S. Dutton, in his book on the early days of this State, gives a most interesting account of what he saw. "One afternoon during the summer of 1843-4," he says, "some friends met me in Adelaide and asked me to join them in their ride to a neighboring farm, where Mr. Ridley's reaping machine, which they said both reaped and threshed the corn at the same time, was successfully at work. It was not generally known at that time what the machine was, and, although we were all incredulous, we started to see with our own eyes how far the reports we had heard were correct. By the time we reached the farm a large field had mustered to witness the proceedings; and there, sure enough, was the machine at work, by the agency of two horses and two men, one to guide the horses, the other the machine. There was no mistake about it—the heads of the corn were threshed off perfectly clean; and a winnowing machine being at hand, the corn was transferred out of the reaper into the latter machine, and carts were ready to convey the cleaned wheat to the mill two miles off, where the wheat, which an hour before was waving in the fields in all the lustre of gold tints, was by Mr. Ridley's steam engine ground into flour."

Governor's Tribute

A little later the first show of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society was held, when a special prize of 10 guineas was offered for a reaping machine and was, of course, won by Mr. Ridley. In presenting the prize, the Governor, Sir George Grey, said—"I am peculiarly gratified in having this opportunity of expressing my opinion of the value of Mr. Ridley's machine, which I have very carefully inspected. I am firmly convinced that it will be of the utmost importance to the agriculturists of this country, as it will enable them successfully to compete in corn with any part of the world."

The members of the Society did not content themselves with the presentation of a prize to Mr. Ridley, but when the machine had been in successful operation for ten years they carried the following resolution, which is certainly a splendid tribute and one most richly deserved:—"Resolved that, in the opinion of this Society, the introduction of the reaping machine invented by John Ridley, of Hindmarsh, has been of the highest importance to the practical development of the agricultural capabilities of South Australia, and this meeting believes that it expresses the unanimous sense of the colonists of the great and lasting benefits which Mr. Ridley has thereby conferred upon

the community. The gracious manner in which Mr. Ridley contributed to the public his admirable machine by refusing to secure for himself either a monopoly of, or a money profit by, its manufacture, deserves to be recorded by this society. It presents for his acceptance its hearty and grateful thanks, with every good wish for his further prosperous career."

I cannot refrain from quoting from a letter by Governor Grey to Miss Ridley. Here are his words:—"It was then that your father showed himself the greatest benefactor of the country by inventing the first reaping machine which was peculiarly adapted to the climate and soil of South Australia. He often conversed with me while he was constructing his machine, for I ever regarded him as a friend, and as one of those eminent men whom South Australia was so fortunate in numbering among its first settlers. He gave his invention to all his fellow-citizens, to be a free blessing to the entire colony. May his name ever be held in reverence for this noble act."

Champion Of The Movement

It is stated on the tablet that the memorial has been erected by public subscription. That is true, but it is only fair to add that Mr. Butler's Government has given a generous donation, and that the substantial help of the Agricultural and Horticultural Society is largely the explanation of the handsome structure you see before you. That Society, as I have shown, eighty years ago passed a resolution which put into words an appreciation of Mr. Ridley not only true but approved by everybody with any knowledge of agriculture. In the circumstances it is rather puzzling to imagine how it came about that it was left to Mr. Duncan and the other members of the present committee to get out of the realm of mere sentiment and to assist materially in the erection of a memorial in some degree at any rate worthy of the great man with whose name it is associated. Before I close I must pay a tribute to our secretary, Mr. Stephen Parsons. Throughout the years he has been the champion of the Ridley memorial movement. At times the outlook must have been very dark, but that made no difference to Mr. Parsons. By word and pen he persisted; he never forgot his mission in life. He now has his reward. I offer him our heartiest thanks and warmest congratulations. He thoroughly deserves them.

I am sure that all here this afternoon are prepared with the utmost emphasis to endorse the hope so finely expressed by Governor Grey that the name of Ridley may be held in everlasting remembrance.

The Commissioner of Public Works (Mr. Hudd) moved a vote of thanks to the Governor, on behalf of the Government, the Ridley Memorial Committee, and the Royal Agricultural and Horticultural Society. Mr. Duncan, M.L.C., seconded.

The members of the Memorial Committee are:—Sir Langdon Bonython (chairman), Messrs. Duncan, M.L.C., Hudd, and Anthony, M.P.'s, Dr. Grenfell Price, Messrs. F. N. Simpson, Guy Fisher, H. J. Finnis, and Stephen Parsons (secretary).

News 4-9-33

THE Rev. J. R. B. Love, M.C., D.C.M., has been awarded the degree of Master of Arts by the council of the Adelaide University. Reporting on a thesis submitted by Mr. Love on the language spoken by the Worora tribe between the Glenelg and Prince Regent Rivers, the examiner (Prof. FitzHerbert) said that the language of the tribe had not previously been investigated or recorded. The whole work was regarded as a substantial and important contribution to the knowledge of Australian linguistics. Mr. Love, who was born at Strathalbyn, is now engaged in mission work at Port Hedland, in the north-west of Western Australia.

RIDDLE OF NORTH

Japanese Not Suitable

DR. PRICE'S VIEW OF TROPICS

("Mail" Special Representative)

LONDON, Saturday.

"It is perfect rubbish," said Dr. Grenfell Price, of Adelaide, when asked today about the recent suggestion of the Rev. Hewlett Johnson that part of tropical Australia should be handed over to Japan.

"Chinese and Japanese, in addition to whites, would be an utter failure in Northern Australia because of the poverty of the soil and uncertainty of rainfall," added Dr. Price.

He is master of St. Mark's College, Adelaide, and arrived in London this week after eight months in America. He left Adelaide last



Dr. Grenfell Price

September to study the effect of tropical climate on population, and other subjects, under the aegis of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Dr. Price investigated the Caribbean tropical settlements, and Florida, whose population is roughly a million, where the problems of the modern white population resemble those in Queensland, thought Florida is hotter than Mackay or Townsville, it is not fully tropical.

Dr. Price also visited the French settlements at St. Bartholomew and St. Thomas Islands, the German colony in Jamaica, and the Spanish in Costa Rica. He also stayed on the tiny Dutch island of Saba, where the settlers are pure white after 270 years' occupation.

He studied the American experiment at Panama, where white Americans have been working in the machine shops for 25 years, and he found their children of the highest standard.

Dr. Price's general conclusion is that whites can live satisfactorily in Australia's moderate tropics if adequate money is available for a health diet.

So Australia should be successfully habitable, particularly for sugar, as far north as Townsville. Farther north, the white man has a poor chance. Dr. Price is emphatic that Australia's north coast is suitable only for cattle.

Ado. 5-9-33

CAREERS FOR GIRLS

Law As A Profession

By Mrs. J. TENISON WOODS

At the Vocations Conference, organised by the Adelaide branch of the Federation of University Women, useful information was given to girls leaving school on the qualifications, training and prospects for various callings open to women. In this paper by Mrs. Tenison Woods, practical points are given on the subject of legal training.

Before beginning a law course, it is necessary for the student to obtain her leaving certificate, and Latin must be one of the subjects passed. A solicitor may qualify for admission in two ways. First, she can obtain the master's certificate. To do this she must pass six ordinary law subjects and serve articles in a legal office for five years. Second, she can obtain a Bachelor of Laws degree and serve articles for either four or three years.

The provisions relating to articles in each case are that the student, before being articled, must pass an interme-

mediate examination in law. The subjects for this examination are elements of law and first-year Latin. If the student has passed the intermediate examination and one unit of any arts subject, she must serve articles for four years; if she has passed the intermediate examination and two units of any arts subject, she must serve articles for three years. To obtain a Bachelor of Laws degree seven ordinary subjects in law and five special subjects (three law subjects and two arts subjects) must be passed.

Cost Of Training

The fees are £7 7/ a subject for law subjects, and £5 5/ a subject for arts subjects. In addition there is a fee of £7 7/ payable on obtaining the Bachelor of Laws degree, and £11 11/ payable on admission to the Supreme Court as a practitioner. It is customary to pay a premium for articles varying from one hundred guineas upwards; but if the student has a friend or relation in the profession it may be possible to arrange for a smaller premium. There is no fixed scale.

The training occupies approximately six years if the solicitor qualifies for admission on the master's certificate only, and either four or five years if the solicitor obtains a Bachelor of Laws degree.

Openings And Prospects

It is difficult to speak with any certainty about openings in the profession for qualified people. For the past few years most of the solicitors who have been admitted have found it difficult to obtain positions in existing legal firms, and a number have been compelled, for this reason, to start in practice on their own account. It is not advisable for anyone to start practising on his or her own account unless possessed of a small amount of capital with which to start.

Comparatively speaking, it is not any more difficult for women to obtain openings in the profession than for men, but the profession generally is (to a certain extent) overcrowded and underpaid.