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Rhodes Scholarship Missionary
 Perth, February 9.
 Sir Francis Wylie, who for a generation has been secretary of the Rhodes Trust in Australia to renew his acquaintance with former Rhodes scholars. He has been making the point that a Rhodes scholarship is a moral responsibility to the community for service. The "West Australian," commenting, mentions complaints from Oxford concerning the rarity of men of intellectual distinction among Rhodes scholars, and points out that most Rhodes scholars are still under 40, and says probably Australian critics have concentrated too much on political leadership. It seems probable that Australian selection committees have inclined to choose scholars by making an equation between achievements in sport, examination results and student offices, sometimes neglecting the one thing needful, the strong strain of idealism that a young man with the world at his feet needs if he is to refrain from playing for his own hand, and to accept the lower material rewards of the man who puts service to his community first. Sport counts more for leadership among students than it does in later life.

News 10-2-32

Dr. B. F. Moore has been appointed honorary clinical assistant to the ophthalmic section, and Dr. I. A. Hamilton honorary clinical assistant to the surgical section at Adelaide University.

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The council of St. Mark's College has appointed Mr. E. W. Gray as a resident tutor and assistant tutor in classics until September, when he will leave for England to take up his work at Oxford as South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1931. The council of Wykeham Preparatory School, Belair, also has arranged for Mr. Gray to assist on its staff. Mr. Gray has a brilliant record at the University. Last December he gained his degree with first-class honors in classics, and won the David Murray scholarship.

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At a meeting of the Medical Board yesterday afternoon, the following were registered as legally qualified medical practitioners:—John Harold Petchell, M.B., B.S., Melb., 1931; Nettie Grace Hill, M.B., B.S., Melb., 1930. The following additional diplomas were also registered:—Alan Harding, London, M.R.C.S., Eng., 1931; Frank William Augustus Ponsford, D.P.H., Melb., 1931; Cecil John Hackett, M.R.C.P., Lon., 1931, D.T.M. & H., Eng., 1930.

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BOOK TAX + TO STAY Deputation Fails GOVERNMENT CANNOT SACRIFICE REVENUE Mr. Lyons Sympathetic

Canberra, February 11.
 The Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) told a deputation today that the urgent need for balancing the Budget made it impossible for the Government to consider requests to remove the sales tax and primage duty on books and other publications from which the present revenue was more than £130,000 a year.

Mr. Lyons listened to a deputation of University Professors, scientists, librarians, booksellers, and professional men, all of whom agreed that these taxes were sapping the efficiency of the nation, for more than an hour, and surprised them by replying that he agreed with almost every word they had said.

Unfortunately, he said, the bad effect of these and many other taxes unwillingly imposed by the Government, could not be denied. The position that had to be faced, however, was that unless budgetary equilibrium was attained, there would be no hope for Australia, not to mention libraries, or anything else. The Government had been driven by sheer necessity to do many unpleasant things, and he would hold out little hope of doing anything but what the deputation wanted, though he could see whether some relief could

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not be granted in the matter of exchange periodicals and historical records and the like.
Influential Body
 The deputation was introduced by the Minister for Customs (Mr. Gullett), who pointed out that it was of a rather remarkable character as it represented the whole of the educational authorities of Australia, either directly or indirectly. Schools, colleges, universities, learned societies, public libraries, and the reading public were all interested in the case which the deputation was putting forward.

Mr. Gullett said that speaking from the Customs point of view, it was estimated that the primage duty on books would raise £75,000 in revenue during the financial year. Sales tax made up the remainder of the total revenue from this source. Remission of the taxes would involve the loss of all that revenue.

Balancing Losses
 The Chief Librarian of the New South Wales Public Library (Mr. Ifould), who led the deputation, said that the continuance of the sales and primage taxes would result in a very much greater loss in efficiency to the whole community than the loss of revenue represented to the Commonwealth. The appeal was being made on behalf of the great mass of thoughtful people who were being handicapped by the increased difficulty of obtaining literature. Apart from the general question of hardship, Mr. Ifould pointed to two special cases where the tax was having particularly unfortunate results. One was in respect of technical publications received from overseas organisations which, though in many cases sent from one educational authority outside Australia to another within Australia, were subject to the tax. The other instance was in respect of historical records. Although various organisations in Australia had gone to great trouble and expense to secure valuable historical records of early life in Australia from overseas, the sales tax and primage had added greatly to the cost of doing so, though the work was quite disinterested and of great value to Australia.

Science Handicapped
 Sir George Julius, of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, said that greater efficiency was the keynote of all present tendencies. The creation of efficiency devolved upon the leaders in industrial and scientific thought. It was essential that they should keep pace with the rest of the world, but they were all being forced to cut down in their literature, which was an essential part of their tools of trade.

Professor W. K. Hancock, of the Adelaide University, said he was seriously considering whether he could do any more useful work in Australia, since his tools of trade were becoming more and more difficult to obtain. There were two vacant professorships in Adelaide University, but it was becoming very difficult to attract persons of first class standing in scientific and educational work to Australia. It was impossible to discriminate between publications, and the deputation asked that all books should be freed of the taxes. If they could, they would willingly point out how to cut out Ethel M. Dell and Edgar Wallace, but it could not be done. Some recent books on finance, for instance, could hardly be distinguished from fiction.

Mr. Lyons Sympathetic
 In reply, Mr. Lyons said he appreciated the great concern of members of the deputation at the effect of this particular form of taxation upon libraries, universities, and other learned societies. "I want to compliment you on the reasonableness with which you have put your case," he said. "With most of it I could not disagree, except from the financial standpoint. I make this one qualification though, that some of the effects you speak of are not due only to the taxes in question, but to the reduced purchasing power of the people. The same story can be told about other industries, but there is no doubt of the effect of the taxes on books, and it is one of the things I dislike very much. Mr. Gullett does not like it; nobody does. The previous Government had the responsibility of imposing it, and I am sure that it did not like it, but recently Mr. Bruce and myself have had a look into the financial future, and it is not a cheering picture that confronts us."

"Our responsibility is to get as near as possible to Budgetary equilibrium. That is the only hope for this country, and, therefore, the only hope for your universities and learned societies. That is the way for us to face it. Unfortunately, other taxation, as well as this, has had an effect on the efficiency of the nation, not in the way of education, but by unemployment. The stamina of the nation will be undermined by these things. Yet we have been driven along by sheer necessity."

Enquiry Promised
 "I can hold out no hope in this matter unless there is a definite improvement in the general position. On some of the points raised, however, we might be able to do something. If you can give us a complete list, we might be able to help you, even if we cannot go the whole of the way with

you. If the financial position justified it, we would go still further. "If there is any possibility of relief on the points you may submit to me, it will be granted, but do not think I am encouraging you to hope for something worth while. In view of the financial position, I cannot, but these taxes will not be allowed to remain longer than possible."
 Mr. Lyons said he disbelieved the suggestion that some books had been doubled in price as a result of the taxes, or even with exchange added. Somebody beside the Government was getting a "take off" in those cases.

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NOT LAST WORD ON BOOK TAX Further Protest Possible LIBRARIAN'S REJOINER

Although disappointment was expressed in Adelaide yesterday, at the announcement of the Federal Government that the tax on books is to remain, it was stated that further steps might be taken in an effort to induce the authorities to alter their decision. The matter might be taken to the Federal Parliament.

The secretary of the Book Tax Protest Committee (Mr. H. Rutherford Purnell) said that the members of his committee were most dissatisfied with the decision. Though he could not say precisely what action would be taken, he was certain that efforts would be made to have the question reconsidered. The disappointment at the reply of the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) to the deputation, would be felt by the whole community. On the one hand it would bring home to the people the seriousness of the financial position, which enabled the Prime Minister to withstand the arguments put forward; on the other hand it gave little hope at present, of release from the encumbrances on knowledge with which Australia was oppressed.

Fewer Books Imported
 They must accept the figures that Mr. Lyons quoted as to the total product of the sales tax and primage duty, he said. The separate figures for primage, which would show the falling off in importations of books—a sudden drop of more than a million to £450,000 in value—were not given. For this year the product of the primage duty might be £75,000. Mr. Forde's estimate was £100,000. Mr. Gullett's figures did not show the full effects of the fall in imports, which would probably reduce the product to far less than £50,000 for the current financial year.

It was a pity, said Mr. Purnell, that Mr. Lyons, in saying he disbelieved that some books had been doubled in price, had stooped to sneer at "somebody besides the Government, who was getting a rake off in those cases." It was easily demonstrable that there were some books, such as those issued by publishing societies, on which only a small discount or no discount at all, was given to agents, and that those books could be sold at quite a reasonable profit for less than double the published price. The complaint had always been that, at a time when books were inordinately increased in cost, the Government had imposed taxation amounting to twenty per cent. The booksellers found it hard to sell books at all. A purchaser might be tempted to buy a book of economic essays, and make practical use of the knowledge gained, if the price were 7/6. But he would hesitate to pay 12/6 or 15/6. The higher the cost the less easy it was to sell a book. As a matter of fact, the cost of books had increased generally by more than 60 per cent., whereas the selling rate, according to the booksellers' schedule, had increased only 50 per cent.

Mr. Purnell added that those who protested against the book tax—almost the whole of the community—would have to content themselves with such crumbs as Mr. Lyons could give them in the way of relief "on some of the points raised." But it would be necessary to go further if Australian efficiency, culture, and intellectual credit were not to be permanently impaired.

Mr. Purnell said that, as soon as Professor Hancock returned, the committee would be called together to hear his report and decide what further action should be taken. Possibly arrangements would be made to have the question thoroughly ventilated in the Federal Parliament.

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WHY UNIVERSITY CHAIRS ARE VACANT + Finance Shrinkage DANGER OF GETTING INFERIOR MEN

The Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University (Sir William Mitchell) explained yesterday that the reason why no appointments had been made to the three vacant professorial chairs at the University was that there was a danger in selecting inferior men.

The vacant chairs at the University are botany, English literature, and economics. These were formerly filled respectively by Professor Osborne, the late Sir Archibald Strong, and Professor Melville. The work in these branches is being carried on by lecturers.

Sir William Mitchell said that the appointment of professors was discussed recently at a meeting of the joint universities' advisory committee. It was decided by the heads of the chief universities that they would not attempt to fill chairs with inferior men. In Sydney men who had reached the retiring age were being asked to continue their duties. Salaries of University professors were never as high in Australia as in England, and he did not know of one University professor who had come to Australia for monetary reasons.

The Vice-Chancellor said that at the meeting of the Universities Advisory Committee, the opinion was expressed that the chief danger at present in cutting expenditure further lay in the possible reduction in the standing of the Professoriate of the Universities. It was resolved that the first consideration should be the maintenance of the chairs at the highest possible level, and the meeting approved of the present policy of certain universities to refuse to make new professorial appointments at the reduced salaries now offered.

Australian Professors
 A reference to the University calendar shows that last year there were no fewer than twelve Australians on the professorial staff at the Adelaide University, namely, Professors Fitzherbert, McKellar Stewart, Hancock, Melville, Wilton, Chapman, Kerr Grant, Wilkinson, Cleland, Johnston, Richardson and Campbell. In addition, Sir Douglas Mawson, although born in England, is generally claimed as an Australian, and Professor Hicks is a New Zealander. Professors Wilton, Wilkinson, Cleland and Richardson are South Australians.

Sir William Mitchell thinks that professors for our universities should be trained in, and supplied from, Australian universities. Seeing that youths like Lamb and Bragg would never again be induced to come to Australia, why not seek to cultivate their quality in the youths whom they knew? Or was it too much to expect that a democracy should cultivate leaders outside of politics? The education profession was not really in a different position from the others, as he had pointed out in a letter to the Committee on Public Education, for just as the power of the University penetrated to the engineers, even when it did not teach them, so it could penetrate to the primary teachers.

Mail 13-2-32

MELBOURNE, Today.
 The 1931 Linthicum Foundation Prize of 1,000 dollars (normally £200) has been awarded to Mr. L. B. Davies, M.Sc., patent attorney of the firm of Davies & Collison, Melbourne, in association with Mr. Arthur Dean, LL.M., of Melbourne Chambers, who assisted him in the work for his thesis on the international convention of patents, trade marks, and designs.

The prize was instituted in 1927, and is offered annually under the Linthicum trust by the North-Western University of Chicago for competition among barristers, solicitors, and patent attorneys throughout the world.

The thesis must deal with some international legal topic relating to the development of trade, industry, and commerce.

Mr. Davies, who is president of the Institute of Patent Attorneys of Australia, obtained second prize in the 1929 competition, his subject then being "The Protection of Scientific Discoveries." Mr. Davies is the first person to have been awarded two of these prizes.