

MUNICIPAL SYMPATHY.

At a meeting of the Unley City Council on Monday sympathetic reference was made by Councillor Langham to the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Way). It was decided to forward a letter to Sir Samuel expressing the hope that he would soon be able to resume his duties in South Australia.

—Our Boys' League.—

At a meeting of Our Boys' League on Tuesday evening, upon the motion of Messrs. F. L. Saunders and L. P. Lawrence, it was unanimously resolved that the General Secretary should convey the following to Sir Samuel Way:—"That the deep sympathy of the members of Our Boys' League be conveyed to Sir Samuel Way, with an expression of the earnest hope that he would soon be fully restored to health."

—Not Always So.—

There was geological evidence, however, that such conditions had not always ruled. There was reason to believe that in the past Australia had provided no exception to the prevailing principle in other continents, and had an extensive river system radiating from a great central waterway. It was in this connection that the MacDonnell Ranges were most interesting, for they were the residue of what was at one time a great primary watershed of Australia. They were in the position proper for such, and had all the surrounding characteristics of having once acted in that capacity. At present, however, their height was indifferent. All that was left of their old-time magnitude were but wasted and withered remnants. They had gradually been worn down by centuries of rain, and now stood out isolated and rugged. The lecturer then showed, with the aid of lantern slides, various sections of the ranges, and explained the rock formations, the various lengths of their probable existence, and the changes which had taken place in the course of ages. He drew attention to the Finke River, which was of particular interest to geologists. The elevation of the range had created a meandering gorge, and its course was directed by influences antecedent to those at present in operation. There they had, in fact, geographical conditions of two ages. The first was the age when the river was on the dead flat, meandering through the country as the Murray did. When the elevation of the mountains took place the stream could not escape from its old course and so cut its way through the rock.

—Decayed Mountains.—

Although the MacDonnell Ranges were not of great elevation, and covered a limited area, they were still of great service to the central portion of the continent. They discharged the most helpful function of gathering and distributing a certain quantity of water over the surrounding country. The misfortune was, however, that they were in an advanced stage of decay. The geographical cycle in which their history was retained had long since passed its meridian. They had been in a condition of waste from a period scarcely calculable. In the process of wasting away they had filled up the valleys and waterways of the interior. Mr. Howchin then showed pictures of numerous rock formations in various parts of the centre of Australia which had remained solely because of their hardness and durability, but which by the action of the water and the wind had been gradually cut away until they stood out in solitude from the surrounding flats.

—Ancient River Systems.—

Mr. Howchin displayed an interesting map of Australia in which were marked the present and ancient river systems of the continent. By that it could be seen that in prehistoric times South Australia, by geographical right, obtained the great portion of the drainage from Central Australia. He screened pictures which showed the spots where former rivers had been, some raised now upon much higher levels, and others lost beneath the surface. They could be traced by means of the sands and other relics they had left. To the east and west near Petersburg and Orroroo, upon what was practically a modern watershed, could be seen traces of a former river the bed of which had been lifted from the plain to the top of the range. In the course of excavations for the Pekina water scheme signs of a prehistoric lake or billabong had been discovered 150 ft. above the level of the present valley. In those far away days there were three principal river systems. The main one was direct from the north, through the lakes and thence to the sea. Another started in the Warburton (Queensland) country and passed downwards to the head of St. Vincent Gulf, while there was an intermediate one which formerly proceeded down from the Flinders Ranges and joined the other running into St. Vincent Gulf. To the east there was a smaller, but more interesting, system above Adelaide. Evidence of all these waterways was given by the lecturer in pictures of deposits and rock formation. Many of the rivers, however, are tributaries of one great stream which flowed into the St. Vincent Gulf. It was a great and majestic waterway, backed by an extended continental back country, and one might very well compare it with the Murray.

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THE CHIEF JUSTICE.

A Comfortable Day.

Last night the Sydney correspondent of The Register telegraphed that the Chief Justice of South Australia (Sir Samuel Way), whose left arm was amputated on Monday, had passed a comfortable day, and was doing as well as could be expected.

—In the Courts.—

Mr. Justice Gordon, in the Supreme Court at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, announced the fact, and a similar announcement was made by Mr. Justice Murray in the Criminal Court. Representatives of the Bar present in each instance expressed gratification at the tidings.

—The Premier's Tribute.—

There were two figures whom they missed very much that day, stated the Premier (Hon. A. H. Peake), after His Excellency the Governor had laid the foundation stone of the new building for the Y.W.C.A. on Tuesday. The first was that of the late Lady Way, who had always been closely and lovingly connected with institutions of that character. The other was of the venerable Chief Justice, upon whom such great calamities had fallen. The mere mention of their names would, he was sure, arouse feelings of the deepest sympathy. Sir Samuel Way was a man of great faith and religious hope, and they could only trust that he would have the full consolation which those good things afforded.

—Public Library Board.—

A message of sympathy was telegraphed to Sydney on Monday by the Public Library Board. The General Secretary (Mr. J. K. G. Adams) received on Tuesday a reply stating that Sir Samuel's medical attendant (Sir Alexander MacCormick) had communicated to the Chief Justice the contents of the message; that Sir Samuel was very grateful for the telegram, and that he had passed a very good night, and was progressing as satisfactorily as could be expected. The telegram was signed by His Honor's Associate (Mr. G. Ligertwood).

—Jewish Sympathy.—

Rabbi A. T. Boas writes:—"I and the members of my community share in the grief South Australians in particular are experiencing concerning the serious misfortune which has overtaken our beloved and good Chief Justice Way. During his long and exalted career he has evinced, among other noble qualities he possesses, liberality of thought and goodwill towards members of both church and synagogue. May I humbly suggest to my co-workers in the field of religion that special prayers be offered up in all churches on Sunday next for the speedy recovery of our revered Chief Justice? Needless to say, we shall remember him in our prayers on Sabbath next in our place of worship."

—Institutes Association.—

The Council of the Institutes Association at their monthly meeting on Monday afternoon resolved to send a telegram to the Chief Justice expressive of their sympathy with him in his illness, pleasure at the success attending the severe operation which it had been found necessary to perform, and the hope that he would speedily recover. On Tuesday morning a reply was received by the President (Mr. L. H. Sholl, C.M.G., I.S.O.) saying that Sir Samuel was much gratified by the sympathy of the council, he had passed a good night, and was progressing as well as could be expected.

At the University Council election in November, 1913, the women members of the Senate put forward one of their number in the hope that they might be directly represented. Although their candidate polled a considerable number of votes at one of the largest Senate meetings ever held, she was not successful, all the members returned having offered themselves for re-election. Dr. Helen Mayo has again allowed herself to be nominated.

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DEAD RIVERS.

LECTURE BY MR. HOWCHIN.

"WELL-WATERED COUNTRY."

Prehistoric history in stones is a term that indicates well the nature of the lecture on "Dead rivers of South Australia" delivered by Mr. Walter Howchin, F.G.S., to a large and interested audience at the Adelaide University on Tuesday evening. The discourse was the second of a series of three in connection with the University extension scheme, and was a marked success. Mr. Howchin described in popular and picturesque language how, in remote ages, South Australia was probably a land of many rivers flowing from great mountain ranges. "The whole of the evidence is," he said, in completing the evening's instruction and entertainment, "that in former times South Australia was a well-watered country. Unfortunately there is little hope that such a state of things will be restored, but the study of the rivers that formerly existed opens up an intensely interesting field of research."

—Mountain Ranges.—

Rivers, he said, had only a temporary existence. Their life period was contingent upon the stability or otherwise of the earth's surface within the limits of the hydrographical basin. Earth movements either created or destroyed them. When a watershed disappeared the rivers which such geographical conditions had called into existence passed away also. They had been called fossil rivers. In most cases they left evidence to show where they had been. In Victoria, for instance, they were indicated by most lucrative goldfields. In the very early days there existed in Victoria a great dividing range of active volcanoes extending westward almost to South Australia. They poured out streams of lava which filled up the valleys and buried the rivers, and now the Victorian miner exploited the localities with marked success. In South Australia the great rivers were not buried, but could be traced for hundreds of miles, and there were, in association with them, some remarkable geographical features. To even a casual observer it was apparent that there had been extraordinary happenings in connection with the river drainage system. It was a remarkable fact that with the single exception of the Murray there was not a stream in Australia that could properly be called a river. Even the Murray could not be claimed as purely South Australian, having its origin as it did across the border. In addition, westward of the meridian of Adelaide there was in South Australia no running water, or water which made its way down to the sea. In the country north of Petersburg and west of the River Darling was an area of a million and a half square miles, equal to half the continent of Australia, and half also of Europe, and through all that vast stretch there was little or nothing of what could be called permanent or running water.

Dates should be
8/7/1914?