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THE MAGNETIC SURVEY.

FILLING IN THE GAPS.

IS THERE A MAGNETIC PULL IN OIL?

Sir Douglas Mawson, Professor Kerr Grant, and the Government Astronomer (Mr. G. F. Dodwell, B.A.) waited upon the Premier (Hon. C. Vaughan) on Thursday with an interesting request. Mr. Dodwell said the Carnegie Institute at Washington had just completed a survey in Australia in regard to terrestrial magnetism. Their stations were necessarily distributed somewhat sparsely throughout the Commonwealth. They asked South Australia to help fill in the gaps and carry on the survey, especially as their work had brought to light in this State very interesting disturbances of magnetism, associated with the geological and mineral-bearing formations. The Carnegie Institute pointed out that South Australia was specially disturbed, and therefore recommended that it would be found of interest and importance to fill in what had been done by them by means of detailed work. A valuable offer of co-operation had been made by the University of Adelaide.

Professor Kerr Grant supported the request, and handed to the Premier a treatise he had prepared showing the scope and value of the work to be done.

Sir Douglas Mawson said all that the deputation asked for was not much—a grant of up to £100 for magnetic instruments that were not possessed by the State. Professor Grant and Mr. Dodwell proposed in their spare time to do this work for the State, travelling from point to point and making a detailed magnetic survey. The Carnegie Institute, at its own expense, had done a certain amount of work, and all that remained was for detail to be filled in. An allowance of £50 a year should be made by the State to cover expenses out of pocket. The research would add a great deal of data, which were not only scientific, and would be referred to by other countries, but had a bearing on economics as well. More information as to the magnetic quality of the rocks often opened up ore deposits. The request was also important from the standpoint of the Government surveyors, who engaged very largely on small scale work with compasses, and found that the compasses changed very rapidly in certain places, so that they were apt to get their maps out of the true. The rocks in parts became very high in iron, and swung the compasses out of the normal.

The Premier (facetiously)—There is no magnetic pull in oil, I suppose?

Professor Grant—It is peculiar that you should have mentioned that. In America it is claimed that there is a connection between magnetic disturbance and the existence of oil. There appears to be no doubt as to the fact. Whereas advocates of the theory claim that the association is due to the presence of carbide of iron, from which the oil is possibly produced, sceptics say it is much more probably due to the large number of iron pipes that are used in pumping the oil. (Laughter.)

The Premier, in reply to the request, said he would consult the departments concerned, and see what the Government could do. It would be necessary for a line to be placed on the Estimates.

Wm. P. Northrup, June 3/18

Professor Henderson's Lecture on the Great War.

A. H. R. with apologies
AN APPRECIATION.

The night is fine and moonlit. The Institute Hall at Balaklava, is will filled by a curiously quiet, yet expectant, body of citizens, the men being well in evidence. There is a little bustle just about eight o'clock, occasioned by the placing of a few late comers. Shortly afterwards the lecturer steps before the audience, preceded and introduced by the president of the local Belgian Committee (Dr K. McEwin). He is tall, spare, and athletic-looking, with, nevertheless, the slight stoop of the student. He is vested in his professional gown. His face is strong, withal kindly, and behind his glasses are dark, keen, genial eyes. His opening words are a gracious acknowledgement of the president's welcome and of their former happy relations at the University. His voice rings out at once as rich and powerful and under splendid control, rising and falling with the ascent and descent of his thought. He carries us at once in medias res. He contrasts the divergent temper and motive of Britain and Germany in entering upon the great war. Like a true historian, he appeals for the main proof of his statements to original official documents, in this case the respective White Books of the two Empires. Britain's, like herself, frank and straightforward. Germany's, just a selection of that part of the diplomatic correspondence which favors her view, and an unconvincing apologia for her action. It is clear that she alone of the four invited Great Powers—Germany, Italy, Russia, France—declined to send delegates to a conference in London, suggested by Sir Edward Grey, which could have confined the quarrel to Austria and Serbia, and localised the area of strife, exactly as a similar conference actually had done in the recent Balkan war. The responsibility for war as a European conflagration is, therefore, heavily Germany's by this refusal.

This point established, the Professor, kindling as he went, but ever judicial and passion free, laid bare the dishonour of Germany in violating her word, twice pledged in treaty and as late as 1913 verbally confirmed by the Kaiser himself, in the ruthless invasion of Belgium. Here was the crucial divergence 'twixt Britain and Germany; here was the initial fault. Britain enters upon the war with a clear conscience and honour not to be corrupted. Germany's entrance is etained by the faithlessness to her pledged word that she would respect the neutrality of Belgium. Thankful, the Professor explained he was, thankful could

every citizen of the British Empire, that such was the spirit of our entrance into this direful war. Our cause is just, and, therefore, must surely prevail.

But Germany's initial fault is deeply added to by her spirit and methods of warfare. Her frightfulness in Belgium is deliberate, terrorising, atrocious and without parallel for at least a couple of centuries. It is, moreover, a pre-determined plan of warfare, executed in all its brutal ruthlessness upon poor unhappy Belgium. And here, again, the Professor's proofs were drawn from unimpeachable sources, from the testimony of the German War Book itself, and from the pen of an expert neutral eye-witness. It was essential, exclaimed the Professor, to be more than ordinarily careful in this regard, and to weigh the German warfare with absolute fairness, exaggerating nothing. Judged by this standard of strictest fairness, what could be said of the sack of Aerschot, for example, save that it was an orgy of lust and destruction, which German soldiers excused on the ground that the civilian population had provoked it by shooting down the Chief of Staff; shooting him down, yes, but how, by the impulsive and righteously-indignant action of a boy who conceived his sister's honor to be gravely threatened. This was only a characteristic instance of the German expectation of perfect self-control on the part of desperate civilians, and unless this expectation was fulfilled, they declined to exercise control over themselves, an absolute and a gross unfairness.

The last instance of German methods was the use of the frightful asphyxiating gases. Unfair, as it was, contrary to all conventional and civilised warfare, it would have unfortunately to be met with by a similar use on the part of the Allies. Nevertheless, it involved all in a common degradation and a reversion to barbaric warfare. The opinion of the world, however, had steadily gone against Germany's unfair methods, and neutral States, even America,

despite its inexplicable official attitude, were sympathetic to the Allies. And the German frightfulness had been enjoined and its directions found inscribed in the War Book. This was a menace to civilisation, and though Germany had been recently leading the world in philosophy and technical science, she was certainly unworthy to be followed in the frightfulness of her warfare, nay rather to be justly denounced.

This brought the Professor to about the middle of his lecture. His grave, measured, judicial explication and indictment on Germanic atrocity deeply moved his audience, though there was little