

verity desired to be of the fullest value to the community, it feels that the success of its work must necessarily be dependent upon the extent to which employers assist it by giving preference and encouragement to holders of University qualifications in commerce. The present holders of the diploma have stated that the efforts which they have made to qualify for the diploma have not been adequately appreciated. My council, therefore, would be gratified if the Chamber of Commerce, in addition to securing financial assistance, would, at the same time, endeavour to create a more sympathetic attitude in business circles towards commercial education. The extension of commercial education is universally regarded as a necessary part of every scheme for the recuperation, after the war, of the Empire's wasted wealth and an essential weapon in competition with other countries. In England the need has been recognized, and great work is being organized, the money being found by private endowment in large sums. In order to finance the proposed alterations in the diploma course, and to establish a Chair of Commerce, the raising of about £25,000, as an endowment is necessary. The Chamber of Commerce is appealing to employers regarding to what extent they are prepared to assist in raising the necessary endowment; if they are prepared to employ one or more diploma students; and to give preference to applicants holding the University Diploma of Commerce. The council of the University also wishes to ascertain to what extent, if any, there is likely to be a desire on the part of employees to acquire a knowledge of the Japanese language.

Advertiser 20.8.18

WORLD TIMBER FAMINE.

A DISQUIETING OUTLOOK.

WHAT SOUTH AUSTRALIA CAN DO.

Although the present high price of timber in Australia may be slightly reduced after the war, in certain lines, as freights ease, there is every indication, according to the best authorities, that values will never be low again. One reason why this opinion finds support is the extent to which the great primeval forests of North America and the Baltic countries have been depleted in recent years. Even before the war there were disquieting calculations on the subject of how long the visible supply of Oregon could last at the current rate of consumption. Symptomatic of the trend towards a timber famine is Edison's prediction, published in "The Advertiser" on Monday, that the two chief inventions of the present century will be the substitution of steel for wood in the manufacture of furniture, and the appearance of "nickel leaves" to take the place of paper made from wood pulp. There are so many uses for timber, however, that the world shortage, which must be inevitably felt before many years are over, is not a pleasant thing to contemplate. Even Edison's metallic substitutes cannot be obtained without wood. Before a mine can be productive immense quantities of timber have to be used, and as the mine continues working it literally swallows up forests. Australia, and especially South Australia, has depended a great deal on supplies from abroad, and these have been coming to hand in diminishing quantities during the last four years. There is every probability that the demand in Europe for timber for reconstruction purposes will be so tremendous as soon as peace is concluded that this State may be even worse off than at present, both in the high cost and inadequacy of shipments. A representative of "The Advertiser" obtained an endorsement of these views from Mr. H. Hugh Corbin, B.Sc., lecturer in forestry at the University of Adelaide and consulting forester to the State Government.

"The lesson we must draw from the present shortage of timber, and the threatened greater scarcity in the years to come," said Mr. Corbin, "is to see that before it is too late an adequate forest policy exists in our own country, and that it is properly operative. Our present bill for the importation of timber is about £500,000 per annum. The population is growing, and so is the quantity of timber used. We have practically no soft woods coming from overseas, and it is almost as difficult to get hoop pine round from Queensland as it is to get freight from San Francisco. The result is that our consumers have had to turn their attention to timber which they did not know about before. In this way the war has had an educational value. South Australian grown *Pinus insignis* has been put on the market for general purposes, and I am sure it will give satisfaction. Unfortunately we have a relatively small quantity to draw upon."

What can we do in the matter of hard wood? Mr. Corbin was asked.

"There is not a wood we can grow," he replied, "that is not valuable for some purpose. Among the most useful of our native trees are the red gum, the blue gum, and the stringybark, but there are many others. We must have soft wood (pine), and it would be an ideal state of affairs to start little woods wherever there is land to spare in districts where these trees will do well. There is no reason why small private woods should not be started in different parts of the country. The *Pinus insignis* will give a comparatively quick return. It likes well drained soils of fair quality, and should be grown where there is a satisfactory rainfall."

Such plantations would be a valuable asset in years to come?

"There is no doubt about it. The private landowner who has areas on which native forests exist at the present time has no need to plant, and he is a lucky man. There is no question that his timber will be in considerable demand in time to come. Professor Chapman is now investigating the locally-grown timbers for strength and durability, and the general result of his tests as far as they have gone is to prove that Australian woods are as commercially useful as the imported."

Has there been a prejudice against locally-grown timbers?

"I do not think there has been a prejudice, only no one has worried much about them. The fact that we have always used *Pinus insignis* for case-making has led people to suppose it is not fit for anything else. I am sure it will answer for any ordinary purpose, such as building or construction, where oregon has been chiefly employed, and also for making an inexpensive line of furniture. South Australian stringybark is an excellent timber, the value of which has never been appreciated. It is practically as good as the Tasmanian variety, used in the making of 'Australian oak' furniture. Ours is a heavier and denser timber, but it has the advantage of being not so uniform in appearance. The marks in the grain are not a disadvantage for furniture-making. Every year throughout the State clearings of stringybark trees take place. This kind of timber in the Adelaide hills has greatly diminished in recent years, and has not been regarded as having any special value, either actual or prospective. At the present time nearly everybody is trying to sell the timber on his holding. It is interesting to note that so great has been the shortage of timber in England that famous old parks have had to be swept away, and trees of equal growth will not be seen for 90 years. It is time that South Australia woke up to the importance of afforestation. Certainly there is an increasing public opinion in favor of providing our own timber, and I do not think there will be the same contempt for growing trees as there has been in the past."

You do not consider that afforestation should be purely a Government activity?

"No. Any man wishing to grow trees for shelter or beauty on his land can combine those considerations with the production of commercial timber. If I had land and money to invest I would have an area of forest in a good rainfall district. There is a time coming when a good tree anywhere can be sold standing to the timber merchant."

Mr. Corbin has at the University a remarkably interesting industrial exhibit, showing what can be done with South Australian-grown timber. It proves beyond all doubt that the native trees produce timber that is capable of being utilised commercially. The many useful household articles are an eye-opener to anyone who has not realised the uses to which the trees that have been thoughtlessly destroyed in the past can be put. Stringybark from the hills has been made into excellent chairs and tables, and redgum is evidently quite a good cabinet-making timber, only its utilisation wants developing. It is, however, also in the manufacture of hundreds of humbler articles in which wood is used that the present difficulty of importation is felt, and what can be done to supply the deficiency within our own borders has been convincingly illustrated by Mr. Corbin. It is an exhibit which well repays inspection.

MR. PETER WAITE

ANOTHER MUNIFICENT GIFT

When the Hon. A. H. Peake was Premier in 1913 he had the pleasure of announcing in the House of Assembly on October 14 that Mr. Peter Waite had generously decided to hand over to the University his Urrbrae house and grounds, embracing an area of 134 acres, half the land to be available for agricultural and kindred studies in connection with the University, and the balance to be converted into a public park under the control of the university. At the same time Mr. Waite, in his letter to the Premier, offered to the Government part section 250, containing 174 acres, for the purposes of an Agricultural High School. This land adjoins Urrbrae. The offers were accepted, the only conditions attached by Mr. Waite being that the transfer of the property to the University should be subject to a life tenancy of his wife and himself, and that the institution should not be liable to succession duty when the property passed into its hands. These conditions were readily agreed to.

The Second Gift.

It has always been realised, since Mr. Waite presented those valuable properties, that it must be a long time before the land could be used for its new purpose in the absence of funds, and Mr. Waite has now come forward with a donation, which upon his death will yield sufficient



Mr. Peter Waite.

income to enable the agricultural department to be brought into practical existence. He has transferred the equivalent of 5,880 shares in Elder, Smith, Limited, to the University to be held in trust. During his life the income will be paid to Mr. Waite, and upon his death it will be handed to the University for use in connection with the Urrbrae scheme. In round figures the gift represents £60,000. The facts concerning Mr. Waite's noble action were communicated to the Council of the University on Tuesday afternoon by the Chancellor (Sir George Murray). Later in the day Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., waited on the Premier at Parliament House and told him of the gift.

The Official Statement.

Mr. Peake, speaking to a representative of "The Advertiser," said:—"The State has in the past had some splendid benefactions from a number of public-spirited men, by means of which many of our most useful institutions have profited immensely. In this connection the names of Sir Walter Hughes, Sir Thomas Elder, Mr. Barr Smith, and other gentlemen hold distinguished places. A few years ago Mr. Peter Waite made a fine gift to the State in respect to valuable properties for the endowment of agricultural education. He has now added munificently to what he had already done by a further noble gift. On behalf of the Government I have acknowledged the gift in terms of gratitude and high appreciation for Mr. Waite's public spirit and generosity. The only condition attached to the endowment, so far as the Govern-

ment are concerned, is that, as in the case of Urrbrae, the Government has undertaken that the gift shall be free from State succession duty. Mr. Waite has manifestly realized that the future prosperity of South Australia, with its growing burdens, can only be met by means of increased productiveness, and he has given emphasis to that view by applying a very practical stimulus to that end. The total value of his endowments will exceed £100,000. In October, 1913, Mr. Waite presented to the University of Adelaide his Urrbrae Estate, at Glen Osmond, comprising 134 acres of land, to be applied after the death of Mrs. Waite and himself, as to one-half, for a public park under the control of the University, and for a University sports ground, and as to the other half, on which the Urrbrae house is situated, for the study of agriculture in its widest sense in the University. In 1915 Mr. Waite increased his benefaction by purchasing the Claremont Estate, of 53 acres, and 112 acres of the Netherby Estate, both of which properties adjoin the Urrbrae property, and transferring these properties also to the University. There was thus constituted a magnificent endowment of 299 acres of excellent land, of varied character, with a good rainfall, close to the city and with many substantial buildings, the Mansion House in particular being extremely well built, and suitable to accommodate the Agricultural School of the University. When Mr. Waite's first gift was made it was realised by him, no less than by the University Council, that it would be many years before the land could be fully utilised for the purposes for which it was intended unless the Government or other private benefactors came to the assistance of the University with funds for the equipment and maintenance of the school. Mr. Waite has now most generously supplied the want. He has transferred to the trustees for the University 4,900 shares in Elder, Smith and Co., to be held upon trust to pay the income to Mr. Waite during his life, and after his death upon trust to sell the shares and pay the proceeds to Elder's Executor and Trustee Company, who are to invest the money in trust securities and pay the income to the University in perpetuity for the advancement of agricultural education. A trust deed has been prepared and signed by Mr. Waite, and his generous gift was accepted by the University this afternoon at a special meeting of the council. The 4,900 shares will carry with them the benefit of the new issue of shares which is about to be made by the company to the number of 980 new shares, making in all a total of 5,880 shares, of which the present market value is upwards of £60,000. In writing to the University to communicate his gift, Mr. Waite expressed a hope that when a Faculty of Agriculture is created in the University it would be possible to include two of the directors of Elder's Trustee Company, who in all probability will be persons in close touch with agriculture and other matters of a like nature, and in close touch also with the agricultural community, his idea being that this will lead to the probability that the problems with which the farmer is from time to time faced will be immediately brought to the notice of those competent to deal with them."

The Donor.

Mr. Waite, who has been associated with the pastoral industry throughout his life, is a native of Kirkcaldy, Fifeshire, Scotland, where he was born in 1834. On leaving school he was apprenticed to the ironmongery business, and for nine years he followed that calling. At the age of 25 he decided to come to South Australia, and he landed in Melbourne in 1859. Shortly afterwards he came to this State, and proceeded to Pandappa station, east of Terowie, where his brother was engaged in sheep-farming. Some years later he joined the late Sir Thomas Elder in the purchase of the Paratoo run, which adjoined Pandappa, and the two properties were amalgamated and managed under Mr. Waite's supervision. When the holdings were broken up the partners transferred their interests to Mutooroo and other stations, and on the death of Sir Thomas Elder the firm was formed into the Mutooroo Pastoral Company. Mr. Waite also was largely interested in the Bellana Pastoral Company. He has been chairman of Elder, Smith & Co. ever since the business was formed into a company, and he has been connected with the boards of many other companies. He has always been exceedingly generous. Shortly before he presented Urrbrae to the University he gave a cheque for £10,000 to the directors of Elder, Smith & Co. for the purpose of establishing a provident fund for the employes. Mr. Waite is a liberal supporter of charitable institutions and patriotic funds, and is one of the best known and most highly honored men in South Australia.

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The greatest eye, and the Socialist. undoubtedly the Russian revolution. This is so, because had Russia carried on as she did last year, postponing revolutionary measures until later, the great war would doubtless have been over by now and the Germans soundly beaten. Brusiloff, who had done so well, was expected to strike a greater blow this year, the first year, indeed, that the Russian soldiers would be in any way adequately supplied with munitions. Brusiloff with his army was capable of striking irresistible blows on the Eastern front, chiefly against the Austrians, for the Russian soldier despises the Austrian, though he is inclined to fear the German. A great victory in the West was possible, notwithstanding the fact that the Russian commanders were hampered and limited from headquarters by officials and politicians, who lean towards Germany on account of financial or other interests. It is notorious that Brusiloff was censured by the Czar for being over-successful in his blow in Galicia last year. This I heard privately from official quarters long before the revolution eventuated. It was the obstruction from certain high quarters that so incensed the patriotic and ardent military leaders of the Alexiell, Korniloff, and Brusiloff class that eventually caused them to join with the Anarchical and Socialist revolutionary sections to overthrow the Government. The military leaders acted thus with a view to sweeping away the Imperial House and the bureaucracy associated with the late Government, amongst whose ranks were many with German sympathies and others who were in the pay of Germany. Their confederates, the Anarchists and Socialist Revolutionaries, though ostensibly aiming at lofty ideals, were wittingly or unwittingly out for purely selfish motives, a large section of them directly in the pay of Germany, under the tutelage of Lenin.

The Food Crisis.

"The initiation of a revolution in Petrograd was simplified at the time by the extremely high cost of living and scarcity of food and fuel. This situation had arisen from inadequacy of transport facilities owing to lack of necessary measures to secure the same by the Government then in power. The cost of living was exorbitant months before the revolution eventuated. An example, at Christmas, 1916, butter (now about 22/- per pound in Petrograd) was 5/- to 7/- a pound, apples 2/- each in Petrograd, whereas in Siberia, where large stocks of butter were held up, it was selling at only 5d per pound. The common people had a difficulty in getting food, and food riots were frequent. The majority were ready to follow any flag that promised a change in the conditions then existing. So the revolution burst forth, and within a week a democratic Provisional Government was sitting in Petrograd. Optimists believed that the struggle was over; that the country would settle down under the new conditions and apply itself wholly to the successful prosecution of the war. ~~They could see the difficulties presented in the situation—~~The extreme change in form of government; the large uneducated section of the community, people who but a few years ago were serfs; the disorganisation of the internal economy of the country; the strain arising from three years of military operations; the diversity of political parties; the blissful Utopian attitude of some sections of the people, although in the midst of the greatest war in history; financially, the influence of pacifists, pro-Germans, and German money. The months have dragged on, and, at the moment of writing, the internal state of Russia is still as unsatisfactory as ever. The Soviet, or Council of Workmen and Soldiers' Delegates, is dominated by the Bolsheviki—the Marxist wing of the Social Democratic Party, almost anarchical revolutionaries—and in turn sways the Provisional Government. The latter is working contrary to the aims and wishes of the military party, who were the real powers that effected the revolution. Korniloff and the military strike for law and order. The counteracts their influence, Kerenski is nominally in power, but only so long as he does not take long

to quell the war over it might have disappeared, and the military party could turn their attention wholly upon home affairs. It must always be remembered that the Russian people are not good organisers, and they are more theoretical than practical, whereas it is downright hard-headed practical men that are wanted to take the reins of government at a time like the present.

Political Parties.

"The political parties still existing in Russia are too numerous and far too divergent in their aims to allow of a quick or calm solution of the situation. The parties are ranged as follow:— Monarchists, on the extreme right; Octobrists; Cadets; Progressives; Radicals, formerly Republicans; Social Democrats, Social Nationalists; Social Revolutionaries; Extreme Socialists; Anarchists, on the extreme left. The Monarchists are, of course, followers of the Czar, upholders of absolute monarchy. The Octobrists are Conservatives; chiefly big landowners. They are advocates of monarchy as modified by the Imperial proclamation of October, 1905. The title Octobrists arises from their adherence to this October declaration. The Cadets are the Constitutional Democrats, originally aiming at a Government strictly similar to that of Great Britain. They are the intellectual party, with M. Milukoff (professor of history at Petrograd) as president. Now that the monarchy has been swept away they tend towards the Republicans. Originally the party was known as the K.D.'s (pronounced Kah Days), the first letters of the words Konstitutional Demokraten. Subsequently the K.D.'s became known as the Kadets or Cadets. It is needless to explain that this party is in no way connected with any military organisation, as the name might imply to British people. The Progressives are independents, with more liberal views than the Octobrists. The Radicals were an educated class with more liberal views than the Cadets. They advocated a Republican form of Government even before the revolution. The party has now practically vanished since the last Dumas. The Social Democrats are followers of the doctrine of Karl Marx. They believe in a socialist democracy to be developed in a natural way through the following stages:—Centralisation; proletarianisation; expropriation; organisation. The trend of commercial industry is, they say, towards centralisation, as illustrated by the big American trusts. Centralisation of industry means proletarianisation of labor; that is to say, the mass of the people become wage earners employed by the trust. The next step is to expropriate the trusts, dividing the industries up amongst the laborers, organising the latter as shareholders. The Social Nationalists have the same aims as the Social Revolutionaries, but are against the use of force or terrorism. Since the revolution they have for the most part joined up with the Social Revolutionaries. The Social Revolutionaries aim at the same results as the Social Democrats, but instead of waiting for it to develop in natural way strive to arrive at the goal by jumping the intermediate stages. They adopt terrorism and murder in order to remove people standing in the way of their dreams. Their immediate programme includes the seizure and division of all the property in Russia. M. Kerensky is the representative. Amongst the adherents this political section there are some who advocate carrying out the whole programme at one operation, striving for maximum of change. These are dist