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AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL CONGRESS.

RECOMMENDATIONS OF FINAL SESSION.

BRISBANE, August 29.

The Australian Medical Congress, which met in full session on Saturday morning, resolved—That the Australian Medical Congress cease to exist as such, and that its affairs be wound up by the present executive. Arising out of a discussion at a previous congress in Auckland, a resolution was read from the Federal committee of the British Medical Association in Australia to the effect that the committee would be prepared to carry on the British Medical Association Medical Congress in the event of the Australian Medical Congress being wound up. An invitation from Hobart for the next meeting to be held there will be handed over to the Federal committee of the B.M.A.

The Congress considered resolutions sent forward by various sections. Among those adopted was one from the section on naval and military medicine and surgery, expressing the opinion that the real principles which underlay the success of military health administration during the great war could be readily adapted in civil life, these principles implying control by a central Commonwealth authority, the granting of maximum autonomy to local health authorities, the arrangement of the medical profession so that each member has his part in public health organization, the advancement of research, and education (by requiring, among other things, that trainees under the Defence Scheme shall study sanitation). The congress also accepted a recommendation from the dermatology section suggesting the appointment of a committee to report on the occurrence of skin cancer in Australia; and a resolution from the public health section urging the establishment of mosquito eradication campaigns. Other resolutions forwarded by this section, and adopted by the congress, included a proposal that a chair of preventive medicine should be established in the medical school of each Australian University, a suggestion that hygiene should be taught in all classes in all schools, and a proposal that laboratories should be established at the principal centres of extra-metropolitan population throughout the Commonwealth. The obstetrics section submitted a resolution which was adopted, urging action to deal with venereal disease, and to protect the women of Australia. A resolution advocating the adoption by the Federal and State Government of up-to-date prophylactic methods against venereal disease was also adopted, as well as a resolution dealing with the misapplication of the maternity bonus. Resolutions forwarded by the section on diseases of children were adopted. The principal one expressed dissatisfaction at the absence of regulations to enforce certain elementary methods of preventing disease. Other resolutions forwarded from this section, recommending complete schemes of medical inspection of all school children and the appointment of full-time medical officers to do the major portion of this work were also agreed to.

The congress dissolved at 12.30 p.m. The majority of the interstate delegates left for the south by special train to-day.

FORESTRY SERVICE.

AUSTRALIANS TO STUDY IN AMERICA.

BRISBANE, August 30.

The Director of Forests (Mr. Swain), in company with Dr. J. B. Cleland (Professor of Pathology, Adelaide University), recently visited the State forest at Brooloo, Mary Valley, and carried out a pathological investigation to determine the influence of several fungi on the growth and condition of Queensland pine forests. They collected a great number of specimens, some new to science. Questioned with respect to the appointment of Mr. C. R. Paterson to be the Queensland University Forest engineer, Mr. Swain said to-day that it was the first appointment of its kind here, and followed on the extension of the service to embrace lumbering and other activities. Mr. Paterson would go to America by the Ventura on September 22, and would there make special enquiries into the forest service with a view to introducing modern logging methods in Queensland. He would be attached to the School of Forestry and Lumbering University at Seattle, and would visit various lumbering camps. Mr. Paterson, who was a Queensland and returned soldier, had had a noteworthy career as a student in forestry engineering. He had been selected for the position from a large number of applicants from all parts of the Commonwealth. He would be absent from Australia about 12 months. The policy of the department was not to import forestry engineers, but to secure qualified Australians, and send them to America to obtain the latest ideas. The forestry service consisted wholly of Australians, and 70 per cent. of them were returned soldiers. It is understood that other Australian graduates in science will be appointed to various technical branches of the service, and will also be sent abroad.

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MR. WAITE'S MUNIFICENCE.

The magnificent public gifts made by Mr. Peter Waite some years ago were referred to in the House of Assembly on Tuesday by the Premier, who introduced a Bill to exempt these benefactions from succession duties. Mr. Barwell stated that in 1913 Mr. Waite had made a gift to the University, subject to a life tenancy of himself and his wife, of his Urbrae Estate of 134 acres. Half of that area was to be used for the purpose of agricultural and similar studies, and the other half as a public park under the control of the University. Mr. Waite had also executed a deed of trust, settling 4,900 shares in Elder, Smith, and Co., Limited, which he was to hold for life, and which on his death were to be sold, and the income of the proceeds to be paid to the University for the purpose of establishing, maintaining, promoting, and encouraging the study of agriculture, botany, entomology, horticulture, and forestry. He had also expressed an intention of bequeathing in his will another hundred shares of the company to the University for the same purpose. In a letter dated August 27 of the present year the solicitors to Mr. Waite had stated that the original gift was of £10 shares paid up to £6 each. The letter continued:—"Mr. Waite retained certain shares in the company, but his intention then was to leave by will to the University all the shares in the company he held at his death, and the trust deed contemplated this addition. A capitalization dividend was declared by the company after the transfer of the shares at the rate of one share for each five shares, and this issue increased the number subject to the trust by 980, a total of 5,880 shares. Still later the company offered shareholders the option to take up one share for every six shares held upon paying £6 per share. The trustees thus became entitled to a further 980 shares, and, having no funds to enable them to pay for the shares, requested Mr. Waite to advance the sum of £5,880. He did so, and with this money the trustees took up the shares offered to them. Mr. Waite now has a charge upon the second 980 shares for the sum so advanced. In terms of the trust the income from the whole of the shares goes to Mr. Waite for his lifetime. The last public market quotation we notice for the shares was £10 11/ on August 26." The letter thus showed that the value of the shares on August 26 was £72,373, subject to a charge of Mr. Waite of £5,880. Ordinarily all those gifts, on the death of Mr. Waite, would have to pay succession duties, which the University would have to meet. (Mr. Waite, however, had made the gifts on the express condition that they should be exempted, and the Government, having in view the public-spirited and generous character of the benefactions, had assented to the condition. The Bill was to give effect to that condition. Mr. Gunn said he had no objection to the measure, which was taken to third reading stage.

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WAR ORPHANS.

AN EDUCATIONAL SCHEME.

MELBOURNE, August 30.

In its endeavours to establish an educational scheme, which will embrace all orphans of Australian soldiers, the Repatriation Commission proposes to seek the co-operation of the Education Departments of the several States. The State Directors of Education will meet in conference in Sydney in October, and the Repatriation Department will place before these experts a number of schemes and suggestions for the co-ordination of education efforts, in regard to soldiers' orphans. The Federal Ministry has agreed to a large expenditure on the education of war orphans, and that sum, together with private subscriptions, and money being raised by the returned men themselves, will make a total of about £1,250,000 available in the Commonwealth. It has been suggested to the Repatriation Commission that a small board, which should include one or two educationists, should supervise the scheme in each State, and this recommendation will probably be favourably received. The scheme covers primary, secondary, and university education.

VALUE OF RESEARCH WORK.

"The value of research work" was the subject of an interesting lecture by Professor Brailford Robertson, of the University of Adelaide, which was given at a meeting of the Commonwealth Club at Bricknell's Cafe on Tuesday evening. The speaker described the development of the relationship of science to industry in the United States of America, as he had seen it develop during his sojourn of 13 years in that country. He referred to the great support given in the universities at present in America to science and industry. The University of California, for instance, —the State of which had a population of 2,500,000—had an annual income of two and a half million dollars. To that amount the State contributed approximately 2,000,000 dollars, or one-eighth of the whole State revenue. How little, exclaimed the lecturer, South Australia was doing in that direction. In ratio to the population, this State should expend £80,000 on its University, whereas it was providing only £30,000 a year. Considerable development was needed in the future in that connection. Nearly as much was spent on the gaols and prisons as on the brains of the community. In recent years added the professor, Great Britain had done much to encourage scientific research by giving further support to its universities. In spite of the tremendous taxation under which the country was burdened, England had increased its grant to the universities by more than five times its pre-war subsidy.

Adv. 8-9-20

UNIVERSITY GRADUATES' ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting held at the University of Adelaide on Monday evening, it was decided to form a Graduates' Association. Professor T. Brailford Robertson, who presided, emphasized the necessity for the organization. He said that such important subjects as English literature and zoology had not a chair at the University, and that it would be an object of the association to remedy that and other defects. The Premier (Hon. H. N. Barwell), in submitting a motion for the formation of the society, urged that the time for it was overdue. It would make its influence felt upon the Government in reference to the requirements of the University, financially and otherwise. He emphasized the utility of the institution socially and in other respects in support of the movement. Mr. T. A. Caterer, B.A. (the first graduate of the institution), in seconding the motion, referred to the urgent need for increasing the accommodation. Dr. Harold Davies supported the resolution, which was carried unanimously. The following officers were elected:—Patrons, His Excellency the Governor and the Chancellor of the University; President, Professor T. Brailford Robertson; Vice-President, Mr. W. A. Magarey; Treasurer, Mr. F. W. Eardley; Committee, Miss M. Kitson, Dr. D. Pavey, Dr. Davies, Dr. Hone, Mr. D. H. Hollidge, Mr. S. H. Skipper, and Mr. L. K. Ward.

Adv. 25-9-20

THE UNIVERSITY.

BOLSHEVISM OF DISCONTENT.

The Adelaide University Arts Association held its annual dinner at the Theatre Royal Cafe on Tuesday. Mr. Scribley, the president, was in the chair, and the attendance included professors, lecturers, and undergraduates, 43 in all.

In proposing the toast of the University, Mr. R. Kelsey mentioned that, when he decided to lecture on the League of Nations to the University, a friend of his had been horrified. "What! Lecture in the University! It's a hotbed of Bolshevism." He had seen no signs of such a movement, however.

Professor Mitchell said he had expected the student who should propose the toast to set up a spate against the University recounting the disadvantages under which they all had to work. Then he could have confined his reply to one word, "Guilty." But the nearest that Mr. Kelsey had come to that was in his remark about Bolshevism. If that meant discontent, it was the duty of them all to be Bolsheviks until the people of South Australia were fully informed. The doctors, engineers, lawyers, teachers under whom this generation and the next would thrive or fail, were being created under conditions which were heart-breaking to those who were responsible for their training. And he was sure, if students and graduates who knew the conditions elsewhere, would speak of them whenever they could, the people of the State would not tolerate the present disabilities.

The late Professor Tate was professor of natural science at the Adelaide University, and in that capacity he lectured on geology and mineralogy. After his death the University Council decided that instead of appointing another professor they would appoint two lecturers, one in geology and the other in mineralogy. Mr. Walter Howchin, who, in 1918, was made an honorary professor, has been lecturer in geology for some years, and Sir Douglas Mawson lecturer in mineralogy and petrology. Professor Howchin is retiring from the position at the end of the current year, and the council have decided to terminate the lectureships and again to revert to one professorship. They have appointed Sir Douglas Mawson to be professor of geology and mineralogy. Sir Douglas Mawson was born at Bradford, Yorkshire, in 1882, and graduated as Bachelor of Mining Engineering at the Sydney University in 1901, and took his Bachelor of Science Degree in 1904, having in the meantime made a



Sir Douglas Mawson.

geological exploration of the New Hebrides. He was appointed lecturer in geology at the Adelaide University in 1905, and in 1908 he accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on his Antarctic expedition. In 1909 he graduated as Doctor of Science, and was leader of the Australasian Antarctic Expedition, which began in 1911 and concluded in 1914. Upon his return from the South Polar regions he married Miss P. Delprat, daughter of Mr. G. D. Delprat, general manager of the Broken Hill Proprietary Company. He has been awarded the Founder's Medal of the Royal Geographical Society, the King's Polar Medal (with two bars), and the gold medals of the American and Chicago Geographical Societies. Sir Douglas Mawson, who was knighted in 1914, is the author of several publications on scientific subjects. A few years ago he was offered a professorship at the Manchester University, but preferred to remain in Australia.

Mr. Hannan, in replying to the toast, "Our predecessors," said a good Government could reasonably endow the University as an insurance against Bolshevism. That the Australian people had so far escaped its evils was due to the expansion of their energies in other directions. All classes joined in a headlong rush for amusement, and left behind all revolutionary ideas. Members of Parliament could themselves do with a little University education. The ignorance prevailing in Parliament was hardly in keeping with the dignity of a legislative body.

Mr. Heaton said if the remarks of the previous speakers were true, he had much pleasure in declaring himself to be a Menshevik. Perhaps the truer statement would be that the University steered a strictly middle course. The idea of an outsider, if he were a capitalist, was of a school for revolutionaries. The worker looked on it as the home of the idle rich and the future tyrannical employer. If anything in this State could tend to open the eyes of the coming generation to the truth about such questions, it was the work of the University. The ideas of the man in the street on economic subjects were crude, if not fantastic. The smallest study of history would help him to a clearer vision. If Bolshevism had any good to give the world, that truth would come to the student. In these days of unrest and of violent opinions, the governing body could do little better than to assist in the opening of men's eyes through the medium of University education. After spending millions on a destructive war, and after providing a minimum wage for the benefit of men's bodies, had they not a few pence wherewith to provide men with some healthy mental sustenance?