

Register 10/4/22

Wales Government, and one for the south Australian Government for 8 x 5 special sleepers, while a very considerable quantity of roofing scantling have been cut. For the very large date mill at Willunga the whole of the timber was cut by the mill. Amongst the timbers used were beams carrying overhead machinery, 9 in. x 3 in. and 23 ft. long of string-bark. The timber used in the roof is all string-bark, which carries something like 30 tons of state. The mill is also cutting woodblocks for the Port Adelaide Corporation and Municipal Tramways Trust, and has dispatched the first consignment of fruit cases cut from the pines in the forest of Kuitpo. With a railway into the district the works will grow extensively, and much firewood would be available.

Advertiser 25/4/22

### ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

#### PIANOFORTE AND VIOLIN RECITAL.

At the Elder Hall last night Miss Maude Puddy and Mr. Gerald Walenn played a programme of pianoforte and violin works, drawn from classic and modern sources. Every available seat was booked before the concert, so that eleven hundred people were present. Before the recital Professor Harold Davies addressed a speech of welcome to Mr. Jascha Spivakovsky, who was present with members of the University Council. The Director said he was always happy to receive noted artists as guests, and in this case he was particularly thankful to the clever Russian pianist for his masterly exposition at his first concert.

Mr. Gerald Walenn, the scholarly violinist, and Miss Maude Puddy, the cultured Australian pianist, had prepared the "Sonata in G Minor" by Debussy. This is one of a set of six sonatas, which the wonderful French composer devoted to various instruments. In this, the third of the series, violin and piano are written for in the pure Debussy vein. There are three movements, the first of which contains definite subject matter; the second is full of scherzando and rubato play between the instruments; and a third movement, brilliant and effective, demands a full equipment from the players. Both artists received their due in enthusiastic demonstrations of approval. Mr. Walenn's solo work was of the high standard expected of him. The "Fantasia Annasjonata" (Op. 35), by Vieuxtemps, was of brilliant technique, perfectly defined rhythmic device, and fine interpretation. A group which was accorded deep expressions of enjoyment, was comprised of Luigi d'Ambrosio's "Serenade," the Schubert-Kreisler "Moment Musical," and Kreisler's "Tambourin Chinois." For an extra demand Mr. Walenn played a "Serenade" from his own compositions.

Miss Maude Puddy's principal contribution was the Schumann "Carnaval" (Op. 9); that series of scenes in the life of the composer which are so difficult adequately to convey from print to sound. Miss Puddy played them with her inimitable ease and intensity of purpose, so that everybody applauded with ardor and appreciation. To this acclamation the popular pianist responded with the "Slumber Song." A later group emphasized the beauties of three English works, John Ireland's "The Holy Boy," Roger Quilter's "Dance in the Twilight," and a "Morris Dance" by Herbert Fryer. Again an encore was desired, and Balfour Gardiner's "Noel" was given. Mr. George Pearce accompanied the violin numbers, and was a decided acquisition.

### HARD-UP UNIVERSITIES.

The Melbourne University is not the only institution that is hard up (observes "T. F." in The Melbourne Herald). Sydney, with its large private endowment, is so pressed for money that it has had to raise its fees to that section of the students who do not receive free university education as the result of State policy. Oxford and Cambridge, with historic accumulations of endowments, find they can only struggle on with Government grants of £30,000 a year each, and a recent commission was recommended that this be raised to at least £100,000 for each of these ancient seats of learning. The high cost of living extends to the higher education, and neither in England nor Australia is it true that the seats of learning are the resort of frivolous leisure. We are assured that in both Oxford and Cambridge the spirit to-day among the students is one of hard work and strenuous endeavour. Life to-day is not only real and earnest, as the poet tells us, but the future is very uncertain. Classes are in the melting pot: most of the great estates are sold. The once comfortable middle-class emerges from the chaos as the new poor, and the young heir of the ages may well fit the description. "Lord of himself, that heritage of woe." So Mr. Lawson must have a quiet talk with Mr. McPherson, and make him realize that a good and well-equipped university is a reproductive work in the real sense of the term. We do not think that so shrewd a man as our treasurer will need much persuasion. He is, like most people in the hardware business, hard-headed, and certainly not too old to be open to good impressions, even in worlds unconquered by the predatory activities of commerce. Years ago Victoria rejoiced in a Minister of Education who came to that high office with all the prestige with which Flinders lane could invest him. Like another Columbus, he made a stupendous discovery, the announcement of which paralysed the predecessor of Mr. Frank Tate. He called for the cash book of the department, or the mysterious record which corresponds with that solemn volume, and exclaimed, "Why, here is an extraordinary and novel thing! A concern in which all the money goes out and nothing comes in." After some years of administration on lines of pure and barren commercialism, Parliament and the community discovered that the result of this view expressed itself in decaying buildings, underpaid teachers, in many instances ill taught or imperfectly taught children, and the destruction of the first efforts of technical education. Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Piggott will leave by the express to-day en route to Queensland. He has been appointed secretary of the southern division of the Queensland Prohibition League.

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### KUITPO STATE FOREST.

#### VISIT OF SCHOOL CHILDREN.

On Friday last, with the permission of the Director of Education, the upper classes of the Willunga public school visited the sawmills in the hundred of Kuitpo, about 12 miles from Willunga. Trolleys were provided by Captain Malpas, Messrs. McWade and A. Hall, and horses by the same gentlemen and Messrs. Byrne and Martin. Captain Malpas, Messrs. J. A. Hughes, and O'Dwyer kindly drove the trolleys. The school band played selections on the way and at the mill. An enjoyable and educational excursion gave the children the opportunity of noting what huge possibilities lie before this district in the timber trade. The manager (Mr. Wilson) gave the children every opportunity to see the mill at work. Huge trees were felled, and the butts were taken to the mill by bullock teams on jinkers cunningly devised for quick and easy transit of the logs. At the mill the logs were trimmed, sawn, and graded for finer work. Before leaving the head teacher (Mr. H. F. Nadebaum) and the chairman of the school committee (Mr. S. Blacker) thanked Mr. Wilson for his kindness. The manager gave his short history of the work of the mill since November, 1920. He stated that the managing directors were Sir Douglas Mawson (chairman), Mr. Henry Thomas, and Major Smeaton. Milling operations were begun in a small way, with about 12 men and one team of bullocks. They cut a few stringybark pines, and executed whatever other orders were offering. They found a market for timber, which everybody then considered to be worthless. There are now 33 men employed. Three teams of bullocks and a horse team are hauling, and there is a splendid trade for all classes of sawn timber. A large contract for red gum plank-ing has been completed for the New South

worse than dull; but under a proper regime even dull children would have the full benefit of the light thrown by science on their deficiency and its due treatment. It is the "incapables" Dr. Halley has in mind in her plea for a special school in every populous centre, with teachers expressly trained to impart the kind of instruction suited to their development. Thanks to information which the department has taken upon itself to supply, teachers generally are not quite at sea, as they once were, with regard to the management of defectives; but it is little that instructors imperfectly trained for the difficult work can do to lighten the burden of these unfortunates.

Schools are wanted for the training not only of "morans," but of teachers themselves, much as hospitals are not only places for the treatment of patients, but schools for the training of the medical profession. As the physical wants of the feeble-minded are in special need of strict and constant attention, Dr. Halley would have the institutions she demands placed under the immediate control of the medical branch of the department. As shown by Dr. H. K. Fry, in his suggestive paper at the meeting of the Graduates' Association, science has perfected a system of classification by ages which greatly simplifies the task of distinguishing between various degrees of abnormality. A series of tests, both physical and mental, have been devised which free the examiner from the danger of going very far wrong. There are interrogatories suited to the different stages of growth, from the replies to which fairly sound inferences may be drawn as to the mental capacity of pupils, much as in the United States tests are widely used for measuring the intelligence of candidates for employment in many callings. There are accepted standards of intelligence, failure to conform to which stamps the child as either an idiot, an imbecile, or a mere defective; idiocy being shown by the arrest of the mental development at the age of two, imbecility at between four and seven, and mere defectiveness at nine. For idiocy and imbecility there is ample provision already. It is the feeble-minded for whom protection and control are required, and who are least likely in ordinary circumstances to receive the kindness of which, as Mr. Hollidge points out, they are more in need than is the ordinary child. So far from providing special treatment, South Australia, it was Dr. Hone's complaint, has not progressed on the road to reform, even to the extent of providing itself with statistics as to its feeble-minded later than 1913. Much, if not all, our local knowledge as to the potentialities of the "unfit" is drawn from the experience of "Minda," which shows that there are very few so "unfit" as to be wholly incapable of any form of instruction. The place of the feeble-minded in the economic scale may be a modest one, but it is a place, and the greatest possible kindness that could be bestowed upon them is to fit them for it. It was of normal humanity that Mrs. Browning was thinking when she exclaimed—

"If labor be the curse of God,  
What must His blessing be!"

But in a special degree must it be said of the defective that useful employment of any kind means mental health; and in their cases it may be a step to mental recovery. It is a wholesome sign when, led by its criminologists, its psychologists, and the practitioners of the noblest of arts, a community can be induced to bestow some thought on its weeds in the shape of the mentally arrested or infirm who have too long been neglected, to the great danger of the garden being some day overrun with them. It is justification enough for what the medical profession is asking—additional facilities for the treatment and education of the feeble-minded—to reflect that it is largely from the class it is desired to benefit that our reformatories and prisons are recruited.

Our Victor Harbor correspondent telegraphed on Wednesday.—The funeral, by Mr. Waite's wish, will be as quiet as possible. Flugs were flying half-mast on many staffs in Adelaide on Wednesday, out of respect for the memory of Mr. Waite.

### TRIBUTE BY THE GOVERNOR.

At the League of the Empire demonstration in the Adelaide Town Hall on Wednesday night his Excellency the Governor said:—"As this is the first occasion on which I have spoken in public since the lamented death of Mr. Peter Waite, I cannot refrain from expressing, as the representative of the King, and also as a personal friend of Mr. Waite and his family, what an immense loss his death is to South Australia. It is fitting on an occasion when we are endeavoring to bring home what the British family of nations really means, that we should remember what a brilliant example his life is to every child who belongs to the British Empire. He was born in the centre of our great Empire, and came out here with nothing but his indomitable energy, great courage, capacity, and perseverance, and won for himself a great position. It is now an open secret that successive Governments recognised to the full what his services have been to South Australia, and desired that some mark of Royal pleasure should be given to them. His modesty and simplicity of mind, however, prevented that ever being done; but I refer to it because I feel it is due to those who controlled affairs here that they did realise what a great part he had played, and at the same time it is a tribute to the simplicity and modesty of this great man that he lived and died as Mr. Peter Waite."

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### MUNIFICENCE OF MR. PETER WAITE.

During his lifetime the late Mr. Peter Waite made many generous gifts. "One of his last acts," said the Bishop of Adelaide (Dr. Thomas) on Thursday, "was to decide with his family that, together, they would give £1,000 towards the new Church of England Girls' School, which is to be established at Woodlands, Glenelg. An appeal has been issued for £10,000 for the furnishing, equipment, and secure establishment of the school, and gifts are beginning now to come in. It is hoped to establish in South Australia a girls' school that will bear comparison with similar institutions in this and other States."

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Mr. Oswald H. T. Rischbieth, M.A., has been appointed professor of economic and historical geography at the British University of Wales, Aberystwyth. Professor Rischbieth is an old Mount Gambier boy, and a son of the late Mr. H. C. Rischbieth of that town.

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### THE SUB-NORMAL.

The problem of the sub-normal child has been before the public for many years, and its urgency is once again shown by Dr. Gertrude Halley in her latest annual report as Medical Inspector of the State Schools. It has been further emphasised at a meeting this week of the Graduates' Association of the Adelaide University, at which some interesting proposals were made for the better diagnosis and classification of mental defectives of all grades. Unfortunately it is not enough to have the problem debated by experts and public-spirited citizens. If discussion were all that was needed Dr. Halley would not have found it incumbent upon her to deplore the presence in the ordinary schools at Port Adelaide of a "considerable number" of children whose proper place is a school specially adapted to their mental needs. These "morans" are