

Adverse 29 AUG 1923

Register 30 AUG 1923

Register 30 AUG 1923

World 30

According to the last advice received from the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) in England, he intended leaving for Scotland on July 12 and a fortnight later he proposed to go to the Continent. Accompanied by the Director of Education in Victoria (Mr. Frank Tate) and the Director of Education in Cape Colony (Dr. Viljoen) he proposed to spend two months in Denmark, Sweden, and Holland, making enquiries into the much-talked-of agricultural education given in the schools of those countries. On September 26 Mr. McCoy intends to leave for America on his way home and after crossing the Atlantic he will associate himself largely with the Chief Director of Education in the Province of Ontario (Dr. Merchant).

Advised  
at League of Nations  
Meeting 29 AUG 1923  
Town Hall 228 25

A Note Admirable in Reason.

Dr. H. Heaton said in London during the coming months representatives of all parts of the Empire would be discussing problems of the Motherland and its dependencies, and that being so such meetings as this should be held more frequently. That night they were starting upon a non-party education of the people of Adelaide in international politics. For several years after the war they had been treated to pro-French views; now for once they should have the British point of view. (Laughter.) There probably never had been in the history of diplomacy a note so admirable in reason and so firm as the latest British note to France. (Cheers.) Great Britain realised that if Germany were to pay her indemnity in goods—only a country rich in gold mines could pay in any other way—every other country would be flooded with German goods, and every industry in those countries would be crushed out of existence. Already Germany had paid an indemnity three times as big as that demanded of France in 1871. That payment, he suggested, was scarcely shirking. The British Government had at last allowed economic facts to take the place of political expediency. (Cheers.) The motion was carried unanimously, and the Premier expressed the hope that the example of the Adelaide branch would be followed by branches of the League of Nations Union in other parts of the Commonwealth.

Register

30 AUG 1923

NEW IDEAS IN EDUCATION.

A conference of great interest to all educationists has been arranged to take place at the University of Adelaide, beginning on September 14 in the south hall of the Conservatorium. It has been felt for some time that South Australia would benefit largely if some of the experimental work on modern lines in Victoria and New South Wales could be discussed here. A provisional committee has arranged the conference, under the Presidency of Professor Darnley Naylor and Mr. F. K. Barton, of Sydney, and Mr. Lawton, of Melbourne, will be the chief speakers from the other States. Mr. Barton has specialised on self-government in the school, and his addresses should provide fruitful discussion. Mr. Lawton has attacked the problem of the "incurable," and here again much new ground will be broken. Dalton plan experiments have been conducted in Adelaide since the beginning of the year, and these will be treated by Miss Berry and Mr. Allen. Modern treatment of language teaching will be dealt with by Miss Gillam, of Woodlands, and Professor Davies will treat "New methods from teaching musical appreciation." An evening meeting on September 14 will be under the auspices of the Educational Society of South Australia, and will be free to people interested in education.

VALUE OF INSULIN.

A Wonderful Recovery.

LONDON, August 28.

Jacky Keightley, a child of five years, living at Johannesburg, South Africa, was suffering from diabetes so desperately that the doctors told the mother that his only chance of recovery was to go at once for insulin treatment to London. While crossing on the boat-train from Southampton the boy collapsed, and arrived at a London hospital in a diabetic coma. The blood sugar had fallen to .02—the lowest recorded in medical history—and the bones were so brittle that nurses were afraid to handle the limbs for fear of their breaking. The boy remained in a comatose state for days; but the doctors, who were tireless in their efforts, began giving him 10 units of insulin. The child is, now cured, and will leave on his return to Johannesburg on Friday.

Dr. Ramsay Smith was on Wednesday invited to express an opinion with regard to the case of Keightley. He said that he preferred not to do so, as the use of insulin was yet in its experimental stages, and, generally speaking, those men who were experimenting had not had sufficient experience of diabetic cases to make their experiments of practical value. Of course, every man was out to make a name for himself on the subject, and the matter was being so closely watched by eminent men, both in the medical and scientific worlds, that every one who had experimented at all was asked to contribute a paper. Personally, he would like to see an Act of Parliament forbidding the results of such experiments to be made public until at least six years of research had been undertaken. He did not think that the publication of isolated cases had a particularly good moral effect upon the public.

The cable message was also referred to Professor Brailford Robertson, who said that there had not previously been instances of diabetic coma which had been rescued from death by insulin treatment, but in the case mentioned in the cablegram there appeared to be some misunderstanding, as the characteristic of diabetes was a very high blood sugar accumulation. It should be clearly understood, added the professor, that insulin was not a cure for diabetes, in a sense that having been treated by it, the patient was then able to continue without it. The treatment had to be continued throughout the life of the patient, and it would therefore be useless in the case mentioned for the boy to return to Johannesburg, unless he could receive a continuous treatment there. The dose of 10 units was an ordinary dose.

DISCOVERER'S LIFE INSURANCE.

TORONTO, August 28.

The life of Dr. Banting, the discoverer of the Insulin treatment for diabetes, has been insured for £200,000. It is understood that the premiums are guaranteed by the Rockefeller Foundation. Dr. Banting is now the heaviest insured man in Canada, and is among the 10 men carrying the largest life insurances in the world.

Dr. H. Heaton has been invited by a number of prominent citizens of Broken Hill to deliver a lecture there on the League of Nations, and to form a branch of the union at the Barrier. He left Adelaide by the Broken Hill express on Wednesday afternoon.

The members of the debating teams of Melbourne and Brisbane Universities left Adelaide by the Melbourne express on Wednesday. The members of the Sydney team will leave to-day by steamer.

Mr. Arthur William Pitt, M.A., has been appointed an inspector of schools.

OUR VANISHING FORESTS.

Leading article  
One of the many subjects of national importance which have engaged the attention of the Pan-Pacific Science Congress is that of afforestation. Science has long raised a warning voice against the denudation of the forest areas, and commerce must at length take heed of the rapid depletion of the world's timber resources. In Australia the timber problem is likely to become acute. We have drawn on our own supplies in a wasteful fashion, and have imported the balance of our requirements with little regard to the fact that the exportable surplus in several foreign countries is diminishing and in others is approaching the point of exhaustion. As Mr. A. V. Galbraith (Secretary to the Victorian Forestry Commission) reminded the Science Congress at its Melbourne session, the expenditure of timber is vastly exceeding replantings in most civilized countries, and the uncivilized lands are being exploited to supplement home supplies, so that the position of countries having relatively small areas under forests is becoming increasingly precarious. In regard to softwoods, America, according to reliable authorities, is rapidly approaching the stage when she will cease to export, and her forests will soon be capable only of supplying her own needs. New Zealand within a very short period will also be capable only of supplying the home market. The Baltic countries could not possibly meet Australia's needs indefinitely, and, surveying other possible sources of softwood supply, Mr. Galbraith finds the outlook "none too hopeful." The only real safeguard against a timber famine, of course, is for Australia to prepare in good time to supply her own requirements by extensive planting operations. Ample areas suitable for afforestation are available, but until Governments and people are seized of the importance of forestry in the national economy, no great arboricultural advance can be expected. At present not only are the forest reserves disproportionate to the size of this great country, but excessive encroachments are made by the axe and firestick of the settler on existing timber lands.

Scientific forestry does not begin to end with conservation operations. The economic utilization of timbers is an important branch of the work. Mr. Gerald Lightfoot, M.A., in a pamphlet published under the auspices of the Institute of Science and Industry, urges that only a Forest Products Laboratory such as exists in America and in Canada, can satisfactorily conduct the necessary research work in this department of forestry. He points out that despite a long period of waste and destruction—with the end of the reserves of some species of trees not only in sight but almost within reach—"timber still constitutes one of our most important natural resources. Even with adequate measures for re-afforestation it takes many years to produce a crop of wood; and wood-waste, which now constitutes from one-half to two-thirds of the entire tree is potentially too valuable a raw material to be regarded simply as waste." Suggested experimental work with regard to forest products includes the preservation of wood against dry rot, white ants, borers, and so on; the best use of woods for industrial purposes; chemical and mechanical utilization of waste wood; and the manufacture of paper pulp, especially for newspaper. It is plain from Mr. Lightfoot's references that the direct waste of Australian timber resources—the destruction of valuable trees in clearing operations—

is supplemented by a heavy indirect waste in the imperfect utilization of timber cut for commercial purposes. Research work can assist in checking the latter form of extravagance, but only an enlightened public opinion—the "truest conscience" for which the Australian Forest League pleads—can avail to stay the alarming depletion of timber areas and enforce afforestation on a truly national scale.

Adverse 30 AUG 1923

VIEWS AND COMMENTS.

SAVING THE FORESTS.

From W. W. G. TATE, Secretary of the South Australian Branch of the Australian Forest League.—Once more the league and its supporters are indebted to "The Advertiser" for a timely article on the great question of afforestation. The members of the league are fully alive to the hazardous and ruinous spoliation of our few remaining hardwood areas. Apparently the eucalypti of this country were not of the standards known to the old world, and were condemned out of hand. They certainly have been used for railway sleepers and road blocks, but it is a thousand pities that the value of our hardwoods for cabinet making and other purposes was not long ago recognised and established. If only the many merits of the local red gum, for example, were recognised, much intrinsic value would be added to our native trees, and great interest would be given to regenerating forests and raising other valuable growths for coming generations. As a red gum tree matures in about 100 years, the enterprise is manifestly one for the State and not for private individuals. In a well-established area thinnings for piles and poles could be made to provide revenue. The same observations apply to the stringy bark grown in the Adelaide hills. This wood can be adapted to many uses, whereas at the present time it is looked upon as firewood of an inferior type, and ruthlessly destroyed and burned upon the spot. The apathy of politicians towards this great subject is a matter of grave concern to the league. Individually public men profess to have great interest in the subject, but there seems to be no collective action at all. The methods in vogue forty years ago are still being practised by the Government departments, whereas the league proposes to establish forests satisfactorily over ten times the present area at the same cost. Originally the forest control was vested in a board, the board being under the control of a Minister. It was this old Forest Board that laid the foundation of forestry in South Australia, and the wonderful results that have been obtained from the stands of pine trees speak volumes for the foresight of the members of that board. Unfortunately the board went out of existence before it had got into its stride, and for many years the control has been vested in a Minister. The Minister for the Crown holds office as Treasurer and Director of Education, and cannot be expected to have much spare time for forestry. Everything then depends on the ability of the head of the department. The league strongly advocates the formation of an advisory board to assist the Minister. There is need for the co-operation of the Government and the University in every way possible, but unfortunately it seems difficult, for some reasons unknown to the league, to bring the Government authorities and the University into touch with one another. The league has visions of seeing our hills country and coastal areas covered with dense forests of hardwoods and softwoods in the course of the next two or three decades. If only the Government has the vision to see the enormous possibilities of afforestation! The story of the Maritime Pine Plantation in the south of France should influence the most indifferent politician. Another interesting story of forestry is that of Governor Pinchot, of Pennsylvania, who went through the length and breadth of that great state, aroused public interest in the subject, and was eventually put in the position of governor by the people. Despite the opposition of the politicians he endeavored to re-establish some of the finest forest areas. Unfortunately the Government was too late to save huge areas from being absolutely turned into desolate wastes through the indiscriminate felling of the indigenous timber. History may repeat itself in South Australia if those responsible do not take early and definite action.

Register 30 AUG 1923

Register 30 AUG 1923