

Reporter

Advertiser 9 AUG 1924

Advertiser 19 AUG 1924

Bould 117

Opened by Chief Secretary.

Co-operation and Uniformity Urged.

A conference of statistical officers from each of the States, the Commonwealth, and New Zealand, was opened in the Government Offices, Adelaide, on Monday morning by the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley). The representatives present were Messrs. C. H. Wickens (Commonwealth), M. Fraser (New Zealand), H. A. Smith (New South Wales), A. M. Laughton (Victoria), G. Porter (Queensland), S. Bennett (Western Australia), L. F. Gblin (Tasmania), and W. L. Johnston (South Australia). Messrs. H. L. Semmens and H. J. Exley will act as joint secretaries.

The Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley), welcoming the delegates, said he recognised the great value of the statistical departments. Up-to-date statistics were as essential to the public life of a country as was the stethoscope to the medical man. If it were not for the valuable assistance that statisticians gave to a country they would be in a more hopeless muddle—if that were possible. Metaphorically speaking, they painted a signpost that acted as a warning to Governments to indicate just how far they had gone, and to point out any danger that might be ahead. If a Government failed to take heed of the warning, it was all the worse for the country. It was of the utmost importance, therefore, that statistical work should be accurate. Statisticians could be regarded as national stock-takers, pointing out the way to those in charge. The reason for their meeting together was to eliminate any unnecessary duplication, and to exchange ideas with the object of arriving at the best understanding regarding how to simplify and accurately present the position of the country. The average politician could not possibly form any idea, from his own observation, of the use to which land was being put, but on glancing at statistics they could see the position at a glance. That information would be of the utmost value to them in arriving at a decision regarding works for the development of land in any particular locality. Similarly, no one could gauge the industrial activities or the financial obligations of a country without detailed information, such as only a statistician could prepare. If those who were met there that morning judged they were discharging important functions for the State, they were not overestimating their own importance. If the other representatives were as well informed, and as reliable, as the South Australian Statistician (Mr. Johnston) they could speak authoritatively. Personally, he thought the conference would do splendid work, and had pleasure in welcoming the visitors, and declaring the conference open. (Applause.)

"Cinderella of Government Service."
Mr. C. H. Wickens (Commonwealth Statistician), in moving a vote of thanks to the Minister, expressed pleasure at the generous appreciation he had shown regarding statistical science, which, in some respects, had been the Cinderella of the Government service. Their work was really the pick and shovel work of settling a State, and he could assure the Minister that the gathering of figures was no easy matter, and their work had met with opposition in some quarters. However, he was glad to say that that was now passing. It was for the purpose of removing some of the existing anomalies that they had met together. (Applause.)

Mr. M. Fraser (New Zealand) said it was desirable that the statistical bureaus of Australia and New Zealand should proceed along identical lines. The information they compiled was given out with the object that it should prove of national value. Their past work would be at the disposal of all the Governments, and their deals were the same. (Applause.)
Mr. H. A. Smith (New South Wales) supported the remarks of the previous speakers, and said he was pleased to hear of the high value the South Australian Government placed upon statistics. The Australian statistics were considered among the best in the world. The amount of duplication in the work of the various bureaus was almost negligible, and, as a result of the conference, he hoped that it would disappear altogether. (Applause.)

Conference Proceedings.
Mr. Wickens was elected to the chair, and the conference then began its proceedings in camera. The main discussions will be on methods of compilation and so on, with the object of issuing uniform statistics, and efficiency. A resume of the deliberations will be published when the conference completes its sitting at the end of the week.

SCIENCE CONGRESS.

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS.

The final arrangements for the meeting in Adelaide of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science next week have been completed, and every thing indicates success. Over 300 membership tickets at £1 each have been sold in this State, and a fairly large membership list is expected from the other States. Ten visitors are coming from New Zealand, and a numerous contingent from Western Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania will also be well represented. Hotel accommodation has been taxed to the utmost. The visitors will probably not begin to arrive until Friday, when the concession rates on the railways will operate. Sir George Knibbs, the retiring president, will reach Adelaide on Friday, and Sir John Monash, the president, on Sunday. The complete programme is as follows:—

Monday, August 25.—All members and associate members should call in the morning at the reception room (the Elder Hall at the University) to obtain badges, invitation cards, tickets to lectures, and to be registered and put their names on excursion lists. All members of the association will attend the civic reception by the Lord Mayor at noon in the Town Hall. The general council will meet in the afternoon. Short excursions will be held in the afternoon for those who are not attending the meeting of the general council. At the Town Hall in the evening the retiring president (Sir George Knibbs) will induct the president elect (Sir John Monash), and the latter will deliver his presidential address on "Power Development."

Tuesday, August 26.—Sectional meetings at the University will commence with the delivery of presidential addresses to sections A, B, C, H, I, L and M in the morning, and to sections D, E, G, and J in the afternoon. There will be some short excursions in the afternoon. His Excellency the Governor will hold a reception at Government House in the evening.

Wednesday, August 27.—Sectional meetings at the University will be continued and the presidential addresses to sections B (pharmacy), F, and K will be delivered during the morning. At the same session there will be a joint meeting of sections A and B to discuss "Valence and the Theory of Atomic Structure." In the afternoon there will be further meetings of the sections and some excursions. In the evening Mr. E. T. Fisk will deliver a public lecture on "Recent Developments in Wireless Communication" in the Town Hall.

Thursday, August 28.—Sectional meetings at the University will be continued in the morning. At this session there will be a joint meeting of sections C, D, E, and M, to discuss "The problems of the Great Barrier Reef and the progress of investigation." The president of the association, Sir John Monash, will give a reception in the Town Hall in the afternoon. No official engagements have been arranged for the evening.

Friday, August 29.—Section meetings at the University will be continued in the morning. At this session there will be a joint meeting of sections B and H, to discuss "The influence of small quantities of impurities on the physical properties of metals." The Lord Mayor will be at home to members of the association in the Town Hall in the afternoon. In the evening Captain G. H. Pitt Rivers will deliver a public lecture on "Vanishing Races" in the Town Hall.

Saturday, August 30.—The general council will meet in the morning, and weekend excursions will start.

Advertiser 19 AUG 1924

STATUE OF SIR S. J. WAY.
TO BE ERECTED ON NORTH-TERRACE.

Permission having been granted by the City Council for the use of the site, the preparation of the foundations for the statue of Sir S. J. Way, Bart, formerly Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Justice, has been begun. The statue is to be erected in the North-terrace gardens, opposite the University.

FORESTRY CONFERENCE.

IMPERIAL POLICY.

At the forthcoming interstate forestry conference to be held in Sydney from September 8 to 13 next, the Commonwealth will be represented by the Director of the Institute of Science and Industry (Sir George H. Knibbs). Referring to this matter, Sir George points out that the conference will, among other things, deal with certain resolutions passed by the Imperial Economic Conference last year relating to an Imperial forestry policy. In the first place, the Imperial Conference urged that each part of the Empire should lay down a definite forestry policy,

survey its timber resources, and ensure that stability is secured in its forest policy. It recommended that active steps should be taken to organize and foster Imperial trade in timber and forest products, and it strongly emphasized the need for developing technical education and research in forest matters. It considered that a central institution post-graduate and specialized training in forestry, combined with research, is essential to the proper development of the Empire's forest resources, and it urged the British authorities to inaugurate such an institution at Oxford University. The conference agreed that the lead which had been given by the United States in concentrating investigations at a well-equipped central forest products laboratory was sound, and it urged the creation of such a laboratory for Great Britain and the non-self-governing parts of the Empire. In this connection Sir George points out that he has on many occasions drawn attention to the urgent importance of establishing a properly equipped forest products laboratory for Australia. The Australian Interstate Forestry Conference has also strongly urged that this should be done. An effort was made by the Institute of Science and Industry to establish the nucleus of a laboratory at Perth, but owing to lack of funds it had to be abandoned.

New 19 AUG 1924

ENGINEERING PROFESSION

Straight Talk at Social

"GLORIFIED ENGINEDRIVERS"

"Don't be glorified enginedrivers, but remember that engineering is a noble profession second only to that of the doctor!"

When this comment was made by Mr. A. Connolly at the forty-sixth annual social of the Adelaide District of the Australasian Institute of Marine and Power Engineers held at Port Adelaide last night, members cocked up their ears in astonishment. Mr. Connolly was proposing the toast of the evening—that of the "A.I.M.P.E."—and in doing so trod on ground untouched by speakers at the many previous gatherings. He had given a brief history of the society, and congratulated it on having built up its assets until it now had £40,000 in accumulated funds. That, he thought, was a record for any society of a similar character in Australia. Ashore and afloat, he said, members of the organisation would be found almost everywhere where there was an engine.

"Business men," proceeded Mr. Connolly, "place a high value on the services of the engineers connected with this society, and just as a horse is spurred to greater effort by the momentary pain of the spurs, so should engineers stir themselves to their greatest effort. At the University there is a chair of engineering. There is a great deal of jealousy between various factions in the University. In engineering a degree can be earned, but in commerce there is only a diploma. This has caused a great deal of jealousy on the part of the students of commerce. A professor informed them that in later life engineering would be the cleaning up of the motor car building of the commerce students. That in itself is a sign that engineers should appreciate."

NOTE OF WARNING.

"Engineers look upon their profession as a job or hobby. So long as you give an engineer a wheel to play with he is happy. The matter of finance does not worry him. You don't seem to regard your profession as a profession. You do not dignify it sufficiently. And that is why I am sounding this note of warning. I want to urge you not to go to sleep in your profession. And don't be satisfied simply to stay where you are, making wheels go round. Remember, that engineering does not stop at turning wheels round. Every business man should realise or should be made to realise if he doesn't, that by putting an engineer into his place he is cutting down half the expenses. He will tell you how to make friction less. Again I say that engineers should not be satisfied with just seeing a lathe in motion, and do not be a glorified enginedriver."

Mr. W. Berry, who has been secretary of the society for 41 years, in responding, characterised Mr. Connolly's address as a distinct departure from the manner in which the toast had been submitted at previous anniversary gatherings.

"There has ever been too much backscratching at these festive occasions," he said, "but those who speak straight and bluntly, even though it ruffles at times, are often our best friends. (Hear, hear.) If Mr. Connolly's remarks, well seasoned with experience behind them, set as an incentive, particularly to the young men, then our association will bear its mark on the days to come. I sincerely hope that every bullet will find a billet, and that aspiration will permeate the lives of the younger men."

FOR HIGHER SPHERE.

"I claim to be a man of long experience, and it might interest Mr. Connolly to know that hundreds of engineers are putting into daily practice and achieving the ends he has suggested. We have engineers in every walk of life who have excelled and held their positions with credit. There is indeed a fairly healthy rivalry among our men to see who can excel most. We have our own scientific library, containing 130 classes of books. Money does not stand in the way if more books are recommended. Many of our members use this library. And they don't just read how to keep wheels running. They go in for a higher sphere."

"Kindred Societies" was submitted by Mr. G. M. McKay, to which Mr. C. Hayter (Merchant Service Guild) and representatives of the Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Australian Society of Engineers replied. Mr. Hayter paid a tribute to the ability of Mr. Berry, with whom he had been associated on industrial boards.

To the toast of "Our Guests," proposed by Mr. C. Young (past president), the responders were Capt. J. Henry (Deputy Director of Navigation), and Mr. W. Shaw.

Mr. A. Robertson (president) presided at the gathering, to which much enjoyment was added by a musical programme contributed by Messrs. A. McFarlane, J. Stewart, W. B. Simes, A. Robertson, jun., and W. F. F. Chennell.

New 19 AUG 1924

HEALTH AND SCIENCE

Experts to Confer Here

SIR J. BARRETT TO LECTURE

Two important scientific conferences will be held in Adelaide next week, one of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science, the other of the Public Health Association of Australasia. Scientific and medical men from all States will attend.

This will be the fourth annual conference of the Public Health Association. Dr. F. S. Hone as vice-president of the association, will preside.

Sir James Barrett, of Melbourne, will deliver two free public lectures illustrated by films and lantern slides. Special attention will be given to venereal disease.

The conference has been arranged to coincide with the Science Congress, and meetings will be held in conjunction with the Sanitary Science and Hygiene Section of that congress.

The Federal Council of the Health Association will meet at Lister Hill, Hindmarsh square, next Saturday afternoon. It will be attended by Dr. Harvey Sutton and Dr. J. S. Purdy (New South Wales), Capt. E. R. B. Pike (Queensland), Dr. Jean Grieg, and Mr. Pryor (Federal Treasurer, Victoria), Dr. F. S. Hone and Dr. Gertrude Halley (South Australia), and Mr. J. P. Marcus (acting Federal secretary). Dr. F. Kerr (Federal secretary) will be unable to attend, as he is conducting investigations in connection with rock borers in New South Wales. It is probable that Dr. Everett Atkinson (Director of the Public Health Department of Western Australia) will be present.

Dr. J. S. Purdy will preside over the joint congress, which will begin on Tuesday, and will be held at Darling Buildings. For his presidential address he will speak on "Vitamines—Fruit as a Diet."

On Wednesday morning the paper prepared by Dr. D. J. Robinson (Director of Industrial Hygiene for the Commonwealth Government) will be read. Mr. Guttridge (Commonwealth Health Department) will speak on "Sewerage and General Sanitation" on Thursday morning, and on the following day there will be an address on "Milk."

On Thursday evening, August 28, Sir James Barrett will deliver a lecture on "Venereal Disease" at the Adelaide Town Hall. The films and lantern slides, which will illustrate the lecture, have been shown in Melbourne and other Victorian municipalities. They deal with all phases of the disease, the damage it