

## SCIENCE CONGRESS

## MEETINGS IN ADELAIDE

## Delegates from Every State

Arrangements are rapidly being completed for the seventeenth annual meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, which will begin in Adelaide on August 25. Sir George Knibbs is the retiring president, and Sir John Monash the President-Elect. Delegates will attend from every State. Ten have been booked to come from New Zealand.



Sir John Monash

President-elect of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, which will meet in Adelaide this month.

Included among the delegates will be Capt. G. H. Pitt-Rivers (son-in-law of His Excellency the Governor-General), who comes from a family distinguished for ethnological investigations. He will deliver a public lecture on vanishing races.

Professor G. E. Smith, the distinguished anatomist, ethnologist, and Egyptologist, accompanied by his brother, Mr. S. H. Smith (Director of Education in New South Wales), will arrive next week. The meetings, which will last a week, will be held in the Adelaide University. Several excursions are being arranged, and a social programme has been drawn up.

On Monday, August 25, Mr. C. R. J. Glover (Lord Mayor) will tender the delegates a civic reception at the Adelaide Town Hall, and on the following evening they will be received by His Excellency the Governor. Sir John Monash will give a reception on Thursday. The Lord Mayor will give an at home on Friday afternoon.

Sir John Monash and Capt. Pitt-Rivers will be the guests of Sir Tom Bridges during their stay.

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## DIABETES TREATMENT

## Glycerine Not a Cure

## "MERELY SAFE FOOD"

Professor E. Brailsford Robertson, of the University of Adelaide, referring to the cabled advice from Baltimore (United States) that an important discovery had made it probable that glycerine might supplement insulin in the treatment of diabetes, said today that he could not say anything definite on the point without having more details of the discovery.

"I consider it likely, however," he said, "that glycerine may be a foodstuff which diabetics can utilise without converting it into sugar. Consequently nourishment could be secured from it without the danger and waste of food values which occurs with other foodstuffs."

"If that is what has been discovered," he continued, "glycerine in that case cannot be regarded in any sense as a cure, but merely as a means of obtaining nourishment with safety."

## CONFERENCE OF STATISTICIANS.

A conference between the statistical officers of the Commonwealth and the various States will be held in Adelaide next week. The object of the conference is to eliminate all duplications of effort, and another matter which will receive consideration will be that of reviewing the whole scope of statistics with a view to uniformity of method, so that the statistical officers will all be working on similar lines. The results in the various States will therefore be comparative, because they will be arrived at by uniform methods. It is 18 years since a conference was held between the various officers of the Commonwealth, and it is expected that in future these meetings will be held annually, with a view to keeping information between the various States up to date. There are 85 items on the agenda paper, and they cover a wide area of subjects. The sittings of the conference will extend throughout the week. The Western Australian Statistician (Mr. S. Bennett) reached Adelaide by the East-West express on Friday night, and the statisticians of New South Wales (Mr. H. A. Smith), Victoria (Mr. A. M. Laughton), and New Zealand (Mr. M. Fraser) will arrive this morning. The Tasmanian Statistician (Mr. L. F. Giblin) and the Queensland officer (Mr. G. Porter) will reach Adelaide either this morning or on Sunday. The Commonwealth Statistician (Mr. C. H. Wickens), accompanied by one of his officers (Mr. Exley), will reach Adelaide on Sunday. Most of the visitors will remain in Adelaide for the Science Congress, to be held during the following week.

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## GLYCERINE FOR DIABETES.

Referring on Friday to the advice cabled from Baltimore that important discoveries had made it probable that glycerine would, in some measure, replace insulin in the cure of diabetes, Professor Brailsford Robertson, of the Adelaide University, remarked that he would not make any definite statement on the matter pending further advice. He thought it likely, however, that the cable meant that glycerine might be a foodstuff on which diabetics could use, which would not be turned into sugar in the system. If that were so, glycerine could not be regarded in any sense as a cure, but merely as a means of obtaining nourishment with safety.

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REV. PERCY ECKERSLEY, B.A.

## THE NEWS

SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1924.

## ANGLO-RUSSIAN CONFERENCE

(By Harry Thomson.)

The present Labor Government in Great Britain is having brought home to it one of the curious paradoxes of modern party politics. The Labor Party there, as elsewhere, aspired to a monopoly of some vague thing called Internationalism. Labor and Internationalism were, so to speak, opposed to capital and Imperialism. At any rate that was the cry on the hustings.

Labor in office is discovering that about the only thing that is really international is capital. The only really effective diplomacy is dollar diplomacy, and the only alternative to rattling the sabre is rattling the coins in one's pocket. At any rate, that is what the Labor Government in Great Britain has been taught in the last month or two by the Soviet Government of Russia.

## Government by Gesture

The position is full of humor. Almost the first public gesture of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald—whose method of government, by the way, has ever since the Singapore base decision been called "government by gesture"—was recognition of and fraternal greetings to the Soviets. That was all very well, and the Communist Government, who have been particularly in need of ready cash for the last year or two, thought that Comrade MacDonald was undoubtedly the friend in need.

Delegates were appointed and bags packed and special trains ordered, and a minor army of officials under M. Rakovsky arrived in London in April. In accordance with the best diplomatic precedents they presented credentials and good wishes, turned themselves into four committees and then adjourned for a month. There were four main topics—and three of them were directly connected with money or trade.

## Three Miles Limit

First there was an argument about the three-mile international limit off Murmansk. International law said "three miles" without qualification. Russia said, "If your steam trawlers come as close to our shores as three miles, our local fishermen with their sailing boats will be ruined."

During the war when the irresistible force of one army met the immovable object of the other the solution was—according to Punch—a retreat according to plan. The plan adopted in the present case was to extend the three-mile limit against steam trawlers. The Murmansk comrades will still be able to fish.

## Matter of a Loan

This was an unexpected victory for M. Rakovsky, who was deeply grateful to Comrade MacDonald, and perhaps he would carry his kindness a little further and accommodate him with a small loan—a matter of, say, £50,000,000 spread over three years. In the matter of fish Mr. Ramsay MacDonald was an admitted authority, for had he not lived at Lossiemouth, and had he not learned there that there were as many good fish in the sea as ever came out of it? And, besides, the Murmansk fish were in no sense British.

But sovereigns were, and the only persons who could supply them were British bankers, who are notoriously hard-hearted men, not even to be softened by being called "comrade." So Mr. MacDonald, being a Scotchman, answered the question with another. "What about that loan you owe us?" said Mr. MacDonald. "Perhaps I ought not to harp on small matters. Perhaps it is not in the best of taste as between comrades. But, after all, 1,040 millions is 1,040 millions, Brother Rakovsky!" as the latter elevated his eyebrows and extended deprecating palms.

rance against unemployment, and to set up an insurance fund under the aegis of the State. It is proposed that the State, and also both employers and employed, should contribute to this fund. If the existence of a "pool" of unemployment is necessary to the carrying on of industry under existing conditions, and if the community and the employers are willing that these conditions should continue, then clearly it is fair and right that the State and the employers should recognise obligations towards the unfortunate inhabitants of the said "pool." Since, furthermore, the workers will be greatly benefited, both materially and otherwise, by the removal of the worst features of unemployment, it seems just that they should contribute as well. I would point out that, under existing circumstances, unemployment is necessarily a burden to the State and to the community; the unemployed have to be maintained somehow. At the same time, it is obviously undesirable to encourage people to live without working; we have, therefore, surrounded the provision of insurance and the working of the scheme with all the safeguards that our ingenuity could suggest.

## Unemployment Insurance.

We therefore propose that every adult male worker, while in work, shall pay the not exorbitant sum of three pence a week, which is to be deducted from his wages, and collected by the State from his employer. The employer is also to pay threepence a week. Female and juvenile workers will pay only twopence, but the employer will pay the same for them as for male workers; we have no desire to put a premium on the employment of female and juvenile workers to the inevitable disadvantage of the adult male worker. With a view to discouraging casual employment, we have provided that employers may receive a rebate on all workers continuously employed throughout the year. If employers find it pays them to employ and encourage casual labour, it is right that they should pay for it. The next part of the Bill provides for special measures in the event of exceptional unemployment. We ask for the co-operation of the Government in providing work at not less than the basic wage, and also that the Government should be able to assist local bodies to provide work on approved lines. We further urge that the Government shall have power to order local bodies so to arrange their work that as much as possible shall be carried out in the slack season, when unemployment is likely to be rife.

## The Right to Work.

We now proceed to assert the right of the worker to be provided with work, or, alternatively, with maintenance for himself and his dependants while out of work. The right to live, which is surely a recognised axiom in any modern community, carries with it the duty to work and the right to be provided with work. Every unemployed worker is to be registered at the Labour Bureau. If he be offered work, and unreasonably refuses it, we provide that he shall be penalized; if he has become unemployed through his own fault, again we provide for penalties. But, if he be a genuine case and genuinely unable to get work, and if, after 21 days, the Labour Bureau has failed to find his employment, he will then be entitled to receive maintenance payments at the rate provided in the schedule or otherwise as the cost of living rises or falls. We suggest that a male worker without dependants should receive 20/ a week, while a married man will get £2 5/, plus 10/ for every dependent child. Refusal to accept approved work entails deprivation of benefit for 21 days; maintenance may also be refused or postponed in cases where the unemployment is due to the fault of the person concerned. No worker is to be eligible to come on the fund who has not resided in the State for at least six months.

Such is an abstract of the main clauses of the Bill. It offers no complete solution of the unemployment problem; it does not pretend to create a social millennium. But it does, we think, mark a distinct step in advance. We would respectfully remind the Government that, if by passing legislation on these lines it can diminish the miseries and losses we have referred to, it will not be a small thing in the estimation of the working classes or of the public.

Dr. B. H. Morris has been reappointed Inspector-General of Hospitals, under the provisions of the Mental Defectives Act.

Professor T. Strong (Professor of English at the Adelaide University) left by the East-West express for Melbourne on Friday night. Dr. Strong will be away from his duties for a fortnight. While in the eastern State he will give a lecture, by request, at the Melbourne University on "Beowulf," one of the earliest of the English poets.