

ACROSS AUSTRALIA.

Touring Near Alice Springs.

Droves of "Roos" Seen.

By Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

ALICE SPRINGS, Tuesday.

On Saturday, Professor Ewart of the Melbourne University, took the place of Mr. Harry Dutton, who remained at Alice Springs, and the rest of the combined parties drove about 80 miles west to the Hermannsburg Mission. For the first 10 miles the trail zigzags through the various water gaps of the four ridges of the MacDonnell Ranges, and then runs through the pasture lands of the Mission Plain, which separates the MacDonnell from the Krichauff Range. Although we are still reminded by every one how exceptionally dry this season is, we have met only fat cattle and horses. On this occasion the cars of the Countess of Stradbroke were ahead, and they saw in addition to the domestic stock, kangaroos, estimated by various members of her party at from several dozen to over 100. Those in the cars behind saw only a few going west, but they made up for it by preceding the Countess back on Monday, and then seeing what they estimate at from 40 to 60 of the animals.

The Lutheran Mission.

The entire party were the guests over the week-end of the Hermannsburg Lutheran Mission, which takes care constantly of about 230 aborigines, feeding, clothing, and housing them while they are being educated in the Christian religion and in such simple secular learning as reading, writing, arithmetic, and geography. On its 900 square miles the mission now has 3,000 cattle and 1,200 horses, beside an excellently irrigated vegetable garden, in which are four date palms, with single trees giving as much as 2 cwt. of dates a year. Three bullocks a week are killed to feed the natives, beside which they get bread, tea, sugar, and milk. The mission finds it very hard to feed so large a number, since the freight on flour from Oodnadatta is never less than £12 a ton, and often more. Some other freight is as high as £17 a ton. The chief income is from the sale of horses and cattle. The last lot of 80 horses were driven to Oodnadatta only to be driven back again when it was learnt that the freight from Oodnadatta would be more than the animals would fetch in Adelaide. The problems of this mission are becoming more serious, partly because of its success, for the local population is increasing rapidly instead of dying out, as is the case in many other places. The superintendent of the mission (Mr. Heinrich) told us that for the last several years the death rate has been two to five annually, while the birthrate has been from eight to 12. That means continually more mouths to feed.

Remains of Former Flora.

Our parties spent Sunday visiting the remarkable vale of palms, where survive the rearguard or an otherwise vanished world. One upon a time there was evidently a humid climate here, with its characteristic plants, but the weather grew drier through the ages, and other trees and plants that could get on with a drier heat invaded the region. Now none of the ancient flora remains, except in two deep east and west gorges, with persistent waterpools in their bottoms. The water of itself is not enough, for the palms are found where the sun shines only part of the day, and the cycads where the direct sunlight strikes rarely. That these plants were once widespread, extending to the corners of the continent, seems certain, since the cousins of these palms are found from the vicinity of Sydney to the coast of Victoria, where the humidity is still adequate. The like reasoning applies to the cycads, for although their near relatives were dead ages ago, there are other species of the same genus found elsewhere, as we were told by Professors Ewart and Osborn. We all came back to Alice Springs on Monday, and found a corroboree had been arranged for us on Monday night by Sgt. Stott. To-day the Government, Sternberg, and Dutton parties will start for Oodnadatta, expecting to reach there on Sunday, Adelaide on Tuesday, Melbourne on Wednesday, and Sydney on Thursday. The Countess of Stradbroke will remain with her party at Alice Springs until the arrival of His Excellency the Governor of Victoria. That should be soon, for we hear he reached Blood's Creek from Oodnadatta on Monday. With similar going, he should make Horseshoe Bend to-day, and reach Alice Springs to-morrow.

LORD STRADBROKE ON THE WAY.

DEEP WELL, Tuesday.

We made Deep Well, distant 50 miles from Alice Springs, in three hours. We are making a several hours' stop at the cattle station here, and shall probably pass Maryvale to-night. We hear that Lord Stradbroke made Charlotte Waters at 11 o'clock to-day. He will probably reach

GRADUATES IN COMMERCE

Openings for Men of Ability

GRASP ESSENTIALS

"In October, 1920, the Graduates' Association forwarded a letter to the Chamber of Manufacturers dealing with the absorption of graduates into industry and commerce. This was a step in the right direction," thinks Mr. E. W. Holden, B.Sc., who tonight will deliver an address on the subject before members of the Graduates' Association, "but unfortunately it did not go far enough, and as far as I know nothing further has been done.

"Apart from the teaching, engineering, and other professions it has not hitherto been sufficiently recognised in Australia that among university graduates are men and women equipped to assume positions of responsibility in almost every kind of undertaking. Graduates who have qualified in medicine, law, and dentistry as a rule practise their professions, and as yet the problem of absorbing them has not arisen. Engineers also usually find positions, even though these may not be highly remunerative to begin with, and soon, because of their training and knowledge, forge ahead.

EFFICIENCY ENGINEERS.

"There is a further field for engineers, however, in the industrial side. Efficiency engineers are numerous in America and readily command large salaries. There is no specified course to qualify in this branch, but training, combined with the right temperament and initiative quickly produce what is required. The most efficient organisation I saw during my recent trip to America had been reorganised by a young man, only six years out of college. He had graduated while working in the factory attached to the engineering executive. As a result of his organisation the plant was working on a three-hour inventory. His office was like the cab of a locomotive—dials everywhere recording the completion of the various parts, so that he knew immediately of any hold-up and could deal with it.

"In the science schools the University turns out every year men with high technical qualifications in chemistry, physics, mathematics, botany, and geology. Some of these are absorbed as teachers. In the school of arts undergraduates become versed in modern languages, English literature, classics, history, and philosophy. Some of these graduates are absorbed as teachers, others go to technical jobs, but I want to emphasise that industry and commerce need these men.

BRAINS NEEDED.

"The commercial and industrial community is beginning to realise more than ever in this age of competition that what it needs is brains.

"A university training imparts the power to grasp essentials. Its social and athletic sides develop an atmosphere invaluable in dealing with men; a tactfulness, a personal efficiency, which carries weight and is convincing. This is what commerce and industry must be taught, and I think this association can do much in this direction.

"Accountancy today is becoming a highly scientific profession. In the past accountancy has told us the financial result of what has been done; in the future, it is to indicate by means of control accounts and graphic curves of probability and actuality just how a business should be run. This is what the control of a business is going to mean in the future, and surely work of this nature is eminently suited to young university graduates, men of initiative, with a capacity for analysis and grasping essentials.

"I acknowledge gratefully the assistance my own university training has been to me in the business in which I am engaged."

Register 31 JUL 1924

Professor J. McKellar Stewart and Mr. R. Sutton have been appointed members of the Advisory Council of Education, to fill vacancies caused by the resignations of Professor Henderson and Mr. C. Bronner.



MR. S. RUSSELL BOOTH.

Register 31 JUL 1924

LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society was held in the law lecture room on Tuesday night, when the following question set by Mr. F. G. Hicks was the subject for debate:—"At the conclusion of a concert at Adelaide, attended by a large number of persons, and during a heavy thunderstorm A informed B that he intended to switch off the electric lights in the hall (which had been on all the evening), so as to cause confusion among the audience. C was with B and heard this said:—'B said, 'All right, go on then.' A said to B, 'Where's the switch?' B said, 'I don't know.' C, a friend of B, said, 'It's on the next floor,' and moved off in that direction. They went there together. On arrival there A said to C, 'I can't reach it, let me stand on your shoulder.' C did so and A turned off the switch just after a peal of thunder and a loud downpour of rain, and as the audience (to the knowledge of all three) was leaving. A panic seized the audience, and X was trampled on and injured Y, an unusually highly-strung woman was not physically injured but suffered such a bad fright that she contracted severe neurasthenia. A, B, and C are all adults. X and Y sue A, B, and C jointly, severally and alternatively." Counsel for X and Y, Mr. V. R. Millhouse, with him Mr. G. D. Hollidge. Counsel for A, B, and C, Mr. J. R. Klerman, with him Mr. M. R. Kriewaldt. Counsel for plaintiffs contended that A, B, and C were joint tortfeasors, and that the damage resulting to X and Y was a direct result of their tortious act. Counsel for defendants, while admitting the liability of A to X denied that B and C were liable to X on the ground that the action of their clients did not make them joint tortfeasors with A. As to Y, counsel contended that the damage to her was too remote to be actionable. On the question being thrown open to the meeting, the following members spoke:—Messrs. B. G. Griff, H. N. Tucker, P. A. Ohistrom, Murray Buttrose, A. L. Pickering, M. J. McLevy, and M. W. Bednall. Mr. Hicks, who adjudicated, held (1) As to A and C. Their legal liability to X and Y rests on the ground that they did a wilful act that a reasonable person would expect to result in damage to the plaintiffs. (2) The injury suffered by Y with regard to her health was not too remote to be actionable. (3) As to B. There was no evidence that he was a participant in the joint action, and therefore he was not liable to either X or Y. Judgment was entered for X and Y against A and C. Costs were allowed B against X and Y. Plaintiffs allowed all their costs (including costs in respect of B) against A and C.

Adelaide 1 AUG 1924

The concert at the Elder Conservatorium was well attended on Thursday evening, although some of the visiting artists left by the afternoon express. Dr. Harold Davies, the director, was unable to be present until late, so Professor Strong took his place and received Lady Bridges, Miss Alvida Bridges, and the guests. Mrs. Harold Davies was indisposed and unable to be present. Invitations had been issued to the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress (Mr. and Mrs. C. R. J. Glover), Mr. and Mrs. Van Raalte, Mr. and Mrs. Barr Smith, Sir Douglas and Lady Mawson, Sir Frank and Lady Moulden, and Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Angas, Sir Reginald and Lady Buckland, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bryce, Dr. and Mrs. Darcy Cowan, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Murray, Mr. and Mrs. Collier Cudmore, Dr. and Mrs. Roy Burston, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Mill, Mr. and Mrs. R. Walsh, Mrs. H. P. Barringer, Miss Bolitho, Mr. and Mrs. Brewster Jones, Dr. Gertrude Halley, Miss Tuck, Miss Alice Jackson, Miss Homburg, Mr. and Mrs. S. Talbot Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Laybourne Smith, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Gosse, Dr. and Mrs. Ernest Good, Miss Maude Priest, Mr. John White, Miss Wilson, Miss M. Prosser, Mr. McKinnon, Miss Frances J. Fisher, Mr. Hans Heyden, Mr. H. E. Fuller, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Davis, and Mrs. McGlew.

BRITISH SCIENCE GUILD

Research by Local Branch

HANDBOOKS ISSUED

In the field of natural history, geology, and other scientific subjects the South Australian branch of the British Science Guild conducts exhaustive research.

Its reports are the work of expert sub-committees, and are brought before those in charge of the administrative work of the State.

The principal objects of the guild are to bring together all those throughout the Empire in an effort to emphasise the necessity of applying scientific methods to all branches of human endeavor and to bring before the Government the scientific aspect of all matters affecting the national welfare.

At the annual meeting held on Wednesday presided over by Professor T. Harvey Johnston the following annual report was presented:—

The scheme launched in 1921 for the publication of a comprehensive series of natural history handbooks on the fauna and flora of South Australia had proceeded satisfactorily under the able direction of a special committee comprising Professor Wood Jones (chairman), Dr. R. H. Palleine (treasurer), Mr. Edgar R. Waite (editor), and Professor J. B. Cleland (secretary). In the report of last year it was announced that the following works had been issued:—"The Flora of South Australia," Part I., by J. M. Black; "The Mammals of South Australia," Part I., by Frederick Wood Jones, D.Sc.; "The Fishes of South Australia," by Edgar R. Waite; "The Flora of South Australia," Part II., by J. M. Black, p.p. 155, has been added to the list. "The Mammals of South Australia," Part II., will be issued shortly. Professor Gowchin had submitted a first instalment of his contribution to the series, under the title "The Building of Australia and the Succession of Life, with special reference to South Australia." The following additional handbooks were in course of preparation:—"Types of Vegetation," T. G. B. Osborn; "Seaweeds," Edith M. Osborn; "Plant Pathology," Geoffrey Samuel; "Toadstools and Mushrooms," J. B. Cleland; "Spiders," R. H. Palleine; "Beetles," A. M. Lea; "Shells," Joseph C. Vercò; "Reptiles," Edgar R. Waite.

Further consideration had been given to the proposal to establish a "Board to Encourage Inventions," as outlined in the last report. It had been decided not to proceed further in the matter pending receipt of information regarding the degree of success which had attended the operation of a similar scheme established under the auspices of the parent guild in London.

The questions of noxious weeds and the necessity for their closer control had been considered at the instigation of Professor Cleland. Already a large number of such objectionable plants had been inadvertently introduced and had become so widespread that their complete eradication was probably impossible, and even reasonable control in agricultural areas was only attained at great expense to private persons and public bodies. Noxious weeds and other plants spreading to such an extent were almost automatically proclaimed legally as noxious. It was important that adequate steps should be taken to prevent further pest plants from establishing themselves as to lead to severe economic losses. From time to time alien noxious plants from overseas, introduced in various ways, were bound to germinate and form local colonies. A committee had been appointed with a view to bringing the matter under the notice of the authorities and making a recommendation to the Government.

The Australian aborigine had been almost completely isolated from all other races of mankind for a comparatively long period of time. The opinion was held that that he probably came from a stock closely related to that from which white people had developed, being, according to blood-grouping, ultra-European, and further removed than they were now from such races as the Chinese and negroes. He was fast dying out, and in a few years aborigines unaltered by proximity to whites and pure in race would no longer exist. Meanwhile no adequate investigation had been made or record obtained of their mentality in its many aspects. It appeared highly desirable that, before it was too late such investigation should be undertaken.

News 1. 8. 24

Mr. F. W. Reid (principal of the School of Mines), who has been secretary of the South Australian branch of the British Science Guild for the past four years, is resigning that position owing to the pressure of other duties. At a recent annual meeting of the Guild a motion of appreciation of Mr. Reid's work was proposed by Professor T. Harvey Johnston and seconded by Professor Brailsford Robertson. Mr. H. R. Marston, who is demonstrator in physiology and chemistry at the University, has been appointed to the vacant secretaryship.