

FIELD NATURALISTS' LECTURES.

Two valuable and entertaining addresses were delivered at the Royal Society's rooms on Tuesday evening. Mrs. C. Pearce took the members on a journey across the Pacific and through charming scenery in the neighbourhood of San Francisco. Excellent photographs and colored views were shown of the ocean beaches, the world-famous Yosemite Valley, and street scenes in the Phoenix city of the Pacific. Market-street, which was rapidly restored after the earthquake, is a most imposing thoroughfare, the buildings being constructed of ferro-concrete, ornamented with stucco and brick, and in some instances faced with marble. The forests of gigantic redwoods were shown with a four-horse team issuing from the hollowed trunk of a prostrate giant. Gardens and parks made a brave show, and a unique feature was an artificial cataract of living flame.

Mr. Geoffrey Samuel Plant, pathologist of the Adelaide University, followed this lecture with a vivid description of the plant life of South Africa. That country, he said, offered a striking contrast in its vegetation with the protous luxuriance of California. The great tablelands and scarp mountains could be described as almost treeless. In its configuration and climate a parallel might be drawn with those of our own continent, and, to a like extent, with South America. Situated in about the same latitudes, the conditions of rainfall and soil were much alike. The forest cover was practically relictless. A steep escarpment rose to the great central tableland, known as the Great Karoo, bounded by the Drakenberg Mountains, which descended gradually to the fertile semi-tropical lowlands of the east, where the rainfall exceeded 25 in. The natural vegetation ranged from the desert flora to the exuberant tropical growth around Durban. In South Africa trees had been imported into the grass veldt of the interior. They had taken kindly to the soil, and were spreading by natural means. Mesembrianthum (pig face) and Salicornia (samphire) were characteristic of the Karoo. Around Pretoria the prickly acacia had been introduced into the veldt, and the droppings from these trees had furnished humus for the growth of other plants. An interesting feature of the Karoo was wandering tribes of baboons, who shrieked and howled like human beings when wounded, and on that account they were seldom attacked. On the Karoo the plants usually had succulent fleshy leaves, in which moisture was stored, as in the pig face. In our desert country, on the other hand, Xerophytism (or hard dry, scaly coverings) enabled plants to withstand the scorching heat of a long summer. Durban was the region of palms.

Durban was the region of palms. Professor Harvey Johnston moved a vote of thanks in a particularly happy speech, referring to his own experiences in both countries—experiences which confirmed the statements of the lecturers. He laid particular stress on the forestry operations of those countries, and the thoroughly efficient measures taken to combat plant diseases.

Mr. E. S. Hazler, who seconded the vote of thanks, referred to the establishment of the J. L. Young scholarship at the University, and expressed his satisfaction that that endowment had been first conferred on the lecturer of the evening, who promised a return such valuable service to his native State.

UNIVERSITY LAW STUDENTS' SOCIETY.

A meeting of the Adelaide University Law Students' Society was held at the University on Tuesday evening. The question for debate, which was set by Mr. R. J. Rudall, was as follows:—"That the case of George Hudson, Limited, v. Australian Timber Workers' Union, reported in 32 C.L.R. 413 is wrongly decided." Counsel for the affirmative—Mr. A. Harper, with Mr. G. C. Harry. Counsel for negative—Mr. E. H. Hayward, with Mr. B. G. Griff. The facts of Hudson's case were:—Section 24 (1) of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1904-1920, provides that "if any agreement between all or any of the parties as to the whole or any part of the dispute is arrived at, a memorandum of its terms shall be made in writing and certified by the President . . . and shall as between the parties to it . . . and be deemed to be an award for all purposes . . ." By section 3 of the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1921, section 24 (1) was amended by inserting after the words "parties to the agreement" the words "or successor or any assignee or transferee of the business of a party bound by the agreement." A majority of the High Court (Mr. Justice Knox, and Mr. Justice Gavan Duffy dissenting) held that section 24 (1) as so amended, was within the power conferred on the Commonwealth Parliament by section 51 (35) and (39) of the Constitution. Counsel for the affirmative contended, that consistently with the decision in Whybrow's case, 11 C.L.R. 311, which was that only actual parties to an industrial dispute could be bound by the award, the amending section 3 of Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act, 1921, which purported to make the award binding on "any successor or any assignee . . . of the business of a party bound . . ." was ultra vires of the powers conferred on the Commonwealth Parliament by the Constitution. Counsel for the negative contended that "parties to an industrial dispute" connoted more than the mere litigants, and included all those who voluntarily made themselves parties to the dispute by coming within the "area" affected by the award. Therefore the assigns of a party bound are also bound, as by their own action they made themselves a party to the award. An industrial dispute is between parties not as individuals, but as "industrial personalities," i.e., as representing their respective classes of employers and employees. The case, therefore, was rightly decided. Other members who spoke were: for the affirmative—Messrs. K. C. Wilson, C. C. Crump, M. Buttrose, M. J. McLeay, and H. N. Tucker. The Hon. P. McMahon Gibson, K.C., who adjudicated, held that Whybrow's case was distinguishable, and that the judgment of the High Court in Hudson's case was correct.

ONCE MORE NORTHWARD BOUND

STEFANSSON "IN THE DESERT."

LADY STRADBROKE'S MISADVENTURE.

No. II.—By Vilhjalmur Stefansson.

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HORSESHOE BEND, Tuesday.

The first day from Oodnadatta, we made an average of 20 miles per hour for three hours, and then lost three hours getting across a few hundred yards of bad road at Alberga River. The second day, our speed was similar. If one mile in 50 of the road were slightly improved, a motor car driven by a man who knows the country well could average 20 miles per hour from Oodnadatta as far as here. We pass camel trains going north or south several times a day, and see occasional solitary blacks, riding romantically on camels among the trees, or sitting horses beautifully as they pass at a gallop or a walk. Stockmen and others warn us continually not to think the comparative scarcity of edible vegetation along the road typical of the country on either hand, because thousands of head of stock have been driven along this route since the last rain, besides camel trains and the local stock. There is certainly evidence of over-grazing both along the road and around most of the water supplies. Clearly, one of the chief needs of the country is either law or public opinion to control grazing, as is the case on the stocklands of the United States. Such control is necessary, especially with saltbush and other small shrub localities. It is necessary even where rainfall is abundant, for it takes some country two or three years to recover from over-grazing. It is doubly necessary in dry countries where vegetation, once destroyed, may not come back for decades, if ever. The country thus far has seemed to me much better than the descriptions of it which I had read before coming to Australia. Apart from the sandy creek bottoms that make up about one mile in 50, the journey, as far, at least, as Horseshoe Bend, where this is written, is easy for any ordinary motoring parties in light cars who have had petrol supplies sent ahead by camels.

A Countess Temporarily Lost.

It has increased the pleasure of our journey that we have seen the three-car party of the Countess of Stradbroke every day. Sometimes we are ahead of them, and at other times they are ahead of us. Yesterday, for instance, they passed us while we were picking up some of our petrol from a camel train we had overtaken. Then, at the Finke River, we helped each other across the sand, and our party camped for the night in a beautiful park forest of red gums, while they pushed ahead, trying to reach Horseshoe Bend, because Lady Stradbroke was expecting telegrams there about the political situation in Victoria, and whether Lord Stradbroke would soon follow to overtake the party, who would, in that case, await him at Alice Springs. On the evening of July 20 the Countess had an adventure which

she says she much enjoyed, especially after it was over. Her car, driven by Capt. Keppel Palmer, was a little behind, keeping out of the dust of the others. When they came over a rise, they followed a plain main trail, with several fresh car tracks, not noticing that the other tracks had taken a side trail. When at length they realized that their own party was not ahead, it was already getting dark. Since they could not conceive how the other two cars had been lost, they followed what they now know must have been our tracks. In the dark they could not judge how to drive so as to avoid bad places. Luckily they did not get stuck until after we had seen their lights; and some of us had already started out to meet them, anticipating that they would have trouble in a steep sandy bank where we ourselves had been delayed, even in daylight. As their cars contained no cooking gear or food, it was a bit lucky we had not gone further that day. We had dinner together.

Viceregal Party Reunited.

Two hours later, when a spare tent had been pitched, and everything was ready for the night, we saw lights far to the west. Two of our party then took lanterns to the top of a hill and signalled. In half an hour the two lost cars arrived, after what had naturally been anxious hours. A night of worry, thinking that Lady Stradbroke was lost, without food, would naturally have been a rather bad experience for them. The Countess says that her health, which had not been good for several weeks before starting, has improved 100 per cent. in the four days since leaving Oodnadatta.

Every member of both our parties says much the same, and shows it. The weather is perfect, calm or light breezes and with cloudless skies. The temperature rises around 80 in the afternoons, and falls well below freezing at night. The entire Stradbroke party sleeps in the open without tents. About half our party use tents, the rest sleeping under the stars. The moon, the bright stars, and clear air make the nights almost as bright as day. Even last night, with the moon only half full, you could see hills miles away.

Motor Lorry Breaks Down.

Yesterday the motor lorry of the Countess of Stradbroke's party broke its axle casing, and had to be left behind. The other two cars reached Horseshoe Bend to-day, at the invitation of Mr. Keith Ward, who is in charge of our party. The remaining two cars of Lady Stradbroke's party were attached to ours for greater safety, for mutual aid in crossing sandy river beds, and for advantages in camping together at night. The entire party accompanies us, except the driver of the motor lorry, who remains at Horseshoe Bend. We are leaving Horseshoe Bend at 2 p.m. to-day.

AN EXCELLENT CONCERT.

It is only on going to one of the many excellent concert by members of the Elder Conservatorium that one realizes the splendid work the "Con" is doing in educating the taste of the public. Large audiences turn out on the coldest of nights (and that's the acid test on enthusiasm) to fill the too airy Elder Hall when an interesting programme is offered. On Monday evening a chamber musical recital offered up Dvorak's quartet in F on the altar of music. Misses Sylvia Whitington, Kathleen Meegan, Mr. Harold Parsons—and Mr. Charles Schilsky, were the artists performing.

COON SONGS? WHAT!

The annotation on the programme tells us that this quartet is generally known as the American quartet, and that the four movements are founded on negro melodies. Very well, then, but whether there was something wrong with Dvorak, or whether the writer was in a peeved mood at being hurried hastily from her coffee to the tramcar in order to be at the concert at 8 p.m. sharp, one has not definitely decided, but the truth is that the theme of the first movement, though lovely, did not in the least suggest negro melodies, rather something of Scottish melody, and as it was suggested in the annotation that Dvorak had made his Czech nationality felt in the treatment of the themes one thought he had not merely velle the first in Czechness, but completely smothered it. 'Twas not until the beautiful little second movement (Lento) that one picked up the negro strain. The 'cello deliciously intoned the lento, Mr. Parsons twanging the strings with his fingers gave a note like a contralto banjo, then the other players handed over the theme to him, and in their turn simulated banjos. In the finale the negro melody strain, and one got more the atmosphere of "ma babby" and "mammy" scarlet bandana turban, rolling eyes, jolly smile and all. And it was all wrapped up in musical phrases of extreme beauty.

SUCCESSFUL SCHILSKY.

The quartet was beautifully done, and this was the first time one had heard chamber music with Mr. Schilsky as leader. He made an instant success. The first thing one realized was the perfect sympathy between him and the other artists. The leader richly understood that his first duty is to lead. The others followed his lead with spirit and without hesitation. That, and the sympathy between them all, made the ensemble the flawless thing that quartet ensemble should be. And, apart from his leadership, one yielded entirely to his technical mastery, because it is informed by an intense sincerity and a fine-pointed musical sense. The whole performance was one very cultured and refined.

SINGING BEAUTIFULLY.

Miss Ada Wordie, in excellent voice—and a charming pink sash in frock—sang four songs by Sergei Rachmaninoff most beautifully. One has never heard her clear, ringing soprano to better advantage, but, heavens! the most difficult songs! Weird, uncomfortable intervals to have to negotiate, yet keep the tone faultlessly correct. This Miss Wordie did, and roused an applause storm that raged until she came back and sang all over again "The coming of spring" to a frightfully difficult accompaniment, wonderfully transposed and wonderfully played by Mr. Harold Wylde—a splendour of artistry. The programme was concluded by the playing of Mendelssohn's Trio in D minor. An old musical friend one has heard in more continents than one, and love dearly for the grace and melodious beauty of it. Messrs. Schilsky, Parsons, and Reimann (who performed a marvel of dexterous manipulation at the piano) ceded every inch of skill and musicianly insight to their performance, and gave a rendering of great distinction, which raised the large audience to much applause.

UNIVERSITIES AND THE CUSTOMS.

DUTY ON SCIENTIFIC APPARATUS

HOBART, Wednesday. Speaking at a Rotarian luncheon to-day on the subject of "The value of the University to the community," Professor Robert Dunbabin, of the Tasmanian University, said that the universities of Australia had a grievance against the Customs Department, as the latter was not able to understand that the scientific departments of the universities were working for the benefit of the community, and should therefore be treated differently from private firms. The customs were inclined to treat the engineering department as an electrical business. If machinery could be made in Australia, it should be done; but when the university imported apparatus to teach students how it was done, it was to be expected that the Customs Department would see the matter in its true light. The experience of the universities was that the customs officials were bound hand and foot by their regulations.

Mr. Clive Carey, the recently appointed singing teacher at the Elder Conservatorium, will arrive in Adelaide in September and will enter upon his duties with the beginning of the fourth term. With Mr. Gerald Cooper, Mr. Carey recently toured Germany in the interests of the British music, and gave recitals which created a favorable impression there. Toward the end of June Mr. Carey took the title role in Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni," which ran for a week at Oxford. He is recognised in Britain as an authority on the Mozart operas, which he has produced at Cambridge and other places, and in which he has appeared in numerous roles.

UNRULY STUDENTS.

PROCESSIONS BANNED AT HOBART.

Hobart, July 24. A sequel to the disgraceful conduct of students who participated in the Commemoration Day procession this year was a resolution carried by the University Council to-day, prohibiting processions in the future. It was also resolved that no male undergraduates, other than those presenting themselves for degrees be admitted to the hall on Commemoration night.