

A REORGANISATION SCHEME.

THE HYDRAULIC ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

REPLY TO MR. HUNKIN.

Replying to criticism by Mr. L. C. Hunkin, M.P., of the Government's policy in connection with the Hydraulic Engineer's Department, the Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. L. L. Hill) said yesterday:—

"All my public statements have been made from reports that have been furnished to me by the Hydraulic Engineer and have disclosed unfortunate facts. The Government are charged with the responsibility of preventing a recurrence of the great leakage, not only of water, but of money sunk in useless water schemes. Regardless of any criticism, the Government are determined to carry out a reorganization policy. My statements were not made to reflect directly or indirectly on any person or officer without sufficient cause, and a searching investigation will be made to discover who is blameworthy. After that those responsible will be called to account.

"I do not desire to enter into any public controversy on the matter with Mr. Hunkin. He has his responsibilities and I have mine as a Minister of the Crown. Those I will fearlessly carry out according to the Government's policy and my honest convictions. I believe that when the Hydraulic Engineer's Department is set in order we shall receive the grateful thanks of the general taxpayers of the State. Regarding the statement with reference to salaries offered for the positions for which advertisements now appear, those salaries were accepted by the Government upon the recommendation of the Hydraulic Engineer and the Public Service Commissioner, and will increase the expenditure on salaries in the Hydraulic Engineer's Department by approximately £2,000 a year. We believe that the greater efficiency that will be brought about by the appointment of these officers will adequately compensate for the increased expenditure.

"Mr. Hunkin says the Public Service Association is of opinion that the salaries are inadequate. The salaries compare favorably with those paid in other States for similar classes of work. In any case they are commencing salaries. It was further stated that even Western Australia could afford to offer £1,500 to £2,000 a year for a similar position to that of Hydraulic Engineer in this State at £1,000 a year. This statement is inaccurate. The Western Australian Government originally advertised for an Engineer-in-Chief at a salary of £1,500 a year, who would be responsible for railways, harbors, roads, bridges, water supply, and sewerage, &c. It will be plainly seen that this State is paying a much higher amount in salaries for the control of these different departments. A complaint was made that bachelors of engineering are to be engaged to strengthen the drawing office staff and that the salaries to be paid to these University-trained men are only £264 to £324 a year. It is considered that the salaries are adequate in view of the training which the graduate will receive. I consider that the training they will obtain will be equal to that for which they may otherwise have to pay premiums for articles. I see no good purpose of entering into a public controversy with Mr. Hunkin on the question of salaries in the public service, as there are other ways and means of discussing them than an acrimonious discussion between the secretary of the Public Service Association and the Commissioner of Public Works."

ADVERTISER 19.6.25

The Elder Conservatorium Association will hold its first re-union in the Elder Hall on June 22, at 8 p.m. The president (Dr. Bevan) will deliver an address on "The Student Life of Sir Arthur Sullivan." The committee is hoping for a large attendance, and cordially invites all past scholars and adherents of the Conservatorium to be present. Further information may be obtained from the secretary of the association, University.

ADVERTISER 19.6.25

FREE PASSAGES FOR STUDENTS.

The University of Adelaide has this year been granted three free passages by the Overseas Steamship Owners' Association for the transportation to Europe of students who may wish to continue their studies abroad. The council is now calling for nominations for such passages from among the students at the University.

HYDRAULIC ENGINEER'S DEPARTMENT.

Controversy on Salaries.

Minister and Mr. Hunkin.

The Commissioner of Public Works (Hon. L. L. Hill) on Wednesday commented on the criticisms by the secretary of the Public Service Association (Mr. Hunkin, M.P.), which appeared in The Register that morning, that the Hydraulic Engineer's Department had hitherto been consistently strangled and that the salaries of present officers, and those for others to be appointed in the reorganization scheme, were inadequate.

"All my public statements on the matter," said the Minister, "have been made from reports that have been furnished to me by the Hydraulic Engineer, and have disclosed unfortunate facts. The Government is charged with the responsibility of preventing a recurrence of the great leakage, not only of water, but of money, sunk in useless water schemes. Regardless of any criticism, the Government is determined to carry out a reorganization policy. My statements were not made to reflect directly or indirectly on any person or officer without sufficient cause, and a searching investigation will be made to discover who is blameworthy. After that, those responsible will be called to account. I do not desire to enter into any public controversy on the matter with Mr. Hunkin. He has his responsibilities, and I have mine as Minister of the Crown, and those I will fearlessly carry out according to the Government's policy and my honest convictions. I believe that when the Hydraulic Engineer's Department is set in order we shall receive the grateful thanks of the general taxpayers of the State."

Salaries Compared.

"Regarding Mr. Hunkin's statement with reference to salaries offered for the positions, for which advertisements now appear, those salaries were accepted by the Government upon the recommendation of the Hydraulic Engineer and the Public Service Commissioner, and will increase the expenditure on salaries in the Hydraulic Engineer's Department by approximately £2,000 a year. We believe that the greater efficiency that will be brought about by the appointment of these officers will adequately compensate for the increased expenditure. Mr. Hunkin says his association is of opinion that the salaries are inadequate. The salaries compare favourably with those paid in other States for similar classes of work. In any case they are commencing salaries. It was further stated by Mr. Hunkin that even Western Australia could afford to offer £1,500 to £2,000 a year for a similar position to that of Hydraulic Engineer in this State (£1,000 a year). This statement is inaccurate. The Western Australian Government originally advertised for an Engineer-in-Chief, at a salary of £1,500 a year, the official to be responsible for railways, harbours, roads, bridges, water supply, sewerage, and so on. It will be plainly seen that this State is paying a much higher sum in salaries for the control of these different departments. A complaint is also made that bachelors of engineering are to be engaged to strengthen the drawing office staff, and that the salaries to be paid to these university-trained men are only £264 to £324 a year, which is considered adequate, in view of the training which the graduates will receive. I consider that the training they will obtain will be equal to that for which they may otherwise have to pay premiums for articles. I see no good purpose that could result from entering into a public controversy with Mr. Hunkin on the question of salaries in the public service, as there are other ways and means of discussing them than by an acrimonious discussion between the secretary of the Public Service Association and the Commissioner of Public Works."

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FREE ORGAN RECITALS.

About 500 people gathered in Elder Hall during the lunch hour on Thursday to hear the third of a series of ten free organ recitals given by Mr. Harold Wyld, F.R.C.O. The programme was arranged to suit all tastes, Borowald's majestic "Prelude" being in distinct contrast with the lighter "Fantasia" by Bach and Lyon's attractive "Air with variations." The other numbers were "Robianza," by the blind organist, Wolstenholme; an "Vesperale," by Cyril Scott, Dubois beautiful "Ave Maria" was sung with rare charm by Miss Linda Wald.

SYDNEY UNIVERSITY.

A CHAIR OF ANTHROPOLOGY.

Sydney, June 18. When the University began its Trinity term this week it was anticipated that Professor Davidson Black, of the Peking Medical College, would be at the medical school to carry on the work of the late Professor Heister, but a cable message has been received by the Senate from Professor Black declining the offer of the chair of anatomy. The Senate has decided to establish a chair of anthropology, and Professor J. T. Wilson (Cambridge), Mr. G. Elliott Smith (London), and Dr. A. C. Haddon (Cambridge), have been appointed as a committee to advise the Senate on the selection of a suitable occupant for the chair.

ADVERTISER 19.6.25

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

From G. McRITCHIE, general secretary W.E.A.:—In the personal column of "The Advertiser" appeared the following, referring to Dr. Heaton:—"Through his work at the University of Adelaide in connection with the Workers' Educational Association there has been a great stimulus given to the interest taken in the study of economics and political science. There were no fewer than a thousand students attending lectures in political economy and economics generally and political science at the University, and at centres in various parts of South Australia." Economics is only one of the many subjects taught, and accounts for about a quarter of the 1,000 students attending classes in the city and country in economics, psychology, history, English literature, public speaking, singing, modern world problems, &c.

ADVERTISER 20.6.25

ENTOMOLOGICAL RESEARCH.

A LARGER GRANT RECOMMENDED. PESTS OF THE EUCALYPTUS.

LONDON, June 18. The Entomological Conference, at which Sir Joseph Cook (the High Commissioner) represented the Commonwealth, concluded its sittings to-day. It was resolved, first, that the guaranteed revenue of the Imperial Bureau, which is a department of the Colonial Office, should be £13,000 annually, of which £11,700 should be contributed by the Dominions and the Colonies; secondly, that the bureau should arrange for the exportation to the Dominions and the Colonies of benevolent parasites at an estimated cost of £1,140 annually; and thirdly, that the senior officer of the bureau should visit the Dominions and the Colonies to consult local entomologists. The chairman pointed out that whereas the United States spent £250,000 on entomological research, Great Britain, with world-wide Dominions, was spending only £13,000.

Mr. Lonsbury, of South Africa, appealed to Australia to search for a parasite to destroy the coniptirus scattelatus, which was playing havoc among African eucalyptus trees, although its ravages in Australia were negligible.

REGISTER 20.6.25

UNIVERSITY GOWNS.

NOT FAVORED IN MELBOURNE.

Melbourne, June 19. By an overwhelming majority a meeting of University men at the University to-day defeated a proposal of the students' representative council to revive the old custom of wearing gowns. The supporters of the proposal were frequently counted out.

Speakers in favor of the scheme were interrupted by a procession of students garbed in gowns made of hessian, with bath towels tied round their necks to resemble hoods.

A motion requesting the University council to delete from the University statute book the clause requiring students to wear academic dress was carried by a large majority.

CONTINUED FROM "WHY AMUNDSEN FAILED"

"Polar exploration by air has great advantages. The altitude at which the explorer travelled will have given them a view to have surveyed great areas, and photos and records of the arctic floor will be of inestimable value to future expeditions. By no pack be fitted. Amundsen's experiences should show a smooth way for future aerial expeditions into the frozen North or South."

MUSIC AND THE UNIVERSITIES.

From EDWARD HOWARD:—In your issue of May 16 you published a copy of a letter sent by me to the Councils of the Australian Universities expostulating against the status and prestige of the Universities being utilised to carry on the teaching and examining of elementary music on a commercial basis. I have received replies from Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide Universities. From Brisbane and Perth no answer has been received. To all those interested in the matter these replies will speak for themselves. The truth of my contentions remains unchallenged. Sydney University alone occupies a logical position in the matter. If the Australian musical profession are content to let these things remain as at present, there they must remain. As a body we have little business acumen or esprit de corps. Personally, I have the satisfaction of having performed a very unpleasant and profitless duty by drawing attention to the subject. Let there be musical institutions for all grades, but not University institutions. This is my attitude. The replies are:—

Sydney.—I have to point out that the question does not affect the University of Sydney, since music is not a subject of study at the University. Presumably your letter should have been addressed to the Registrar of the Conservatorium, Macquarie-street, Sydney.

From Melbourne.—This University is entirely satisfied with the organisation of music examinations and with the progress which they are making in the community. Speaking for Victoria, the support is steadily and rapidly increasing.

From Adelaide.—Your letter of the 14th May, addressed to the Council, and the newspaper cuttings enclosed, were placed before the Council at its meeting on Friday last. I am directed to inform you that the Council does not desire to re-open the correspondence.

MAIL 20.6.25



OFF TO CANADA
Dr. H. Heaton, who has resigned his position at the Adelaide University to go to Canada. He will not leave Adelaide for a month or two.

MAIL 20.6.25

WHY AMUNDSEN FAILED

Sir Douglas Mawson's View COMPASSES DISTURBED

"Flying through the air, in the regions near the magnetic pole, Amundsen's compasses probably encountered disturbing influences, even greater than he had anticipated. This fact probably prevented him from reaching his goal."—Sir Douglas Mawson.

Sir Douglas Mawson, who accompanied Sir Ernest Shackleton on his first visit to the Antarctic, and also organised and led an Australian expedition into the polar regions, has always felt confident of Amundsen's return.

"Delay didn't necessarily mean that the party would not turn up," Sir Douglas

las said, when interviewed this morning. "The party is fortunate to have returned so quickly. With a man of Amundsen's experience in charge, the chances were overwhelmingly in favor of a safe return. As the weeks went by I began to think that an accident in landing had caused a delay, but even in such a case, if no physical hurt was suffered, the chances were still in favor of the explorers tramping back to safety."

GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT

"It must be a great disappointment to Amundsen not to have reached his actual goal, but his expedition has been by no means futile. He has given a lot of time to the study of flying under arctic conditions during the last two or three years, and the experiences gained on this expedition will be of untold value in future polar excursions. There is a big possibility of the difficulties encountered on this trip being solved."