

## RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

### System of Selection.

### A Searching Enquiry.

PERTH, Monday.

Dr. M. J. Rendall, a brilliant scholar, formerly head master of Winchester College, is in Perth carrying on an important mission entrusted to him by the Rhodes Scholarship Trust. He has just finished a tour of South Africa and Rhodesia. His itinerary embraces all the dominions. He met members of the Western Australian Rhodes committee at the university this afternoon and discussed with them the conditions followed in the selection of the scholars in their relation to the ideals of the famous colonizer.

Dr. Rendall, when interviewed, stated that the trust sought to keep the Rhodes idea always in view, and to see that the selection of scholars was made as far as possible in accordance with those views. The notion had gained ground that prowess in sport was the governing factor in the selection of the scholars. That was altogether wrong, but scholarship and physical development must go side by side. The committee should keep in mind the Rhodes ideal of the evolution of the real statesman, namely, a man with brain and physical development, fit to make him a leader of men. He was looking forward to studying the work of the big denominational colleges in Australia, and was also interested in Australia's State systems of education. He said that collegiate education was no doubt making strides in Australia, but he did not think that the standard was yet sufficiently high to justify scholars being taken direct from the colleges to the Oxford University. For the sake of keeping in touch with the British traditions, he agrees with the policy of engaging British scholars for head masterships in Australia. In his opinion, the time had not yet arrived when Australia could afford to do without this British influence.

## THE NEWS

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1925

### DEFENCE OF PROPERTY

(By Professor Coleman Phillipson)

Various tests have from time to time been suggested for estimating the quality of civilisation and human progress, and these tests differ according to the point of view adopted—scientific, economic, moral, spiritual, religious and so on. But having regard to modern conditions, civic and international relationships, we may safely maintain that respect for other people's property is an excellent test—if not the sole one—of social advancement. The efficiency of this test becomes more manifest when we bear in mind the fact that respect for property is inevitably bound up with respect for human life. Very frequently violent offences against the person accompany offences or attempted offences against property.

#### Recent Violations

Recently attacks on property, including burglary, house-breaking, shop-lifting, and especially robbery with violence, have increased to an alarming extent among us. In a community wherein nearly all the country's wealth and property have been seized by a few powerful and tyrannous individuals, and the rest of the population are subjected to hard and slavish toil for a famishing pittance, we naturally expect to find revolts against the existing order of things and attacks on property.

But in a country like Australia, which is second to none in the world in respect of liberty of the subject and equality of opportunity, every able-bodied citizen can earn an honest and decent living if he chooses to do so; everyone can, by honorable ser-

vice to his fellow-creatures and to the community at large, earn enough for his own and his family's necessities and appropriate luxuries. Therefore offences against property are, in Australia, all the more deplorable; they demand the special attention of the governing authorities, and call for all the remedial measures available. An Englishman's—and an Australian's—house is his castle; and his person is sacrosanct; but this salutary and long-established tradition is being jeopardised by the nefarious practices of an increasing number of enemies of society, who impudently and unconscionably refuse to have regard for the rights of others.

#### Government and the People

The main duty of our Government is to govern the country, to do everything possible and reasonable for the maintenance of peace and order, and for ensuring obedience to the law. It is often far more beneficial to the body politic to enforce scrupulously and resolutely well-tryed old laws than to keep on multiplying new laws and introducing new institutions. Where the fundamental principles of law and order are safeguarded and observed, there will be no need for a plethora of legislation and departmental regulations.

In the work of government and administration a sense of proportion and perspective is as essential as in any other business and activity of life. If our governing and administrative authorities do not make every effort which human skill and foresight can devise, to suppress and prevent the vile depredations of hooligans and avaricious loafers, they will certainly bring the State to ruin and involve many sections of peaceable, law-abiding, and hard-working people in dire calamity.

#### Self-Defence

Every day we hear of robberies with violence, of burglaries, and the like. The condition of things is becoming altogether intolerable. It is incumbent upon all honest people to help the machinery of government by taking a firm and determined stand. Every person has the right, moral as well as legal, to adopt all necessary measures in self-defence, and in the defence of his family and property.

Therefore, if you find an armed burglar, say, on your premises and he is in possession of your property and refuses to give it up when called upon, you are entitled to shoot him dead. If a few abominable interlopers of this kind were drastically dealt with in this manner, there is no doubt that those who are like-minded would restrain their criminal proclivities.

Furthermore, the attitude of the public and the press toward daring and ingenious plunderers should at once be altered, where it sadly needs to be altered. We not infrequently hear and read descriptions of audacious criminal exploits, wherein the speaker or writer uses expressions that would be more fitting for the enterprises of a hero in a novel: "How clever!" "What bravery!" "Wasn't he ingenious?" Sometimes, indeed, uttered in a tone of seeming admiration. Far more fitting ejaculations would be such as "The vile scoundrel!" "The abominable villain!" uttered in a tone of contempt and indignation. Solon, once asked what was the best way of suppressing crime, answered that all the people in the community should feel toward the malefactor as the injured person did. Really a little intensification of "saeva indignatio" on the part of the public would prove advantageous.

#### Remedies

Some special remedies are also immediately called for. In the first place a stricter censorship in regard to moving pictures should be exercised. Undue interference with liberty is of course to be deprecated; but liberty must never be allowed to degenerate into injurious licence. The power of suggestion for good or for evil is patent to all of us. Secondly, the number of police officers should be considerably increased. There are many districts in which a policeman is rarely seen; and it is these localities that are victimised by thieves and assailants, especially if the public lighting there is inadequate.

Further, I think the indeterminate sentence should be imposed on first offenders, if they have betrayed a dangerous degree of criminality. It is best for themselves as well as for society to keep them locked up and usefully employed. Why wait until a vicious criminal has committed several offences and has been convicted three times? The security of the community imperatively demands that appropriate and

The outlook is certainly cheering, but rather than speed up production it will pay handsomely to put the effort necessary to greater production into increasing the quality of a normal output, or perfecting the marketing machine. The elimination of money-wasting methods of production, storage, shipping, and distribution would be equal to a substantial increase in market prices. That Australian marketing methods are extravagant compared with other countries there can be no shadow of doubt, and therefore high prices are not so advantageous to us as they are to those countries which have perfected their methods of production and marketing. We can therefore forestall a drop in prices by practising the most economical principles of production and creating a marketing organisation which will enable our products to go from the farm to the consumer by the most direct route, and at the lowest possible cost. Australia has experimented in various directions in this regard, and many suggestions have been made regarding the best ways and means of serving the interests of the producers in Australia, and supplying the wants of the people who look to Australia for their supplies of essential commodities. The consensus of opinion is that organisation of some kind is necessary. Practical experience of compulsory pooling has exploded the old idea of one legislatively constructed and Government administered system of exportation. This system was abandoned in favor of the more practicable method of voluntary organisation by the producers, with active Government co-operation. And it has been found that the organisation of producers on the commodity basis working harmoniously with the Government is more likely to give the best results both at home and abroad. This system is comprehensive enough to be applied to most of the principal kinds

of primary products exported to the overseas markets. It is elastic enough to not only permit, but make necessary, separate organisations for each branch of the primary industry. Thus we have a grouping of producers on the commodity basis—wheat-growers marketing wheat, dairymen organised to deal with dairy produce, &c.

It is this phase of their industry which should be given the most thoughtful consideration by primary producers. The Federal Parliament has made legislative provision, and the Commonwealth Government are actively co-operating for organised overseas marketing of meat, dairy produce, and dried fruit. In addition to these measures, others were passed last session for assisting the financing of any approved scheme for the export and marketing of produce, up to 50 per cent. of the market value of the produce, and for the payment of bounties on exported canned fruit, cattle, and wine. The general working principle is that the Commonwealth is prepared to help producers to market their surplus products overseas when they so organise themselves as to make assistance practicable and likely to be effective in securing the benefits of better and more remunerative marketing. There is now a Commonwealth Minister of Marketing. Producers should be eager to obtain from him information and advice regarding the provision already made by Parliament for improving overseas marketing. The Chambers of Commerce and Manufactures in each State have been asked to supply the information wanted for a register of reputable firms, and those already engaged in the Australian export trade and the British and Continental European trade. Complaint is continually made by Australians returning from visits to Great Britain and the Continent of inability to obtain Australian products there. It is clearly necessary that there should be adequate supplies of good quality Australian products obtainable through the ordinary channels of trade in Great Britain. Otherwise the effort and expense of making them known there will be wasted, particularly in the case of commodities which are purchased by most consumers frequently and in comparatively small quantities. If the distributors are not able to supply them regularly with what they prefer, consumers become accustomed to and are not easily weaned from substitutes. To secure the best advantage from high prices, to prepare for the inevitable drop to normal, and to place Australian products in the firm esteem of consumers overseas, our producers must bend their energies not so much to increase production, but to the more economical production, of higher quality products and the perfection of a marketing machine through co-operation and united action. Thus may they safeguard the future of their industry.