

News 18.11.25

SCHOLAR AND TEACHER

Late Miss Elizabeth Jackson

At the Methodist Ladies' College this morning a framed photograph of the late Miss Sarah Elizabeth Jackson, M.A., an old scholar and teacher, was handed to the school. Miss Florence Sharman, M.A. (president of the Old Collegians' Association) presented the memorial to Miss M. E. Patchell, B.A., B.Sc. (principal). Those present at the ceremony included the Revs. F. Bullock, F. Lade, M.A., J. H. Crossley, R. Jackson, and Mr. J. W. Gillingham. Mr. Bullock spoke of the life and work of the late Elizabeth Jackson. Miss Jackson was born at Ovingham in September, 1890. She was educated at various public schools the Methodist Ladies' College, and the Adelaide University, where she greatly distinguished herself. She graduated Bachelor of Arts in 1911, took honors in philosophy in 1913, and her M.A. degree in 1914. In 1911 she won the Tinline scholarship in English history, in 1914 the David Murray scholarship for a philosophical essay, and the John Lorenzo Young scholarship for economic research in 1915. She was a prominent worker and foundation member of the Women Graduates' Club. From 1914 until her death in January, 1925, she was tutor of philosophy at the University. She also taught at the Methodist Ladies' College, and lectured with great success for the Workers' Educational Association at Broken Hill and in Adelaide, where the psychology class begun by her was signally successful. The establishment of a psychological class at the Adelaide University was one of her most cherished desires.

The Economic Society, a branch of which has been established in South Australia, will serve a useful purpose if it shall succeed in directing a greater measure of public attention to questions which, so far from being of academic interest, are of vital concern to the Australian community. One of those questions is the judicious expenditure of public moneys. Finance is a dull subject, and the interest of most taxpayers in it is limited to the amount of their income tax assessment. Yet, if causes were studied more attentively and more generally, there might be less occasion to grieve over effects, as represented by increased taxation. Parliaments would probably be less extravagant if the people were less indifferent to the manner in which funds are raised and spent in their behalf. Nor does the blame for lavish expenditure rest entirely with Governments and Parliaments. If some politicians believe that the financial resources of the country are equal to any strain which reckless extravagance may make upon them, some sections of the people ignorantly or carelessly assume that Government possesses the purse of Fortunatus, and can comply with the most immoderate demands for expenditure, without regard to the replenishment of its coffers. The expectation that something can be secured for nothing is, as the Under Secretary (Mr. R. R. Stuckey) remarked in his instructive address to the Economic Society last night, widely prevalent among the community. No one seems to trouble where the money comes from, and the negligence of the people is communicated to their political representatives, who do not seem to care where much of the money goes to. Political parties subsist by promises of generous expenditure made to electors who persuade themselves that, if any paying has to be done in consequence of these free spending programmes, the "other fellow" can be compelled to do it. In no other direction do the spending proclivities of Australian Governments find greater scope than in the disbursement of loan moneys. "Easy come—easy go" is a maxim quite as applicable to public as to private finance. Until recent years an almost unlimited supply of loan money has been available for public purposes at moderate rates of interest, and in some cases it has been borrowed and spent with more freedom than discretion. Latterly money has become dearer and harder to obtain, but the expansion of the public debt continues at an alarming rate. Tables presented by Mr. Stuckey showed that the indebtedness of the States has grown from £316,696,000 in 1914 to £559,674,000 in 1924—an increase of £243,068,000 in a decade; while the Commonwealth public debt, most of which was incurred for war purposes during the same period, now stands at £362,081,000. This is a terrific double burden for a population of six millions to sustain. If the numbers of the people were increasing at the same rate as the national indebtedness, there would be little cause for concern, but, unfortunately, this is far from being the case. It is becoming imperative that public expenditure out of loan should bear some clearly defined relation to the growth of population, and the establishment of such a relationship should surely form the basis of an Australian loan policy. To go on piling up indebtedness without regard to expansion of population and production is to invite national disaster. Another aspect of loan policy to which the Under Treasurer drew special attention concerned the tendency to spend loan money on unproductive, or only partly reproductive, works—a tendency which is, as he said, becoming too common. In South Australia, of the \$8,000,000 invested in public works, only \$37,500,000 returns full interest and working expenses. Of the remainder, \$18,000,000 is classed as partly reproductive, involving an interest loss of £376,000; and \$11,800,000 is unproductive, and involves the general taxpayer

LECTURE BY THE UNDER-TREASURER. REG. 18.11.25

At a meeting of the Workers' Educational Association in the University on Tuesday night the Under Treasurer (Mr. R. R. Stuckey) delivered an address entitled "A loan policy for Australia." He had prepared tables to show the indebtedness of States and Commonwealth and its distribution, and briefly explained their effect. Mr. Stuckey stated that it was difficult to discuss a loan policy for Australia without trenching on politics, but a large amount of developmental work was required. The position of Victoria could not be shown accurately for its Metropolitan Board of Works and the Melbourne Harbour Trust borrowed for themselves and their indebtedness was not treated as a Government one.

Effect of Federal Loans.

Alluding to the Commonwealth debt, Mr. Stuckey said its rapid growth could not be condemned without mature thought. A great portion of the indebtedness was incurred for war purposes, which on June 30, 1925, was shown to be £311,194,000 out of a total of £362,811,000. That total was £61 12/11 a head of the population. It included expenditure for the construction of post and telegraph facilities, said to be essential, and works on the River Murray, the benefit of which was reaped by the States. It was said by the Government that the postal and telegraph works were fully reproductive. The effect of borrowing by the Commonwealth was that the annual payments for interest on and redemption of war loans were a heavy first charge on the resources of the nation. Some other Commonwealth works which were not reproductive were also a charge on the nation. Commonwealth loans tended to embarrass the State Governments when trying to get money for works of development. The annual loss on loan works was made good out of the general revenue, which though easy for the Commonwealth was not so for the States.

South Australia's Position.

Consideration of a loan policy for Australia must affect the States more largely than Commonwealth activities. In an illuminating summary of the finances of this State Mr. Stuckey stated that railways, waterworks, sewers, and harbours paid £110,446 in excess of interest on the public debt in 1912-13, whereas in 1924-25 the revenue from them was £576,278 less than interest on the public debt. Last year the loan money spent on reproductive works showed a total of £37,479,516, that on partly reproductive works £18,643,280, and that on unproductive works £11,807,477. The total deficiency on interest was £740,391. Any inference to be derived from those figures would be fairly applicable in a general sense to all the States. To obtain a correct idea of the position the Government was re-casting its system of accounting. It was necessary to ensure a proper perspective to understand the tendency of affairs. The first loan of South Australia was for the construction of the Port railway and the interest at that time was six per cent. About 1894 the rate of interest fell to three per cent., and contemporaneously the Government launched a bold policy of public works which necessitated heavy loans. Borrowing did not shrink as the rate of interest rose again and there was consequently a great increase of the interest bill. The position was made worse because as a loan became due it had to be renewed at higher interest. For a few years before 1914 there were big surpluses of revenue over expenditure in this State, and they were devoted to loan redemption to a total in excess of £2,000,000. Control of the State finances slipped during the war and it had been impossible to regain the former position.

Effect of Losses.

Whereas in 1913, continued Mr. Stuckey, railways, waterworks, and harbours—the three greatest loan works in South Australia—returned £10,440 in excess of the amount required to pay interest and working costs, they had not been able to pay interest by about £500,000 of late years. The chief factors in that loss were continual increases of the rate of interest, renewal of loans at higher interest, greater cost of material, undertaking large works such as those on the Murray and water schemes, and increases of wages. One consequence had been the raising of railway freights and harbour charges. In addition there was the policy of borrowing money for unproductive works. All the money lost on public works had to be recouped for taxation. An ideal policy would be no borrowing, but as that seemed impracticable the next best thing was to restrict loans to reproductive works. Many works which were a loss now could be turned into valuable assets. The charges to the community for all services rendered could be made sufficient to place them in the profitable class without imposing any great hardship on those who obtained benefit from them. In a final analysis they must judge loans works on what they produced, which was an economic basis. If they put people on the land it should be only where they could make a living and something over to encourage them to stay there. From the point of view of South Australia, it was questionable whether the Murray locks had not been started too soon, and whether they were not imposing an unnecessary burden on the State.

REC. 17.11.25 ELDER CONSERVATORIUM STUDENT OPERA.

Next Friday will see the initial performance of student opera in Adelaide in connection with the Elder Conservatorium. On this occasion the British opera "Dido and Aeneas" will be given by the opera class in costume and effects, under the sole direction of Mr. Clive Carey, Mus. Bac. It is fortunate that so eminent an authority on old English opera as Mr. Carey undoubtedly is should be able and willing to undertake this production, and it is owing to his indefatigable work in all the departments, gesture, deportment, and vocal training, that the class is able to give these performances after one year's work. The musical score of "Dido and Aeneas" is distinguished for its beauty, charming airs and lilting rhythms, and is full of imagination and originality. The second opera to be undertaken will be "The Magic Flute" (Mozart), scene 1. This contains some of Mozart's wonderful writing, and is illustrative of his best work. This opera will also be given in costume. Miss Sylvia Whittington will lead the chamber orchestra of 22 performers, and Miss Phyllis Leitch is arranging the ballets. Plans at Marshall's, Gawler place.

Nov. 17.11.25

INTERCHANGE OF TEACHERS AND PUPILS.

Victorian educationists are enthusiastic regarding the proposal to establish a system of reciprocal Rhodes Scholarships, by which boys at schools in British Isles will be given an opportunity of attending schools in Victoria. It is more than likely that the scheme will be extended to this State. Although enquiries made at the Education Department on Monday showed that the proposal had not been brought officially before responsible officials, most of them expressed themselves as being entirely in accord with it. Only good could result from such a scheme, they said. The financing of the scheme is by private subscription, and in Victoria, the way is now clear for the appointment of three scholars in 1927, one in 1928, and one in the following year. The suggestion has been discussed informally at one or two educational gatherings in Adelaide, but pending the receipt of fuller information from Melbourne, the matter has been held over. New South Wales and Western Australia, it is said, are also considering the scheme. The system of the interchange of teachers between the States of the Commonwealth and Great Britain, is proving popular, and the various State departments have been asked by many teachers to make the necessary arrangements. Two South Australian teachers are already in England, while two more are completing arrangements to visit the old country in 1926, and applications have been received from others for the following year. Little difficulty is experienced by the applicants obtaining the necessary leave of absence. Each must hold the primary assistant's certificate, and have at least five years' service. They must also have passed through the Teachers' College, and hold the 11 B certificate or higher, and must not be less than 25 or more than 45 years of age. They receive the same rate of pay while in England as in Australia, and also the benefits of the local superannuation fund.

Nov. 10.11.25

Professor Edward Charles Jeffrey, Ph.D., D.Sc., LL.D., will arrive in Adelaide on Friday morning by the Melbourne express. He has been in Queensland, New South Wales, and Victoria for some weeks, and is making a flying visit to Adelaide. He has been examining the flora of Australia, and particularly that



Professor E. C. Jeffrey

of the eastern States. He will leave Adelaide on Monday morning for New Zealand. Professor Jeffrey has done a great deal of work on the anatomy of fern plants and fossil plants, and in addition to many scientific papers he has embodied the results of his work on fossil plants in a book called "Coal and Cypripedium." Born in 1866 at St. Catherine's, Ontario, he graduated at the Toronto University, and then proceeded to Harvard University, where he occupies the chair in the faculty of botany.

Nov. 18.11.25

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

Examination Results, November, 1925.

FACULTY OF MUSIC. FINAL EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF MUS. BAC.

Pass List.—Composition—Black, Edward William; Harvey, Edith Fairbank. As Executant.—Piano—Patrick, Elsie Furzeux.

ORDINARY EXAMINATION FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF MUSIC.—NOVEMBER, 1925.

First Year.—None passed. Second Year.—None. Passed with Credit.—None. Passed.—Flower, Emily Melva; Marrett, Hannah Olive.

FOR THE DIPLOMA OF ASSOCIATE OF MUSIC.

First Year.—Barbone, Dorothy Jean, principal subject (piano); Butler, Marjorie (piano); Cockburn, Julia Evelyn (violin); Coussell, Gwendyth Helen (piano); Daenke, Dorothy Lucy (piano); Farber, Arnold Carey (organ); Flehig, Dorothy Irene (piano); Hasebeck, Mary Frewin (violin); Hedder, Elizabeth Emma (piano); Kemp, Francis Joseph (piano); Kenny, Hilda Bradley (piano); Mahar, Anne de Sales (singing); Manzoni, Dorothy Mary (singing); Mitchell, Dorothy Maude (singing); Nesbit, Una Collis (violin); Palmer, Ethel Bradshaw (piano); Perkins, Horace James (piano); Reich, Emma Mand (violin); Verro, Gladys Kathleen (violin); Young, Kate (violin). Second Year.—Cosens, Edith Ella (piano); Henry, Gladys Amy Theima (piano); Mayfield, Vera Nellie Gwendoline (singing); Perkins, Horace James (piano); Sim, Elsie Lillian (piano), and passed in harmony and history, thus completing her second year.

Third Year.—Adamson, Marjorie Dorothy (piano); Bonnard, David Alexander (piano); Coussell, Marie Blanche Lillicrup (singing); Vack, Harold Robert (Piano); Francis, Bessie (piano).

Passed the Practical Examination in Piano Playing.—Morley, Evelyn Mabel; Williams, John Alexander. Thus completing the third year.

FACULTY OF APPLIED SCIENCE. ENGINEERING FINANCE (92).

Passed with Credit (in order of merit).—Bisshoff, Sydney Norman; Ford, Howard Hamlyn.

Pass (in alphabetical order).—Atkinson, Gordon John; Burre, Sidney Herbert; Calder, Ben; Davidson, Corrick; Davis, John Alexander; Glavin, Ernest James; Green, William John; McLean, Rex Robert; Peinle, Kristian; Stevens, Frederick; Lyons, John Owen; Polson, Reginald Alexander; Scott-Rogers, Lander; Wright, Hugh Houshey.

Nov. 18.11.25

Professor W. A. Laxon, who occupied the Ormond Chair of Music at the Melbourne University, left for home by the express last night after conducting examinations for the higher degrees of music at the University of Adelaide during the last two days. He stated that the standard of music as revealed by the examinations was becoming better each time he came down, the work being excellent.

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