

REG. 7-8-25

The wind that rustles through the trees is hardly more continuous or less productive than Ministerial speeches about forestry. Always there is some eminent person, telling the "listening earth" how remarkably bald it is becoming; but no one appears to think that the reasonable thing to do, in the circumstances, is to produce a bottle of hair restorer. The average barber is more practical, in some things, than the most enterprising politician. Mr. Bruce is responsible for the most recent contribution to the torrent of speech-making which accompanies the disappearance of the world's forests. His mingled lamentation and warning appears in another column of this issue. A timber famine, he tells us once again, is threatened. Not only are our own scanty forests rapidly giving out, but a shortage of overseas supplies is to be apprehended; so that, "unless we make a serious effort to forecast the future situation, and to meet that situation, we will fail in our duty." The Prime Minister has said it; many other Prime Ministers have said it; year after year, with wearisome reiteration, everybody says it, while the forests fall and dwindle. Then that of forestry, there is no cause which is more fully assured of lip service, and which has better reason to despair of anything more practical. The Australian States have squeezed a few vain drops into the bucket of afforestation; but most of the State Governments are too busy with the petty affairs of the moment to give more than a passing thought to the obvious needs of posterity. And now, says Mr. Bruce "forestry is rapidly growing beyond the confines laid down by State boundaries." The words "rapidly growing," it may be observed parenthetically, are a most unhappy choice. The Commonwealth Government is alarmed because the growth is merely one of consumption. A Federal Forestry School has accordingly been established to teach students, on the treeless plains of Canberra, what the expected timber famine will look like, while Mr. Bruce continues dramatically to herald its approach.

Adv., 30-7-25

ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The next biennial meeting of the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science is to be held at Perth in August next year. As it will be the first meeting of the society to be held in the western capital, special preparations are being made to make the conference a notable one. The last meeting was held in Adelaide in 1924, and Lieutenant-General Sir John Monash was its distinguished president. At the council meeting of the society held in August last, Sir Thomas Lyle, of the Melbourne University, was appointed president-elect of the next conference. Owing to his probable absence abroad he recently signified that he wished to resign the honor, which was then offered to Professor E. H. Rennie, of the University of Adelaide, who, it is understood, has accepted the position, and will deliver the presidential address. Professor H. T. M. Wilmore, of the University of Western Australia, will be the secretary of the Perth meeting. In scientific circles the appointment of Professor Rennie as president is looked on as a fitting tribute to an eminent scholar and scientist. It is interesting to recall that Professor Rennie was the first Australian student to secure the coveted D.Sc. degree of London. He has been Elder Professor of Chemistry in the University of Adelaide since 1885.

REG. 12-8-35

CHAIR OF ECONOMICS.

Mr. McHugh asked in the House of Assembly on Tuesday if the Government had given serious consideration to the question of establishing a Chair of Economics at the Adelaide University. Recently, he said, both Australia had lost the services of the lecturer in economics because no chair had been established at the University. The Minister of Education (Hon. L. L. Hill) replied that the creation of a Chair of Economics at the University was not a Government function. It was a matter entirely for the University Council. If further information was required by the member, notice should be given.

REG. 12-8-25

COLLEGE CONTESTS.

ADELAIDE WON DEBATE.

"IS THE JURY SYSTEM A SUCCESS?"

Considerable talent and skill were shown by the speakers in the debate between Adelaide and Melbourne, held in the Price Hall, Grote street, on Tuesday evening. The principal of the Adelaide college (Dr. A. J. Schulz) presided, and announced the subject to be:—"Is the jury system a success?" The judges were Professor H. Darnley Naylor, Professor J. McKellar-Stewart, and Mr. R. Johnson. The teams were:—Adelaide—C. McMurtrie (leader), R. Booker, and R. Mitton; Melbourne—W. Aughterson (leader), R. Reed, and R. Singleton.

Mr. McMurtrie, who opened for Adelaide, said the basis of the English method of trial, the basis of all our trials, was the jury system. An eminent authority had said that the objective of the jury system was to aid vitally in the administration of justice. The objective of the system was to give a just decision on the facts of the case submitted. He claimed that in this respect juries achieved their purpose. The system gave other benefits, which made its success more complete. Juries were simply judges of fact, not of abstract law. For this reason juries were a stimulus to Judges, who, for their benefit, had to separate fact from abstract law. In separating facts, which were fundamental, a Judge obtained a firmer grasp of the case in point. That was in the interests of justice.

Mr. Aughterson, in leading off for Melbourne, said his opponents defended, and even praised, a system which the modern world was finding more and more inadequate to meet the demands made upon it. In England, the home of the system, the grand jury had fallen into desuetude, and the petty jury was only being used in part. The system, formed in obscure circumstances in the Middle Ages, had failed to conform with changed conditions. In trial by jury most difficult duties were given to the jurymen, the most untrained men in Court. The jury was a psychological "crowd." Its opinion frequently originated in one brain, and it accepted the point of view of its most forcible member. It was also impossible to isolate a jury. Outside the Court it was influenced by the press, and inside by the barristers. The emotions of the jurymen were played upon and their intellect dulled. He accused the jury system of incompetence, bias, prejudice, and sentimentality, and on these counts it was not a success.

Mr. Booker (Adelaide) stressed the democratic nature of the jury system. Its essentially democratic purpose indicated that it was an up-to-date institution. To be successful, a judicial system must be democratic, and the jury system imparted that flavour to the judiciary. The jury was drawn from the people, and truly represented the people. Eminent authorities held that it was the right of every one to be tried by his fellows. The people had a voice in making laws; why, then, should they not assist in the administration of them? Juries were not burdened by the consideration of precedent, and gave their undivided attention to the case in hand.

Mr. Singleton (Melbourne) based his argument against the success of the jury system on eight reasons. The law exempted many of the best intellects from service as jurymen, and many other potential jurors evaded service. The delays and expenses of empanelling juries made service unpopular, and men entered the Court annoyed and inattentive. Typical juries were swayed by sentimentality rather than by the evidence. Juries were easily biased, corrupted, and intimidated. Moreover, the much boasted unanimity of juries was a sham; it was, in fact, nothing more than majority rule.

Mr. Mitton (Adelaide) said justice could not be obtained from an interpretation of merely the letter of the law, but only from the underlying spirit. A jury judged a case upon its merits, and gave a more humane interpretation. The system was most educative in disseminating knowledge of the law. That the system was workable was proved by its world-wide application. If juries were easily biased it was not the fault of the system, but of the policing of the country, which allowed the wrong class of jurors to be empanelled. Taken as a whole, the system was essential to justice, and its universality proved its success.

Mr. Reed (Melbourne) said man had never formed a judicial system which conformed with his ideal. A more efficient judicial machine than the jury system could hardly be devised. The privilege of justice to all should be made as readily accessible as possible. The jury system failed to give justice with the greatest economy of time and expense. It was detrimental to the happiness, wealth, and stability of society. If the system were a success, why was it losing ground in its stronghold, the Civil Court? He suggested to replace the jury system with a Judge alone in civil actions, and in criminal cases to establish a judicial committee of seven, who should be of a certain educational standard, trained in law, and free from political bias.

The leaders of both sides replied. Deafening cheers greeted the announcement by Professor McKellar Stewart that the judges had decided in favour of Adelaide.

NEWS. 11-8-25

MY FRIENDS!

Dr. Heaton Packs His Books

"HEARTBREAKING JOB"

There is a touch of sadness in the departure of anyone, but when that one has been "guide, philosopher, and friend" to hundreds of students of all creeds and classes for several years, then sadness becomes sorrow.

There is a deserted look about the little room in the University buildings which Dr. H. Heaton made the hub of the activities of the Workers' Educational Association, for its genial occupant will leave on Friday for Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. The shelves once filled to overflowing with economic treatises, pamphlets, and the multifarious productions of various learned societies, are now bare and desolate.

Like nature, however, Dr. Heaton evidently abhors a vacuum, and yesterday he was busily engaged in concealing the empty shelves with a brilliant collection of posters, samples of English art which he brought back from his recent world tour, intending to give an exhibition of them. Where once Tausig and Gide stood are enticing invitations to visit merry Margate or bright Blackpool, and some delightful cartoons on the "Safety First" campaign instituted by a certain London railway company.

"It is rather a heartbreaking job," said Dr. Heaton, pausing for a minute for



DR. H. HEATON,

who will leave on Friday for Canada

his labors, and stooping to retrieve a refractory tack, "especially when I had scarcely unpacked them since I had returned from England. If that was heartbreaking, it was a back-breaking task trying to clear these shelves, for they were covered, if not with the dust of ages, with a fairly good approach to it. When tackling the most obscure recesses my method of procedure was this: to take the book gingerly in one hand, throw it to the farthest corner of the room, and then stand with head averted until the dust cleared. After that everything was plain sailing. I am taking all my books with me, with the exception of a dozen or so over there. There are literally tons of them, for together with a piano, and some three or four hundred novels, they make a total weight of three tons six hundredweights.

"I am sorry to be leaving," he concluded, giving an obstinate nail a final blow, "but in Canada I shall have much more scope for my work. Nevertheless I am not ashamed to admit that when I first looked at these bare shelves I choked with something more than dust."

ADVERTISER 12-8-35

CHAIR OF ECONOMICS AT UNIVERSITY.

In the Assembly yesterday Mr. McHugh asked if the Government had given serious consideration to the question of establishing a chair of economics at the Adelaide University. Recently South Australia had lost the services of the lecturer in economics, because no chair had been established. The Minister of Education (Hon. L. L. Hill) said the creation of a chair at the University was not a Government function. It was a matter that lay entirely with the University Council. If further information was required, he asked for notice to be given.

ADV. 12-8-35

TEACHERS IN DEBATE.

A WIN FOR ADELAIDE.

Last evening, at the Price Hall, Adelaide High School, a debate took place between teams from the Teachers' Colleges of Melbourne and Adelaide. The subject was, "Is the jury system a success?" Adelaide taking the affirmative. The home team was Messrs. McMurtrie, Booker, and Mitton. Messrs. W. Aughterson, Singleton, and Reed did verbal battle for the visitors. The judges were Professor Darnley Naylor, Professor J. McKellar Stewart, and Mr. R. Johnson. Adelaide set out very clearly that the jury were judges of fact only, and acted as a stimulus to the judges. They showed that the jury was essentially democratic, was working well, and was extending to many other countries. They quoted many prominent lawyers and judges in support of the essential excellence of the jury system. Melbourne showed that the grand jury had already disappeared, and contended the special jury was discredited. In criminal cases the jury was subject to corruption, bias, and various psychological influences which prevented them from returning a proper verdict. Trial by newspaper and morbid sympathy for criminals were also cited as bad influences. The judges gave their decision for the Adelaide team.

ADV. 12-8-35

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

On Monday next, in the Elder Hall, a concert will be given by the Ladies' Part Singing Class, under the baton of Mr. Winsloe Hall. A particularly fine programme includes vocal items by pupils of Madame Delmar Hall and Mr. Winsloe Hall, as well as an excellent variety of part songs. Miss Muriel Prince, A.M.U.A., with Mr. Herbert Edwards, A.M.U.A., will be the accompanists. Plan at S. Marshall & Sons.

ADV. 12-8-35

COMMUNITY SINGING.

The weekly song gathering will be held in the Town Hall from 1 to 2 o'clock on Friday, when the fifth anniversary of the inauguration of community singing will be celebrated. The actual date falls next week, but the alteration was made in order that Dr. Heaton, who leaves for Canada shortly, may be present. Three ladies who are very interested in community singing and attend nearly all the song gatherings, have presented a birthday cake. Captain Hugh King will be the conductor. Several other conductors hope to be present to say farewell to Dr. Heaton.

REGISTER. 13-8-25

Mr. Anthony said he was afraid that the Government had departed from the constitution in some of its activities. Although several Bills passed by the Assembly had been rejected by the Legislative Council, the Government had put the proposals into operation. Dealing with the Colonel Light Gardens school, he said the treatment of the tenders by the Minister of Education had been a departure from the usual procedure. He had always been a strong supporter of the public service, which he admired. He knew the officers had a high regard for their prestige, and that they wanted the service to be the best in the Commonwealth. There was, however, a danger of political interference with the service which should be free of politics. He commended the Government for its activity in agricultural research. The appointment of Dr. A. E. V. Richardson as Director of the Waite Research Institute would be of great advantage to the State. Afforestation was not a question of private enterprise, because it was too costly, although the Broken Hill Proprietary Company had done something in that regard to Myponga. The devastation and waste in the natural forests were scandalous. No attempt was being made at re-afforestation. It was imperative that South Australia should go in for a proper scheme. Tree-planting required skilled workers. At present Mr. Norman Jolly was in South Australia, and the Government should secure his services in the interests of the industry. Credit should be given to the present Conservator of Forests (Mr. Julius) for having introduced a cheap method of tree planting. It was a great pity that the services of Mr. H. H. Corbin were to be lost to the State. In industrial matters, it was a question whether the workers were not demanding more than was in the best interests of the welfare of the State.

Mr. Fitzgerald claimed that the settlement of the trouble was due to the influence of the Labour Governments. The Labour Government had never attempted to put into operation Communistic principles. The policy of the party was the nationalization of railways, telegraphs, and coal mines.