

REC. 20.10.24
A VISIT TO QUEENSLAND.

Dr. Richardson's Impressions

Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, M.A. (Director of the Waite Research Institute), returned to Adelaide on Saturday from a short visit to Queensland and the Northern Rivers district of New South Wales. He toured the sugar districts around Bundaberg, the fruit areas at Nambour, the prickly pear laboratory at Sherwood, and the laboratory for the investigation of bunchy top in bananas at Tweed Heads. The professor said he had been much impressed by the sugar cane districts. The soils were very fertile, the land closely settled, and the sugar cane industry generally in a prosperous condition. The cane crops were good, and the harvesting of the cane was in full swing. Most of the sugar mills were running at full capacity, and the sugar production in New South Wales and Queensland this year would be considerably above Australian requirements.

Improved Methods of Cultivation.

Dr. Richardson said that the methods of cultivation were being gradually improved, and on the best farms were exceedingly thorough. Deep ploughing was carried out by means of tractors or with stationary engines in one-way balance ploughs going to a depth of from 12 to 14 inches. By the aid of deep ploughing, liberal cultivation, the ploughing in of green crops, the heavy dressings of artificial fertilizers, and the use of improved varieties of cane the yield of sugar per acre had been gradually increased. As a matter of fact, on some places they had made remarkable progress. On some of the old cane areas in the Bundaberg district, where sugar cane had been grown for more than 40 years, cultural methods left little to be desired. The industry was interesting on account of the closer settlement all along these northern coastal lines. It was surprising how intensely settled these were. From 40 to 50 acres would be the averaged area of the farm.

Prickly Pear.

The rapid spread of the prickly pear, continued Dr. Richardson, was a serious menace to Queensland. More than 50 million acres was infested by it—an area equal to that of the State of Victoria. It was estimated that the pear was spreading at the rate of nearly a million acres per annum. Control of the pear-infested land had been handed over to the Prickly Pear Land Commission. In the lightly infested areas the pest was being controlled by spraying with arsenic pentoxide and sulphuric acid—a most ingenious idea. The sulphuric acid being attracted by water punctured the pear, and then the arsenic got in and killed the plant. It was hoped to attack the heavily infested lands by the use of insect enemies of the pear. Prickly pears were not regarded as a serious pest in America, possibly because of the diseases or insect enemies, which held the plant in check. Efforts had therefore been made to introduce these insect enemies of the pear to Australia, and at the laboratory at Sherwood the Commonwealth Government and the States of New South Wales and Queensland were co-operating to determine what insects might safely be liberated in the prickly pear zone. Men were visiting America to bring these various pests back. The greatest care was necessary to determine whether these enemies confined their attack to plants of that family, so that no new crop pest may be introduced. It was also necessary to introduce an insect without any of the parasites or diseases which attacked them in their native country. Consequently much investigation work by biologists was necessary to guard against these dangers before the cactus insect pests could be liberated. Investigation work on this line work had been very promising.

Bunchy Top in Bananas.

The professor said that he had inspected the bunchy top disease laboratory at Tweed Heads. The banana plantations of the Northern Rivers district of New South Wales and areas south of Brisbane had suffered severely from an introduced disease known as bunchy top. The Institute of Science and Industry, in co-operation with the New South Wales and Queensland Governments, had established a laboratory at Tweed Heads to investigate this disease during the past year. The officers in charge of the work—Professor Goddard and Mr. McGee—had definitely shown that bunchy top was a virus disease transmitted from plant to plant by the dark banana aphid. This discovery would be of the greatest value to banana growers in the affected areas, and now that the cause was definitely known, control measures with a view to its elimination may be formulated.

Crop Prospects.

Dr. Richardson said that the continued dry weather was seriously affecting Queensland and the northern New South Wales pastures, and the dairying districts were languishing. Cotton planting was being retarded, and the prospects of the wheat crops on the Darling Downs and in northern New South Wales were very poor. In the Riverina and northern Victoria the wheat crops were healthy, but rain was urgently needed to insure a good harvest.

ADV. 24.10.25
GIFTS TO UNIVERSITIES.

ANOTHER BENEFACTION IN SYDNEY

Colonel Oswald Watt, who died in May, 1921, left an estate valued for probate purposes of over £175,000, and appointed the Perpetual Trustee Company as executors and trustees. He rendered distinguished service in France throughout the war, and his military decorations included the awards of the Croix de Guerre, Legion d'Honneur, and the Order of the British Empire. After leaving many bequests to friends and institutions, he bequeathed the residue of his property upon trust to the Senate of the University of Sydney "for such uses for the benefit of the institution as the Senate in its absolute discretion should determine." Owing to legal difficulties, it was only in July, 1924, that the trustees were in a position to give effect to the benefactor's directions, and even now the value of the gift to the University cannot be accurately stated. But the trustees have informed the University that the estate has to a great extent been realised, and that after the realisation of further assets and the death of certain annuitants, a sum approximating to £100,000 (of which sum £40,000 has already been paid over) will ultimately be received by the University. This munificent bequest, the utilisation of which has wisely been left to the discretion of the Senate without any hampering restrictions or conditions, comes most opportunely, as the interest will diminish the unavoidable deficit for the year due to the increased claims on the University and the consequently increased expenditure which greatly exceeds the increase in its resources. The gratitude earned by the benefactor is enhanced by the fact that he was not himself a University man, and made his donation not because of any personal memories or associations, but solely from disinterested appreciation of the great work the University is doing, and the greater work it would do if it had the means.

In view of the above, which is taken from the "Union Recorder" of the Sydney University, it is interesting to compare the list of benefactions to the University of Adelaide. Although there is no single amount as great as Colonel Watt's bequest, the list contains several magnificent endowments. The value of the Waite bequest, which is stated nominally at £100,000 might safely be placed at a much higher figure, and, of course, its potential value is unlimited. Sir Thomas Elder's gifts and bequests amounted in all to nearly £100,000. Sir Langdon Bonython has given £40,000 for a great hall, which will be available in 1930. Then there are the important bequests to the medical school of Mrs. Jane Marks £50,000, and of Mrs. A. M. Simpson and Miss Keith Sheridan of £20,000, and the gift of £15,000 for buildings. Mr. R. Barr Smith and the members of his family provided an endowment of £20,000 for the library.

There have been many other gifts to the University, including that of £20,000 by Sir Walter Watson Hughes, £10,000 by the Hon. J. H. Angus, and £15,000 by Mrs. G. A. Jury. The total of the private endowments to the University is about £300,000. These form a splendid list which is worthy to be placed beside that of the University of Sydney.

REC. 28.10.25
KINDERGARTEN UNION.

A Growing Work.

The annual meeting of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia was held at the Lord Mayor's Parlour, Adelaide Town Hall, on Tuesday afternoon. The President (Professor McKellar Stewart) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance.

Value of Work Recognised.

The Chairman said that kindergarten training was such an important part of the educational process that there was need for somebody to undertake the training of students for the work. If Governments did not consider it their responsibility, then it devolved upon some voluntary association. The union existed for that purpose. It was substantially helped by annual Government grants. The Education Department recognised that the work was being done quite satisfactorily, and therefore, felt no obligation on its part to take it away from the body now carrying it on. Those who were engaged in the work might have the assurance that

they were doing a necessary, as well as a valuable, piece of community service. It was particularly gratifying to find that the reports were of a very encouraging nature. They had been able to add to the number of free kindergartens within the city and suburbs. Financially they had met their obligations, and made well deserved increases in the salaries of the teachers. An advance had been made in the training of students, the course for whom had been increased to three years. That year they had 29 students in training, and 12 new students proposed to go into training next year. (Applause.)

Miss Doris A. Beeston (general secretary), presented the report of the executive committee.

The report stated that the personnel of the committee had remained practically unchanged. Mrs. Hugh Davis was granted a year's leave of absence, and Mrs. E. Daw had consented to fill the vacancy. Unfortunately Mrs. Kiek was obliged to resign. The committee was glad to welcome Miss Dora Muecke on her return from abroad. They were grateful to the President (Dr. McKellar Stewart), who had shown such interest in the work during the year. The union had a new kindergarten in Cairns street, Adelaide, which would be called the Keith Sheridan Free Kindergarten. In lieu of Halifax Street Kindergarten. That was made possible through the Keith Sheridan bequest of £2,000. They hoped within the next year to have a building for the Bowden kindergarten. Negotiations took place with the Keith Sheridan Institute committee with respect to the holding of a free kindergarten in the institute, McKinnon parade, North Adelaide, and as a result a new kindergarten was established. That was made possible mainly through the efforts of Mrs. Hugh Davis, who approached the Government for an extra grant of £100 per annum for that particular centre, and to Mrs. A. C. Macdonald, and Miss King agreed to be responsible for petty expenses and for forming a strong committee, which had a mortgage of £200. The committee felt that the work of the union had been strengthened by what would surely become a flourishing and important centre. The finance committee had been able to meet all expenses for the year, and also recommend an increase in the salaries of the principals, making them on a level with those received in other States. Efforts for raising money had been held during the year, one being a very successful queen competition, which realized the sum of £137 7/6. All the free kindergartens took part and at a social evening the "Little Citizens' Kindergarten" topped the poll by 6,461 votes. The laryngic display given by Miss Heather Gell realized more than £50 for the funds of the union. A special effort was the "snowball tea" scheme, which had only realized about half of what was anticipated financially, the amount to date being £812 8/7. That scheme had been the means of bringing the union before the notice of many people, so widening interest in the work. The committee was deeply grateful to the hundreds of hostesses who had helped with the teas. The children's demonstration held at the Exhibition Building in June, was a very successful one. A special work of thanks is due to the principals, directors, Mrs. Dunn, Miss Ruit and students, who spared no effort to promote the success of the undertaking. The afternoon tea (convened by Mrs. Macdonald) was well organized, and all who helped were to be congratulated on the success achieved. The committee thanked the many friends who had helped with the work, including the executors of the Keith Sheridan Estate for the bequest of £2,000, the Government for the grant of £1,100, and the Post Adelaide Racing Club for various donations. The committee desired to record appreciation of the excellent services of the kindergarten staff during the year, and also of the work accomplished by the Mothers' Clubs.

Mr. Wallace Bruce, in moving the adoption of the report, paid a tribute to the valued services of the President, the officers, and staff. He felt that the success which had already been achieved in the work would be a forerunner to its extension to other parts of the city and suburbs.

"A Healthy Spirit."

Dr. Mildred Mocatta seconded. She said that the kindergarten system was building up a healthy spirit among the young. The appointments were of the best; in fact, she had not seen anything to exceed them in Australia. She was satisfied that the present method of training at the free kindergarten was of great benefit. It relieved, instead of increased, the mental strain of the children, and helped to equip them for the future.

The report was adopted. Miss Dorothy H. King read the report of the principals, which disclosed very encouraging results. References were made to the growth of the work, the training course for students, the bursary fund, the college hostel, and other activities.

The reports of the free kindergartens embraced those at Franklin street, Bowden, Grey Ward, Halifax street, Gayton, Little Citizens' (North Adelaide), and Lower North Adelaide.

The financial statement was submitted by Mr. D. H. Hollidge, M.A.

Election of Officers.

On the motion of Miss D. Gillan, M.A., seconded by the Rev. W. B. Dicker, M.A., the following officers were elected:—Patroness, Lady Bridges; President, Dr. McKellar Stewart; Vice-Presidents, Lady Moulden, Sir Langdon Bonython, Mr. W. T. McCoy, B.A. (Director of Education), executive committee, Mesdames Hulbe, A. C. Macdonald, E. Daw, C. E. Dalling, Miss L. Bonython, Pooler, H. V. Munn, Mrs. D. Muecke, the Rev. G. H. Wright, Messrs. D. H. Hollidge, and J. P. Morice; Honorary Organizer and Secretary, Mrs. J. P. Morice; Honorary Treasurer, Mr. E. A. Anstey; Honorary Physician, Dr. Mildred Mocatta; Trustees, Messrs. Morice and Hollidge; Seal Holder, Mr. Morice; Honorary Auditor, Mr. A. V. Mitton; Honorary Solicitors, Messrs. Grundy, Pelly, and Hardy.

CONTINUED
PSYCHOLOGICAL SIDELIGHTS.

DR. GARNETT'S LECTURE.

At the second of a series of four public lectures in the Prince of Wales Theatre, University of Adelaide, on Tuesday evening, Dr. H. C. Garnett spoke on "Some psychological sidelights." Dr. Garnett picked out a few points in everyday experience to show how psychology threw a good deal of light on to them. Immigration was an example. While intending settlers were subjected to a physical examination, it was curious that no demands were made as to their mental equipment. There was, therefore, no adequate means of keeping out the mentally deficient. That limitation was the more serious because mental deficiency was always hereditary, and mental deficients always tended to multiply more rapidly than ordinary people. From the fact that a recent examination of children in the London schools indicated that 4 per cent. of the school population was mentally deficient, or near, one could reasonably suppose that quite a considerable number of mentally deficients would emigrate to Australia from Great Britain. Psychological tests had developed well beyond the experimental stage, and were largely used in commercial and military life in the United States of America. It should be easily possible to establish a centre for such tests on intending immigrants which, while maintaining a uniform standard, could be so varied as to make "coaching" impossible, and which could be applied in about 20 minutes to half an hour by trained clerks under the guidance of a psychologist. Such an institution would effectively remedy the undesirable element in the Mediterranean immigration. Judging by the proportion found to be deficient, or near deficient, among immigrants to the United States to whom the army tests were applied, from 55 to 70 per cent. of southern European and Slavonic immigrants would fail.

Psychology also threw an interesting sidelight on conceit and bashfulness. The idea of the self was formed at about the fourth year in a child's life, and remained with him throughout his lifetime. If the child were unduly admired or praised when young it gave rise to the idea in the child's mind of superiority. Future experience was powerless to modify that impression after it had become a subconscious thought habit. That was the explanation of conceit. An overbearing attitude towards a child tended to produce an "inferiority complex," which, in turn, would give rise to the idea of subjection when in contact with others. The explained bashfulness.

The saying that "It is more blessed to give than to receive" also had a certain psychological significance, for, while pleasures came from the satisfaction of instincts, joys came from the satisfaction of affections. Affections were habits of feelings, and habits were made by actions. Actions, in the first place, were promoted by instinct. Affection was cultivated by doing affectionate acts or, in other words, by giving; and the more widely one gave, therefore, the stronger would be the affections and the greater one's capacity for joy in life.

ADV. 28.10.25
A UNIVERSITY SENATE.

STUDENTS ASK FOR REPRESENTATION.

Sydney, October 27. A deputation of students from the University to-day waited on the Minister of Education (Mr. Mutch), and complained that the Senate of the University had exercised autocratic powers. They asked that students should be represented in the Senate.

The students stated that five deans, ex officio members of the Senate, decided before each meeting what was to be done, and the Senate passively accepted their decisions.

The Minister promised to bring the matter before the Cabinet.

ADV. 26.10.25
THE ENNIS MEMORIAL.

The memorial to Professor J. Matthew Ennis, and Mrs. Ennis, which has been reared in the West-terrace Cemetery, was yesterday afternoon viewed by members of the committee and subscribers. Mr. S. Gould (chairman of the committee), and Mr. F. Bevan (representing the Conservatorium) met the subscribers at the cemetery gate and conducted them to the memorial. The gathering was of an informal character, and was intended to give an opportunity to those who had taken an interest in the movement to see the completed work. General satisfaction was expressed with the memorial, the design and workmanship being considered admirable.

Professor McKellar Stewart was re-elected President of the Kindergarten Union of South Australia at the annual meeting of that body on Tuesday. Tributes were paid to his past services in that capacity.

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