

Mail 8-8-25

STOPPING THE LEAKS

Public Service Economy

NOVEL GOVERNMENT SCHEME

To try and tighten up the efficiency of the public service, the Gunn Government has created a new position. The Public Service Commissioner's Department now has an investigating officer. Mr. J. W. Wainwright, B.A., A.I.C.A., was appointed to this position on March 4, 1925.

The public service of South Australia could be likened to a ship. General opinion is that it is a leaky vessel. The present Government evidently believes that public opinion is not wide of the mark. It hit upon the novel idea of appointing an officer to act for it as a caulker of public service leaks. Mr. Wainwright was chosen to act as the instrument of the Government.

According to Mr. John Gunn (Premier) it has already been proved that the creation of an investigating officer was justified. "The idea was," the Premier explained, "to appoint an officer to investigate matters appertaining to the public service. Through him, it was hoped that information would be gathered which would enable the Government to effect economies, and avoid waste."

Mr. Wainwright, with the co-operation of officers of the service, has been able to help the Government, and has rendered very valuable assistance. He has conducted departmental investigations, having just completed his report on the Forestry Department, assisted in the Gas Enquiry, and is now engaged on the Thousand Homes Enquiry.

QUALIFIED OFFICER

The Government was fortunate in having a civil servant with qualifications suited to carry out its idea. Mr. J. W. Wainwright was born in 1880, and educated at Naracoorte, and Eudunda schools, and the Adelaide High School. Subsequently at the University of Adelaide he took the degree of Bachelor of Arts. He is also Associate of the Commonwealth Institute of Accountants.

After working as a school teacher in the Education Department, and later on in the clothing manufacturing trade, he joined the State Audit Office as a clerk in 1900. In 1916, he was made an audit inspector, and the official designation of his position today is Inspector in the Audit Department, and Investigating Officer in Public Service Commissioner's Department. He is also a member of the Municipal Tramways Trust.

Mr. Wainwright explained his new position. "I am only the machine which puts the ideas of the Government into action," he said. "Without the co-operation of officers of departments I would be useless. My position puts me in a position to obtain the assistance of those expert officers in the service who have knowledge of the particular subject being investigated. The help of any officer from office boy to head of departments is available to me, and, if the investigation is a success, and brings about some economy, the credit does not belong to the investigator, but to the officers of the public service who loyally assist him in his work."

"The Government, or the Public Service Commissioner says what I shall investigate. Since I began my new work I have found public servants remarkably eager to help in any scheme calculated to make the service more efficient."

REG. 10-8-25

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

To-night in the Elder Hall the 9th concert of the present season will be given by members of the Conservatorium staff. There is promised a delightful and interesting variety of vocal and instrumental items which should not only be extremely enjoyable, but thoroughly instructive. The programme includes works by Dohnanyi, Chopin, Saint-Saens, Leschetutsky, Moskowski, De Bussey, &c. As the plan is filling very rapidly, intending patrons would be well advised to take the opportunity of reserving their seats, which may be done without extra charge at S. Marshall & Sons.

NEWS. 10-8-25

Members of the Adelaide University Shakespeare Society and their friends will give a musical and dramatic evening at the University on Thursday evening, August 20, at 8 o'clock.

NEWS. 10-8-25

VERSATILE LECTURER

Farewell to Dr. Heaton

For one and a half hours on Saturday night the praises of Dr. Herbert Heaton (lecturer in economics at the Adelaide University and Director of the Workers' Education Association) were recited at the Stow Hall.

So thoroughly did the speakers cover the field that Professor Darnley Naylor, who was one of the last of them, said there was not one virtue left for him to dilate upon.

One student who was called upon late in the evening to speak asked whether it were a conspiracy to kill the doctor with words.

The occasion was a farewell by the Workers' Education Association to Dr. Heaton, who is leaving to take the Chair of Economics at Queen's University, Kingston, Canada. In 1917 the doctor came here from Hobart to establish the association, and in eight years that have intervened he has seen it grow until now it has a membership of more than 1,000.

From the flood of oratory it was apparent that if the speakers were invited to write the doctor a testimonial they would all dwell upon his versatility. He can, said one of his admirers, make a frame for a picture with the best tradesmen; he can make a brick fireplace; when the electric light fuses he knows what to do; he is the greatest reader in Adelaide of modern novels; he can dry dishes and put children to bed, and he could occupy with credit a chair of economics, history, or literature at any University where English is spoken.

But it was on his teaching of economics that the greatest emphasis was made. One speaker in his enthusiasm said that the doctor was the second greatest economist in the world. Mr. A. L. G. McKay, who is also a lecturer in economics at the University, expressed the opinion of the gathering more accurately when he said that there were two great economists in Australia—Professor Irvine, of Sydney University, and Dr. Heaton, of Adelaide.

The aim of a professor must always be to throw off the shackles of prejudice, then to examine the subjects from all its angles, and, having reached what he believes to be the truth, to state it clearly. That is what Dr. Heaton has tried to do. One speaker remarked that he had been so successful that he was able to state the case as completely for the Conservatives as would a Birkenhead, and then to go to the side of the Socialists and achieve as much success as would a Ramsay MacDonald. But the doctor has done more. He has mixed with his lecture the spice of humor, and intricate subjects, such as foreign exchange, have been made attractive.

If he has been so successful why is South Australia allowing him to go? Several of the speakers hinted that the truths he told were not acceptable to some members of the University Council. The trouble, it was said, dated back to the time when he delivered a lecture on Bolshevism. Mr. A. J. Roberts (president of the Workers' Education Association) said he felt very strongly about it.

Dr. Heaton is leaving the sunshine of South Australia for the ice and snow of Canada. But, according to Professor Darnley Naylor, residence in Canada will have its advantages. The doctor will be a day's journey from New York and Chicago, but, what is of more interest, he will be within a week of his native Yorkshire and of London.

"And," concluded Professor Darnley Naylor, "as Mr. Woodruff, the Oxford debater, said in Ballarat, 'a word in the Strand is worth two in the bush.'"

Dr. Heaton is arranging to leave Adelaide on Friday.

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PROFESSOR COLEMAN PHILLIPSON, former Professor of Law at the University, who sailed for England on Thursday by the Naldora.

NEWS. 6-8-25

SCIENTIFIC WHEAT PRODUCTION

If any business man were shown that he could, with little extra cost and without having to increase his capital, treble his output, how eagerly would he adopt the new method. That is what Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute) has done for the wheatgrowers of this State, and it must be hoped that they will profit by it.

Wheatgrowing in South Australia has been conducted for the most part on a plough, harrow, sow, and reap basis, very necessary operations, but requiring something more to secure the best results. It is necessary for the wheatgrower to ascertain the chemical character of the ground he cultivates, the type of wheat most suited to it, and the class of fertiliser which ensures the best return. These methods will involve but little increased expenditure, but will, as Dr. Richardson points out, yield three times as many bushels to the acre.

There is a striking relation between the rainfall and the yield. In South Australia improving methods have raised the production from half a bushel an acre for every inch of rainfall to nearly a bushel. But in Victoria at the Longerenong Agricultural College and at Nhill, where the Agricultural Society has conducted competitions for the best crop in the district for 25 years, the yield has been raised to 3.48 bushels an acre for every inch of rainfall.

Results like that demonstrate what can be done by the application of scientific methods to the growing of wheat. It is an amazing object lesson, and if properly utilised would remove much of the hardship which the farmer lays at the door of the tariff.

Dr. Richardson stresses the fact that to obtain throughout the State the results he indicates education is necessary, and he relates the highly satisfactory results which have been obtained by America's liberal outlay on agricultural education. In Australia there has been a poor response to the facilities provided for agricultural education, but perhaps when the information which the lecture of Dr. Richardson affords is more generally known the farmers will awaken to the profit possibilities of scientific cultivation.

Every man on the land should have a copy of the lecture in his hands that he may learn what great results flow from the application of science to agriculture. It may stimulate that love for agriculture which is essential before a national agricultural sentiment is developed in South Australia.

Profit is the great incentive in all industries, and the 300 per cent. advance which Dr. Richardson indicates should give a powerful filip to the activities of the man on the land.

NEWS. 10-8-25

Professor Wilton Returns

By the Chitral, which arrived at Outer Harbor yesterday, Professor and Mrs. J. R. Wilton returned to South Australia after an absence of six months in Britain.

Seen this morning in his room at the Adelaide University, where he is professor of mathematics, he was contemplating a huge pile of books, pamphlets, and the like which had accumulated during his absence and which awaited his perusal.

"Our trip was purely a holiday one," said the professor. "We did not go out of England, but spent our time visiting friends and relations in different parts. I did hope to get some work done, but it was of no avail."

Before coming to Adelaide Professor Wilton was lecturer in mathematics at the Sheffield University, and he said that he visited his former sphere of work, but as it was university vacation time he did not see his one-time colleagues.

"I certainly did attend two meetings of the London Mathematical Society," he said, "but really the only official gathering at which I was present was the annual meeting of the Society of Friends at Scarborough, in Yorkshire. Both my wife and I are members, and we were two of the delegates appointed from Australia."

"There were about 1,500 delegates present from many countries, including Germany, Austria, Holland, France, Australia, and New Zealand. The membership of the society remains about stationary, although it has increased on the Continent since the war. My wife and I addressed the meetings on the condition of the society in South Australia."

Professor Wilton was loud in his praises of English roads. "We did a great deal of motoring in Essex, Cornwall, and other counties, and the countryside was beautiful. June was a wonderful month, and there was only one day on which it rained. This unusual state of things was much appreciated by everyone, as the previous summer had belied its name by continual dull weather."

Five years ago Professor Wilton visited Britain. He said that he noticed few changes.

REG. 7-8-25

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM.

On Monday evening in the Elder Hall, the ninth concert of the present season will be held. An excellent programme by members of the Conservatorium staff has been arranged. It includes an exceedingly interesting number of vocal and instrumental items, among which will be Dohnanyi's sonata, opus 21, for violin and piano, by Miss Sylvia Whittington and Mr. George Pearce; Chopin's Scherzo in C sharp minor, for the pianoforte, by Mr. William Silver; a bracket of three songs, by Hugo Wolf, will be sung by Mr. Clive Carey; two violin solos will be played by Mr. Charles Schilsky, accompanied by Miss Alice Meegan; a group of pianoforte solos will be rendered by Miss Maude Puddy, and two Debussy compositions arranged for the 'cello, will be played by Mr. Harold Parsons, accompanied on the organ by Mr. Harold Wyde. Plan at S. Marshall & Sons, Gawler place.

NEWS. 8-8-25

Messrs. Basil Harford, G. Parry, E. Griff, and D. P. McGuire, have been selected to represent the Adelaide University at the inter-University debates which will be held in Sydney from August 20 to August 25. In the first debate the Adelaide team will oppose Queensland on the subject of whether the entry of women into professional and political life is to be deplored. Should it lose it will meet either Melbourne or Sydney on "The Capital Levy," and if it wins it will argue with either of these teams on whether Australia should look to America rather than Great Britain for support in her external policy. The Adelaide representatives will probably leave for Sydney on August 17.

REG. 10-8-25

Professor J. R. Wilton, of the Adelaide University, returned from England by the R.M.S. Chitral on Sunday, after an absence from Australia of about six months. Mr. Wilton, who was accompanied by Mrs. Wilton, took the opportunity while in England to visit several friends and relatives, and during the last week in May he attended a yearly meeting of the Society of Friends at Scarborough.