

14—Mr. Geoffrey Harry, LL.B.

Mr. Geoffrey Courtenay Harry, who graduated Bachelor of Laws at the University of Adelaide in November, was born in Perth and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. O. Hamilton Harry, of College Park, South Australia.

At an early age he went to Melbourne and received his preliminary education and received his preliminary education at Adwalton Preparatory Grammar School, Malvern. In 1917 Mr. Harry came to Adelaide with his parents and entered St. Peter's College. He left there at the end of 1921 and entered on his law course at the University.

While at St. Peter's Mr. Harry passed the Junior Public examination in 1918, the Senior Public in 1919, and the Higher Public in 1920 and again in 1921. While at school and at the University he took part in football and cricket, and is interested in music, tennis, and swimming.



MR. GEOFFREY HARRY, LL.B. who graduated Bachelor of Laws in November, and is now studying for the degree of Master of Laws.

Mr. Harry was a member of the committee of the Law School Debating Society, and was one of the team which represented Adelaide in the Inter-University Debating Contests in Sydney in September last. Mr. Harry was admitted as a practitioner of the Supreme Court in December.

He was articled to Mr. C. R. Cudmore of Messrs. Symon, Mayo, Murray, and Cudmore, and is continuing to practice as a member of the staff of that firm. Mr. Harry intends to continue his University studies with a view to obtaining his Master's degree in laws.

FORESTRY.

The Need for a Wider Vision.

III.—By E. Anthony, M.P.

The education of the public to a realization of the value of forests, and of the evils resulting from their destruction is slowly but surely creating in the public mind what might be termed a forest consciousness. Years of persistent propaganda were necessary to break down the prejudice that existed—and in some quarters still exists—against the trained forester.

Forestry is now recognised as a profession, demanding of its students a long and careful scientific training and study. The mischief wrought by years of public apathy and negligence cannot be readily overtaken. So overwhelming, however, is the evidence of the value of afforestation to national prosperity that the selection of suitable men to carry on this important work is most necessary. Until recently, it was South Australia's proud boast that she possessed the only forestry school in the Commonwealth. From this school graduated most of the foremost foresters in Australia, all of whom are occupying high and responsible positions in the various forest services of the Commonwealth. These men, with their wide knowledge of Australian conditions based upon deep knowledge of their subject, are, with the limited means at their disposal, laying a sound foundation upon which it is hoped will be erected a superstructure of sound and progressive forest efficiency.

The Fire Menace.

There are tremendous difficulties to contend with, none more serious than the everlasting menace of fire, which in spite of every precaution sweeps in devastating violence through plantations doing incalculable damage and causing heavy losses to the community. Year by year the system of breaks, paths, and fire patrols is extended and improved, but most of the damage is traceable to the holders of miscellaneous leases, who, on payment of 30/ per annum, may take up 500 acres of low-class land, on which they graze a few head of cattle. The practice among these people is to deliberately burn these areas every year to improve the feed, and in so doing almost invariably they set ablaze the whole countryside, destroying miles of their neighbours' fences, and in many cases endangering the homesteads of the settlers. In the circumstances it would be wise economy on the part of the Government to cancel all such leases and have the areas included in forest reserves. The chief solution of this fire menace undoubtedly lies in the formation of a strong public opinion upon the subject, which would discourage people in shielding fire-lighters, and render the culprits fearful of their malice and thoughtlessness. It would assist materially also, if the grazing over all timbered Crown lands were placed under responsible forest control.

Encouragement of Private Enterprise.

Although it is generally conceded that, owing to the lengthy period which elapses between the planting and harvesting of a forest crop, forestry is a national duty, nevertheless, if encouraged, private enterprise can do much to augment the timber supply. In New Zealand during 1924-25 several tree-planting companies, organized for the planting and growing timber crops, embarked on planting projects involving ultimately at least 30,000 acres. The sum total of new private and company plantations and shelter belts is about 9,000 acres. A total of 1,600 acres of artificial forests was formed by borough and county councils and power boards. The method first adopted by the Dominion for inducing the planting of forest trees for production of timber was by means of "land grants"—a settler being given a free grant of land if he planted a certain portion of land with suitable trees. Several large plantations were established under this system in Canterbury, from which excellent returns have since been obtained by milling. The Government also assists by a reduction of rent to Crown Land tenants planting trees upon their land, and by granting subsidies to local bodies to aid in tree-planting schemes, and by remission of taxation on new plantations.

Under the New Zealand system of forest taxation, growing plantations are particularly favoured, for their value does not enter into either the capital value of the land, the unimproved value, or the improvements; and is therefore liable for neither land tax nor local rates. Expenditure of capital or labour on tree-planting

is not included in valuations made by the Valuation Department. In assessing profits for income tax purposes, full allowance is made for both the original cost of forming plantations, and the annual maintenance charges; thus only the net receipts are subject to income tax. In effect, the growing timber itself is exempt from all forms of taxation, until it is actually sold either in the log or as timber or firewood. Under conditions as quoted a tremendous impetus might be given to tree-planting in this State, and the agriculturist and others, many of whom are anxious, even at the risk of sacrificing necessary shelter for their stock, in order to obtain the last grain of wheat, if offered such an inducement, might be persuaded to establish plantations of their own, and thereby add much to the beauty of a countryside, whose barrenness is for miles unrelieved by even the slightest vegetation.

"A Long Way to Go."

The New Zealand State Forest Service renders every possible assistance to the private planter. In the first place, planting stock from the State nurseries is supplied to him at a reasonable figure. Advice and assistance is also freely given either by correspondence or by lectures and addresses by forest officers. The department also undertakes, without cost, the examination of areas and the preparation of planting places at cost price to the service, and lastly, the department undertakes to superintend the actual planting operations. It will be seen that South Australia has a long way to go in order to bring herself into line with the liberal treatment of the Dominion Government. A wider vision is undoubtedly necessary in regard to what should be a great national question.

Encouraging Signs.

The press has earned the thanks of the community for its persistent endeavour to place forestry upon the map, and in placing the subject before public notice in such a way that its proper importance may be realized. Such excellent propaganda has been supported from time to time by displays of our local woods. All this is having the desired effect, and forestry is now the theme of discussion in circles where, until recently, no interest whatever has been displayed. It is significant, too, that for the first time a separate section for forestry has been established in the recent Pan-Pacific Science Congress. All these are encouraging signs, for progress is only possible in the cause of afforestation when backed by an influential and enlightened body of public opinion. Abundant evidence is to hand that forestry conducted upon scientific lines is commercially sound, for innumerable other reasons it is a great national necessity, if not for the satisfaction of our own needs, at least for the benefit of the coming generation. The reclamation of waste lands, the preservation of our watersheds, and the planting of the denuded areas of our State are a national duty. The representatives of 40 nations will meet at Milan on April 12 to discuss this important question. To this congress New South Wales and Victoria are sending representatives; it is to be hoped that our own State will also be ably represented.

SCIENCE AND THE SAILOR.

Sir W. Bragg's Lecture to Children.

Sir William Bragg recently gave the first of six lectures arranged for boys and girls at the Royal Institution, Albemarle street, London. While children formed a large section of the audience at the opening lecture, the subject, "The trade of the sailor," attracted many adults.

Having pointed out that it was a hundred years ago that the course of lectures was started, Sir William Bragg said, when he thought of what to talk about on the 100th anniversary, his mind went back to the original intentions of the Royal Institution, which were that it should be a place where scientific men, manufacturers, and workpeople should try to improve the methods of doing things. Having explained that Sir Humphry Davy made it more a place of research where original experiments were carried out, he said he thought they might take the subject of the application of knowledge to trades. Since the war a great deal of work had been done in that direction all over England to improve the methods of manufacture. It had been his good fortune during recent years to meet many of those who were carrying out researches in connection with various trades and industries, and he had been greatly impressed by the interest and variety of the many problems with which they were dealing.

Astrolabe and Other Devices.

After this introduction, Sir William entered into the trade of the sailor, which he thought was a very suitable subject for the first lecture, because, he said, the application of knowledge had made such changes in it; and also because the needs of the trade had led England to the founding of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich and in general to the growth of astronomy. The children listened intently as the lecturer described the difficulties of early mariners in uncharted seas. He explained how, when ships first ventured far away from land, even with the aid of the magnetic compass, they could be in distress through ignorance of their actual position. As late as the eighteenth century, he said, Anson in his voyage round the world could be in such error as to find himself some time after rounding Cape Horn quite close to the land when he thought he was 10 degrees to the west of it. Latitude, he added, could be found with fair accuracy; it was the longitude that was so difficult to find. Sir William then demonstrated how the latitude was found, and how the cross staff, one of the oldest of instruments, the astrolabe, and the sextant were in their turn used for the purposes of navigation. In order to make his explanation clear to the juvenile mind, he called to his aid a brilliant electric light fixed high in the hall to represent the sun and a large globe on the platform representing the world. He said the astrolabe which he was using was found on a rock on the Island of Alentis, off the coast of Ireland, and it was supposed to have belonged to a ship of the Spanish Armada.

A Famous Watch.

After listening to the difficulties experienced in finding the longitude, the children were much interested in the story which Sir William told of how, when Isaac Newton gave evidence before a Parliamentary committee in 1714, he suggested that the movement of the moon among the stars might be used to correlate time with that of Greenwich, and the Greenwich Observatory was founded for that purpose; or that the problem might be solved by the construction of a watch more perfect than any yet made. Sir William showed some old clocks and explained their working, and described how Parliament offered £20,000 for a watch that would not go wrong by more than two minutes in a six week's voyage, and how the prize was won by John Harrison, the Yorkshire carpenter. To the delight of the children the lecturer showed lantern slides of this famous watch, the precursor of the modern chronometer. The lecturer explained the use of the gyrostal in navigation, and with the aid of a large model of a ship showed how cables laid on the sea bed and fed with an alternating current of electricity could guide a ship in shallow water. He referred to the wonders of wireless, and also described how the use of the sound echo could determine the depth of water below a ship even when she was moving rapidly.

BRILLIANT ENGINEER

Mr. Rowland Robin Returning

A brilliant young South Australian engineer, Mr. Rowland Cuthbert Robin, will shortly return to Adelaide from America.

Mr. Robin, who is a son of Mr. Rowland B. Robin, of Edwin terrace, Gilberton, was educated at the Pulteney Street School and St. Peter's College. He won a scholarship and went on to the Adelaide University, where he obtained his Bachelor of Engineering degree in 1920. In December, 1921, as a reward for a thesis on arch-designing he was awarded the Angus Engineering Scholarship. His thesis was so highly regarded by the engineering profession that it was published in full in the journal of the Australian Institute of Engineers. The method he suggested of dealing with arches was adopted with success in Sydney.

Recently the South Australian Government called for applications for the position of structural draftsman in the department of the Engineer-in-Chief. Mr. Robin was the successful applicant.

Mr. Robin has been absent from Australia for more than four years, during which time he has been employed in Liverpool (England), and latterly with Messrs. Stone and Webster, engineers, of Philadelphia. Prior to leaving South Australia he was employed for some time on the irrigation construction works at Neath, on the River Murray.

Mr. Robin, who is 26 years of age, is a brother of the late Mr. P. Robin, former well-known Norwood footballer, and Miss R. Robin (secretary of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals).

The Cambridge University has conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Sir Edgeworth David, Professor of Geology and Physical Geography at the Sydney University, according to a message from "The Times," London. Sir Edgeworth is recognised as the greatest living authority on Australian geology.



MR. R. C. ROBIN, B.E. brilliant South Australian engineer, who has been appointed structural draftsman in the Engineer-in-Chief's Department.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS.

OFFERED TO AUSTRALIA.

LONDON, February 10.

The International Federation of University Women is awarding two research fellowships of £500 each to be held in Australia during 1927. The fellowships will be used for a year of research work in biology, anthropology, economics, or colonial history.