

NEW ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Mr. Latham, of Victoria N. 21 CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY

Following an interview he had with the Governor-General at Government House, Mr. Bruce (Prime Minister) announced that Sir Littleton Groom (Federal Attorney-General) had resigned. Mr. Bruce said that Mr. J. G. Latham, the member for Kooyong, had been sworn in by Lord Stokenhava as the new Attorney-General.

MR. J. G. LATHAM who has been appointed Attorney-General in succession to Sir Littleton Groom.

The ceremony was brief, and Mr. Bruce left Government House accompanied by Mr. Latham. Subsequently Mr. Bruce said that Sir Littleton had tendered his resignation on the ground that he had held responsible positions in many different Governments over a long period of years, and desired to be relieved of the responsibilities of office. He had, however, continued in office until after the election, but as the Government had been returned with such an overwhelming majority he had taken the opportunity of retiring into a quieter and less arduous life.

Mr. Bruce said that personally he much regretted to lose the services of such an able man as Sir Littleton, but he recognized that after such a long period of service to the Commonwealth the Attorney-General was entitled to a period of rest. It was most fortunate that the Government was able to secure the services of such an able man as Mr. Latham to fill the vacancy. Sir Littleton Groom is one of the six remaining members who have sat in every Parliament since Federation. He was first elected to the House of Representatives for Darling Downs in Queensland, on September 14, 1901, in place of his father, Mr. W. H. Groom, who died shortly after the opening of the first Federal Parliament. Subsequently Sir Littleton was re-elected as the general elections in 1903, 1906, 1910, 1914, 1919, 1922, and 1925.

At various times, Sir Littleton has held almost every portfolio. Mr. Latham, the new Attorney-General, although well known as an authority on constitutional law for many years, first came into prominence politically when he headed the Kooyong party from Sir Robert Bostwick in 1922 elections. Mr. Latham accompanied Sir Joseph Cook, Federation, when he did a great deal of work on diplomatic committees in connection with the Peace Conference.

Adv. 4-1-26 PROFITABLE HOLIDAYS.

Although many students of the University look forward to the present vacation as an occasion when they will enjoy a holiday, there are others who seek employment without delay to obtain actual extra money, or to obtain actual extra money, or to obtain actual extra money...

The headmaster of St. Peter's College (Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth) will leave by the R.M.S. Ormuz to-day on an extended visit to England and other countries. He will investigate closely modern education in Great Britain, and will visit many of the large public schools at home, and will enquire into the prevailing idea of what forms the basis of a liberal education. Special points of interest to him will be the return to Rugby, his old school, and St. Christ's Hospital, Horsham. Mr. Bickersteth will also enquire into the training in agricultural subjects which is being given to public school boys who intend to break his journey home to call at Egypt and visit Palestine and Italy, and will return to Adelaide at the end of next September.

Dr. A. E. V. Richardson (Director of the Waite Research Institute), accompanied by his wife and daughter, will leave for the Anchises to-day for a 12 months tour of the world. Dr. Richardson will spend a month in South Africa.

The Rev. K. J. F. Bickersteth, headmaster of St. Peter's College, who will leave for England on the R.M.S. Ormuz to-day, will, during his stay in Britain, apply himself to the study of current educational questions. He will pay a visit to Rugby, his old school, and will also visit Christ's Hospital, Horsham. He will enquire into the work being done in connection with the training in agricultural subjects of public schoolboys who desire to migrate to the Dominions. Mr. Bickersteth intends to break the journey in Egypt, where he will spend a fortnight, and meet members of his family. He expects to be absent about nine months.

Dr. A. E. V. Richardson, Professor of Agriculture and head of the Waite Research Institute, accompanied by Mrs. Richardson, will leave by the Anchises to-day to obtain first-hand knowledge of research work in agriculture in other countries and its application to South Australia.

On the completion of his visit to Australia, Sir Frank Heath (secretary of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in England) will depart for New Zealand, arriving there on February 2, and leaving on March 16.

RHODES TRUST.

Plans for Coming Year.

LONDON, December 30. The report of the Rhodes Trust for the academic year 1924-25 states:—"During the 12 months 63 Rhodes Scholars took up 185 Rhodes scholarships in residence—66 from the British Empire, and 89 from the United States of America; also 16 ex-scholars completed their term of scholarship, or went finally out of residence without completing it; and three ex-scholars are suspending residence temporarily. With 184 scholars in residence, there will be two more coming in residence. There will be also 15 ex-scholars. Three ex-scholars died during the year."

The Rhodes Trustees have purchased a site in Warrington College, upon which they will erect a building known as 'Rhodes House', to contain a hall for the annual dinners of the trust, an English language library, and a residence for the Oxford secretary. The structure will be built from designs by Mr. Herbert Baker, A.R.A.—Renter.

Adv. 4-1-26 UNIVERSITY DEBATING TOUR.

AUSTRALIA INCLUDED. LONDON, January 1. The Montclair, which sails for Canada to-morrow, will also be a debating university delegation, who are on a debating tour of Canada, New Zealand, and Australia. The group comprises Messrs. R. M. (Risingham), MacDonald (Edinburgh), Young (Oxford Union), and Reed (London). They will visit the University of Toronto, the Protocol, the Singapore Base, and the Western Civilisation Centre.

The fact that Australia imports nearly half of her requirements in timber renders the more deplorable the destruction of a few days ago of nine square miles of useful forest, with several homesteads, in the Rubicon Valley, Victoria. The loss is officially estimated at 240,000. Apparently the conflagration was due to reprehensible carelessness on the part of men engaged in clearing operations; but the actual causes of the mishap await discovery by a board of enquiry. The possibility of the destruction of valuable forests in this way necessitates the adoption of efficient fire preventive measures in country subject to hot winds and droughts; and plans for the reforestation of the Mount Lofty Ranges, as proposed by Sir Douglas Mawson and other scientists, would include a system of precautions and fire fighting methods which would greatly reduce, if not eliminate, the likelihood of such devastating outbreaks as have been witnessed occasionally in hot summer weather in the Hills within a short distance of Adelaide. All artificially propagated forests contain facilities for combating fires, and where there is capable supervision it is rare indeed that serious loss follows an accidental outbreak. In a valuable paper in 'The World's Work' for November, Mr. French Strother states that the occurrence of big forestry fires in the United States compelled the lumbermen and the "conservationists" to abate their mutual antagonisms, and to combine against the common enemy. Largely through the influence of the late Mr. Roosevelt, the nation was awakened to the fact that its inheritance in timber was being plundered by reckless lumbermen who had traversed the forests of the Lakes regions and the South like a swarm of devouring locusts, that they were attacking the last stands of virgin timber on the Pacific coast, and that soon vast regions might be left a treeless wilderness of eroded mountain slopes and torrential streams.

A policy of conservation was gradually formulated and put into practice. Consequently, America will be saved from forest exhaustion. During a transition period lumber will be relatively scarce and dear, but this will be succeeded by a permanent supply, probably equal to the demand. There was the fullest justification for the angry outcry against spoliation. The United States started its national career with \$22 million acres of virgin tree growth. Agriculturists uprooted and burned 150 million acres to clear land for farming. Pennsylvania, in 1860, was first in timber production; in 1900 she had stripped her forests, and since then had imported 80 per cent. of her timber. In 1870 Michigan was first in production; by 1910 she was partially dependent on the South for materials for her wood-working industries and once-prosperous countries had been depopulated of town dwellers and farmers alike, and had reverted to wilderness. Chicago was paying millions of dollars a year in extra freight charges on its timber from the Pacific Coast, all of its contiguous sources of supply having been depleted. Ten years ago only 138 million acres of forest were left, and these were in the least accessible parts of the South and West. Alarming pictures were drawn of the ruinous economic results of a timber famine. It was shown that the cutting-down of the trees was accompanied by the unwarranted butchery of the woodlands. Nearly half of every tree was discarded as not of merchantable size. Young trees were ruthlessly destroyed in the process of cutting out the biggest timber. The ground was left littered with waste and refuse. Then followed fire, and swept the tangled mass to destruction, reducing to ashes also the seed that lay in the soil beneath, so that the site of a once noble forest became a desert.

Congress and the Presidents, beginning with Cleveland, co-operated to proclaim forest sanctuaries by setting aside large areas of the public domain in the west as permanent reserves. Then the lumber men realized the wisdom of forwarding scientific schemes which would preserve their occupation indefinitely. A Government publication three years ago made a profound impression. In dispassionate language experts recorded a synopsis of all that was known about the original forest holdings, the history of their depletion, and an account of their present resources, and finally stressed the question, "Shall we continue to treat our forests as deposits of lumber to be mined and left desolate, or shall we put the industry upon the same basis as farming, considering trees as a crop like wheat, only of a longer maturing period, to be so harvested that the same soil may hold successive crops in perpetuity?" The idea that the industry might be saved by a "farming" process first took root in the South, where the problem was in its most acute phase. Experts found that the climate of the South, with its mild winters, long growing season, heavy rainfall, and high humidity, was especially favourable to forest growth. A second crop of trees of marketable dimensions could be grown in 40 years. Cutover lands could be restocked by leaving seedtrees at proper intervals, assisted by nursery plantings to fill up land to the densest profitable plantation. Annual thinnings after the first few years could be sold for pulp purposes to make cheap newspaper paper. By using improved machinery for logging and milling, many wastes could be turned into assets. As a result of study and practical experiments one important company recently announced that it had achieved a "perpetual operation" of its lands in Louisiana, and that this will mean the engagement of 4,000 workmen and mill hands at regular and profitable employment for generations to come. Other corporations are apparently satisfied that there may be established a profitable cycle of harvesting, planting, production, growth, thinning, and re-cutting. In order to encourage forestry some of the States are evincing a disposition to levy taxation on forest growth only when trees reach maturity. Many States are maintaining nurseries for the sale or gift of seedlings to landowners who will reforest treeless land. Several States have undertaken the purchase of forests, either for recreation grounds as in New York, or definitely as future sources of timber supply as in Pennsylvania, New York, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. The Forest Products Laboratory at Madison, Wisconsin, is performing excellent service by, among other things, testing woods for their chemical and mechanical qualities, and devising practical plans for conserving what has hitherto been extravagantly used or neglected or thrown away. In the preservation of woods from decay, the Laboratory has promulgated methods for greatly increasing the value of timber, while considerably lessening the demand for it. Australia may learn much from the United States upon this highly important subject of forestry.

Dr. E. W. Mackenzie, neurologist, at Glasgow University, will propose in the R.M.S. Ormuz to Australia, where he is proposed to work for a year or more. At a recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science Dr. Mackenzie said that surgery had reached a stage where it had become possible to splice severed nerves.

LEAVING EXAMINATION PASS LIST. The honors and pass lists of the leaving and leaving commercial examinations of the University of Adelaide will be found on another page. The latter also includes the medalists and the candidates from among whom the council will select the Great Scholars.