

JUDGE MITCHELL ILL

Bribery Commission Delayed

The condition of Judge Mitchell, who was taken ill on Saturday, was reported today to have slightly improved, but it will be some time before he can resume duties. He is in the Memorial Hospital.



JUDGE MITCHELL, who is in the Memorial Hospital.

For several months Judge Mitchell has been working arduously on the Bribery Commission, the sittings of which will be delayed until his recovery.

Old Songs

Folk songs are in the air, and the Folk Song and Dance Society had a successful evening in the Town Hall on the occasion of their first demonstration. Mr. Clive Carey was chief exponent with lecture, songs, and dances. There seems to be nothing he cannot do. The lecture part was a little too long, and the children's demonstration came rather late in the programme, a thing which should be rectified on future occasions, also more community songs should be introduced.

Seeing that community singing is well established, why should not more of the old songs be introduced in conjunction with some of the old dances? Originally they were the people's pastime, and a song and dance evening in the Town Hall once a month, or even once a quarter, could be made a delightful success. There are many elderly folk who never miss a sing-song. Personally, I should love to see them doing Sir Roger de Coverley up and down the Town Hall floor.

It has been said that in England there is a tendency to overdo the folk song and music of the Elizabethan period. Certainly, it could hardly be wished that the primitive music of our forefathers should oust the best product of modern thought, but folk music is now, as ever, not for the highbrows, but for the people who cannot successfully share in modern musical thought.

As a form of physical culture the dances are effective, and the cost of community gathering would be infinitesimal.

MAIL 25.9.26

Tomato Wilt

MELBOURNE, Today.

The council of scientific and industrial research will investigate the nature of a remedy for tomato wilt.

Senator G. F. Pearce (Vice-President of the Executive Council) said today that a special insect-proof glasshouse was to be erected at the Waite Institute, South Australia, where a qualified officer to be employed by the council, would be engaged.

The Chief Justice

Sir George Murray, Chief Justice and Lieutenant-Governor of South Australia, will celebrate his sixty-third birthday on Monday. Sir George is a bachelor and inherited wealth. He resides at Murray Park, Magill, where he was born. His father, the late Alexander Borthwick Murray, M.L.C. and pioneer pastoralist, laid out Murray Park in the early days. His Honor has a magnificent library at his home.

After winning the South Australian scholarship at Adelaide University in his twentieth year he proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he was bracketed senior in the law tripos and admitted to the B.A. and LL.B. degrees. Twelve years later he took the LL.M. degree at Cambridge. Meantime he had practised in Adelaide and won a high place in his profession. In May, 1912, he was



SIR GEORGE MURRAY

raised to the Supreme Court Bench, the first South Australian born to be so honored, as he had been the first graduate of Adelaide University to take silk.

Upon the death of Sir Samuel Way in January, 1916, Sir George became Chief Justice, Lieutenant-Governor, and Chancellor of the University. Quiet, of stately presence, dignified in bearing, with a hearty laugh and manifest good nature, the Chief impresses all. His Honor believes strongly in the educative influence of sport.

MAIL 25.9.26 DRAGONS OF KOMODO

No Doubt of Existence

PREHISTORIC MONSTERS STILL ALIVE

Giant animals which feed on live horses and spit vile odors like the legendary dragons of old, have been discovered living on the island of Komodo in the Dutch east Indies.

Prof. F. Wood Jones, of the Adelaide University says there is little doubt such creatures exist, but whether they are prehistoric dinosaurs or some huge species of iguana never before seen by scientists is not yet known.

When Mr. Alan Cobham landed in Australia he aroused sceptical comment by stating that he had seen two prehistoric reptiles in captivity at Bima, in the Dutch East Indies. In support of the statement of the noted British aviator a telegram was received this week from Darwin saying that a Sydney doctor had seen prehistoric dinosaurs living inside a palisade 40 feet high in one of the islands of the Dutch East Indies.

Quite Right

"Quite right!" When Prof. Wood Jones was shown this telegram he summed the position up tersely. "I was in New York recently," he continued, "and the New York Museum of Natural History had accepted the existence of a huge lizard-like animal on the Island of Komodo. There is little doubt as to the existence of such a creature, but whether it is a prehistoric dinosaur or some species of huge lizard up to now undiscovered is not yet known."

Komodo, the island upon which these strange, fierce creatures have been discovered, is in the Malay Archipelago. It is only thinly inhabited, rocky, and almost treeless, and the fact that it has practically no landing places has kept it isolated.

Upon the island wild ponies and boars abound, and it is upon these that the lizards of Komodo live. A description given of them is that they sometimes attain a length of 30 feet, live in caves, have long, yellow tongues, by which they can eject vile odors, and a scalloped crest on croup and tail. They are fierce and carnivorous, and attack their prey with tail, teeth, or claws.

Dragon Hunters

The existence of prehistoric animals upon Komodo has been reported from

time to time. About 14 years ago a Dutchman landed on the island and saw what he afterwards described as a dragon, and later two Dutchmen shot some small specimens, and saw larger ones. A collector from Java followed and shot a nine foot specimen, and then two Germans shot one which measured 16 feet. They put this creature, apparently dead, upon a lugger, but once aboard the lugger the dragon—unlike the maiden of fiction—was not theirs. It suddenly came to life, and breaking away disappeared.

The outbreak of war caused the dragons of Komodo to lapse into obscurity, and it is only recently that their existence has again been recorded. It is understood that an American expedition is actually upon its way to the island to investigate.

Dragons of Fairyland

From reports available it seems fairly certain that the mysterious creatures of Komodo are either prehistoric dinosaurs, or a modern animal closely allied to them. Reference to them by Cobham and others who have seen them as dragons strengthens the belief that they are dinosaurs, which were the dragons of old time, and come nearer to the mythical monsters of fairyland than any other animal, antediluvian or otherwise.

There were many kinds of dinosaurs, both herbivorous and carnivorous, the remains of which have been found in different places, including North America, Great Britain, Germany, and South Africa. The prehistoric species which appears to resemble most closely the reported dragons of Mr. Alan Cobham is that known as the Jurassic Dinosaur Stegosaurus. This creature had the crested back and tail of Mr. Cobham's dragons, and attained a length of something like 30 feet.

REG. 29.9.26 DOCTORS AT CANBERRA.

MELBOURNE, Tuesday.

The qualifications required for registration as a medical practitioner at Canberra and in the Federal Capital Territory are set out in an ordinance by the Federal health authorities, which will be gazetted. The qualifications required by the Medical Council of Great Britain have been largely adopted as the standard. The State qualifications do not apply at Canberra, and there is considerable variation in the requirements of different States.

NEWS 29.9.26

Mr. G. F. Holdaway, M.Sc., of Adelaide University, has left for America, where he will engage in scientific and industrial research work under the terms of the Science and Industry Endowment Act, passed by the Federal Parliament last session. By this legislation £100,000 was made available, from which income was to be applied to provide assistance for persons engaged in science research and in the training of students in this work. Mr. Holdaway is one of six specially qualified research students being sent abroad for training, and is the only one selected from Adelaide. Others are:—Messrs. J. R. Duggan, B.Sc., B.E., S. Garth'side, B.Sc., Agr., and H. E. Dadswell, B.Sc. (Sydney), L. J. Rogers, B.E., and J. E. Cummins, B.Sc. (Perth).

NEWS 29.9.26.

Mr. Bernard William Newman, of the Meteorological Department, after a highly successful career in this State has been promoted to the research staff in the central office, Melbourne. Applications for the position were invited from persons outside the department as well as those within, and the appointment of Mr. Newman is another honor to this State. He is the third officer from South Australia to be promoted to meteorologist. For nearly 10 years Mr. Newman has been under the guiding hand of Mr. E. Bromley (Divisional Meteorologist). He served the department as a clerk when a lad. When the officers were reclassified he was made a Grade 1 assistant, and recently he was promoted to Grade 2. The new position requires a man who is familiar with his work and possesses academic qualifications. On several occasions he relieved Mr. Bromley during the absence of the latter. Mr. Newman will not proceed to Melbourne for several weeks. He is 27 years of age

POEMS OF MORRIS.

LECTURE BY SIR ARCHIBALD STRONG.

The fifth annual meeting of the Optimists' Society of the Unitarian Christian Church, Wakefield street, was held at the church hall on Wednesday evening. The President (Rev. G. E. Hale) occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance.

Professor Sir Archibald Strong, in an instructive lecture on the poetic works of William Morris, said Morris, like Swinburne, Browning, and Ruskin, was born and brought up in a home which supplied him with leisure and comfort. In his case those advantages did not distract his youthful mind from literature, but rather supplied him with the opportunity for reading and thought. The love of the middle ages seemed to have been born in him, and among his toys was a little suit of armour in which he rode his pony in the park. Such an incident as that seemed to have a curious significance when they regarded the poetry of his later years.

He learned to read unusually young, and was already deep in the Waverley Novels at the age of four. In 1853 he proceeded to Exeter College, Oxford, where he became a close friend of the artist, Burne Jones, and was at first strongly influenced by the writings of both Ruskin and Tennyson. His outlook was widened by his reading of Browning and Chaucer, to the latter of whom he never, throughout his life, failed to express wholehearted allegiance. In the vacation of 1855 Morris went to London, and there for the first time met Dante Gabriel Rossetti, who exercised a profound influence on him. Rossetti encouraged him to paint, and he studied painting for a while with Burne Jones, in London. In 1858 he published his early volume of verse, "The Defence of Guinevere."

Four poems dealt with the Arthurian legend, and although they had not the large sweep and the rich colouring which they found in the Arthurian narrative of Malory, they had a peculiar grace and chastity of form, and even achieved an intensity of vision and an emotional poignancy which it would be difficult to find in any other modern rendering of the Arthurian story. There, again, Morris was wholly medieval in spirit. The poem entitled "The Chapel in Lyonesse" in that volume had an exquisite exercise of the poet's fancy. The chief remaining narrative poems in that volume were "Sir Peter Harpdon's End" and "The Haystack in the Flood," both of which had wonderful speed and strength. After the publication of the volume Morris lived for a while at the beautiful Red House, at Abbeywood. He subsequently went up to London, in 1861, and founded there the famous firm of Morris & Co., the activities of which were mainly directed toward domestic decoration.

During the years 1865-70 Morris wrote "The Earthly Paradise," but published "The life and death of Jason" separately in 1867. The lecturer gave an outline of the story forming the framework of the poem, and showed that it was entirely written in three of Chaucer's favourite metres. He gave extracts from such parts of it as "The hill of Venus" and "The lovers of Gudrun." The latter was a splendidly told tale. A tendency toward the epic was strengthened by his keen study of the old Icelandic language, and by the two visits which he made to Iceland about that period. The result was evident in his greatest work, "Sigurd the Volsung."

The greater part of that was written at the Manor House at Kelmscott, to which he moved in 1871, and where he was to live for 25 years. The hero of "Sigurd the Volsung" was familiar to lovers of Wagner, under the name of Siegfried. It was one of the great love stories of the world, and was throughout tragic and heroic. Morris did it full justice, telling his tale with an intensity that he had never compassed in "The earthly paradise." The lecturer read several passages from the poem to illustrate its beauty. The lecturer concluded with a general estimate of Morris's poetry, showing that in the practice of that, as of several other arts, he achieved a mastery which rendered him one of the greatest figures of the great Victorian age.

Sir Archibald Strong was heartily thanked for his very illustrating and informative lecture.

Miss Mignon Weston, who has been on leave of absence for three months, has resigned the position as secretary to the Elder Conservatorium and will leave shortly on a visit to relatives near Wilson Promontory, Victoria. Upon her return to Adelaide she will devote herself entirely to professional musical work. Miss Weston received her musical education at the Conservatorium, taking pianoforte, theory, and elocution as her chief subjects.

It is reported from Melbourne that Mr. N. Jolly, who is in charge of the Federal Forestry School at Adelaide University, has been appointed State Forest Commissioner in New South Wales at a salary of £1,500. Mr. Jolly has not received confirmation of the appointment.

NEWS 29.9.26

NEWS 30.9.26