

knowledge? How can education be made to emphasize the unity of life from cradle to grave, from one end of the social scale to the other, from east to west throughout the world?"

REG. 5-1-29

CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY

Hindmarsh's Claims Questioned

By A. Grenfell Price, M.A., F.R.G.S.

The Premier's suggestions for the celebration of the centenary of South Australia are admirable in outline and are receiving, as they deserve, the warmest support. But his more detailed proposal that the ceremony should centre around the dedication of a statue to the first Governor, Capt. Sir John Hindmarsh, and the pioneers, should not be adopted without considerable thought.

Hindmarsh was undoubtedly an "officer of character and ability" in his own profession, but his work in England before the expedition sailed, and his administration of the colony, were distinguished neither by ability nor by success. Indeed, at the end of 18 months, he was recalled, as quite unsuited to a very difficult position in which he had quarrelled with nearly all his officers, and the colony had made so little progress that it was face to face with ruin. Had Hindmarsh rendered to South Australia services such as those given by Philip in New South Wales or Stirling in Swan River, it would be fitting that the celebrations should centre around his name, but this is not the case. Moreover, no name in our history has been perpetuated by being attached to so many South Australian places, rivers, islands, and the like.

The statue to be erected should be, I submit, either an allegorical subject dedicated to the "Founders and Pioneers of South Australia," or a statue to the founder of South Australia, Edward Gibbon Wakefield, and inscribed with the names of other founders and the pioneers. Wakefield originated the whole South Australian movement, and was the chief leader in securing the South Australian Foundation Act of 1834, and although he has been honoured by a statue in Wellington for his similar work in founding New Zealand, he has received little recognition here. With his name should be inscribed those of Robert Gouger, who was secretary of the National Colonization Society and South Australian Association in England, and first Colonial Secretary in South Australia, thus doing a very large part of the public work; W. W. Whitmore, the chairman of the South Australian Association, who did much to secure the Foundation Act; Col. Robert Torrens, F.R.S., the chairman of the South Australian Commissioners, who carried out the practical work of foundation, and managed the province until 1840; and George Fife Angas, who established the South Australian Company, and was primarily responsible for the success of the colonization movement in business and financial circles. The names of the pioneers to be inscribed on the statue could be headed by the pioneer Governors, Hindmarsh, Gawler, and Grey, and by the first colonial officers, such as Sir James Hurtle Fisher, Robert Gouger, Sir G. S. Kingston, and Col. William Light. The general scheme and lists would require careful preparation, but this work would no doubt be performed by the historical memorials committee of the Royal Geographical Society of South Australia, and by the archives department of the Public Library.

The suggestion on the whole is a fine one, and will meet with great success, but it will be an irreparable mistake if the long-deferred opportunity of erecting a memorial to the great men who founded South Australia amidst many difficulties is sacrificed in favour of a statue to the gallant old sailor, who did comparatively little as a founder in England, and as a pioneer was recalled in 18 months because his administration was a lamentable fiasco.

DECIMAL SYSTEM THE DECIMAL SYSTEM.

Should Australia Adopt It?

Sir Mark Sheldon's Suggestion

While there is general agreement that the introduction of the decimal system to Australia would be advantageous in many ways, there is not the same unanimity concerning Sir Mark Sheldon's reported estimate of its benefit.

For example, Mr. F. G. Biaggini, a lecturer in economics at the Adelaide University, rather fears that Sir Mark, astute man of business that he is, was not correctly reported in Sydney on his statement that Australia was at a disadvantage of 15 or 20 per cent., compared with America and Canada, through not having adopted the decimal system.

"It possibly is true," states Mr. Biaggini, "that Australia is at a 15 or 20 per cent. disadvantage with the countries named; but I think it is an exaggeration to put that down wholly to lack of the decimal system, and I cannot imagine Sir Mark Sheldon saying that. The prosperity of a country depends upon so many factors that while the adoption of the decimal system here would undoubtedly be of assistance, it would be going too far to suggest that it would be the solution of all our problems. As to Sir Mark's statement that its introduction would result in the saving of 12 months in school-work, it is difficult to see just what he means to indicate. Does he mean a saving of 12 months in a mathematical course; or in schooling generally? No doubt there would be some saving; but I should think 12 months rather an optimistic estimate."

NOT A NEW SUGGESTION

Professor Wilton, of the Adelaide University, is loth to comment, and contents himself with the observation that the suggestion is not new. Such a scheme, he says, would have been put into operation years ago if it were practicable; but it involves such a big change that it is difficult to see how the changeover can be effected.

ENGLISH IRREGULARITIES

Dr. Charles Fenner (Superintendent of Technical Education) sees many advantages in the decimal system if it could be instituted in this country.

"We all know that our present system is based on irregularities," he states. "In the first place, the King's arm was a yard; and the furrow became a furlong, or furlong. These things were all indefinite, but they have become definite measures, and there are many complications. There are, for example, 13 1/2 square yards in one square perch, and 5 1/2 yards in a rod, and so on. We all remember how troublesome we found these things at school. Another point well worth considering is that motor importations from countries like America, where the decimal and metric systems are in operation, are to-day so great that if our apprentices are to get on, they must learn both the metric and foot rules, and we must teach them. For precision work, down to thousandths and ten thousandths, they must know the metric system. The question of adopting the decimal system in the schools has been discussed at conferences of Directors of Education again and again."

MAY COME SOON

Mr. H. G. Oliphent, another lecturer in economics, feels that the scheme suggested by Sir Mark Sheldon could be worked, but that whether it would do what he claims for it is another matter. Mr. Oliphent does not think, to begin with, that it would result in the saving of a year at school.

"There has been," he explains, "an agitation for a generation or more for the universal adoption of the metric system and the standardization of weights and measures; but with the British Empire standing out against it, it has not been possible to make it a world-wide affair. With the standardization of machinery and the stabilization of business, however, we may get uniformity in the matter in the near future. It would undoubtedly facilitate negotiations for loans, but I hardly think that we are at present at a disadvantage of 15 or 20 per cent. over it."

A SAVING OF TIME.

OPINION OF MR. W. T. McCOY

Sir Mark Sheldon, who recently returned to Sydney from a business tour of America, is a firm advocate of the decimal system of weights, measures, and money. He expressed the opinion that a year could be saved in the schools if the present complicated system of calculation had not to be studied.

When asked to express his views on the decimal system, the Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) stated on Saturday that the children of South Australia were being taught the decimal system of weights, measures, and money in the schools in order that they might understand those things as they applied to other countries. There was no doubt that if British money, weights and measures were decimalised two-thirds of the time now spent in teaching arithmetic from the third grade upwards would be saved, and that time could be devoted to other subjects.

REG. 7-1-29

BURSARIES.

Government and A. H. Peake Awards

The Minister of Education (Hon. McIntosh) has awarded Government bursaries to the undermentioned candidates provided they have passed the examination of the Public Examination Board on the subjects specified as necessary by the faculty in which they desire to study, and produce satisfactory proof of age:—

- ARCHIBALD HENRY PEAKE BURSARY.—Colin K. Grant, St. Peter's College (engineering).
- GOVERNMENT BURSARIES.—Theodor S. Dorsch, Prince Alfred College (arts); John J. Smith, St. Peter's College (law); Oscar C. Isaachsen, St. Peter's College (law); Frank W. Close, Adelaide High School (science); Thomas D. Kelly, Christian Brothers' College (medicine); John J. Bray, St. Peter's College (law); Fredrick V. Gray, St. Peter's College (medicine); John S. Padman, St. Peter's College (arts); David L. Dowie, Adelaide High School (science); Frances M. Walsh, Convent of Mercy, Angas street (arts).

ADV. 8-1-29

DECIMAL SYSTEM.

MOVEMENT FOR REVIVAL.

MANUFACTURERS INTERESTED

It is reported that steps are to be taken to revive a Decimal Association formed in Adelaide in 1912, but which ceased activity owing to the Great War. The secretary of the Chamber of Manufactures (Mr. H. E. Winterbottom) was questioned on the matter on Monday. He replied that he had read with interest the remarks by Sir Mark Sheldon, published in "The Advertiser," in which was advocated the decimal system of weights, measures, and money, and expressed the opinion that a year could be saved in the schools if the present complicated method of calculation had not to be studied. In 1912, a Decimal Association was formed in South Australia at the instance of Mr. Oscar Seppelt, who was a keen advocate of the system. He (Mr. Winterbottom) was the honorary secretary. A good deal of propaganda work was done at the time, with the object of directing public attention to the matter. Graphs illustrating the system in a simple manner, were distributed throughout the public schools of the State. Unfortunately, the Great War occurred and terminated the activities of the association. Mr. Seppelt had by no means lost his interest in the subject. It was intended to place the matter before the Chamber of Manufactures at an early date, with the object of procuring the support of the Associated Chambers of Manufactures.

EMPIRE SCHOLARS

Gathered at Oxford

Law Most Favoured Subject

There are 187 Rhodes Scholars gathered at Oxford University, including 94 from the British Empire, and 93 from the United States.

A statement which has been issued by the Rhodes Trust shows that the subject most favoured by students is law, there being 55 scholars taking that course. Natural science and medicine claims 43 adherents; English literature, 21; modern history, 17; and philosophy, politics, and economics, 15. There are only two students in theology, while but three are studying forestry or agriculture. There were 170 scholars in residence at the beginning of the 1928-29 academic year. During 1927-28 five deaths of former students occurred, including that of J. A. Thomson, the New Zealand 1904 scholar.

SUCCESSFUL STUDENTS

Among those who received degrees at examinations were the following:—D. Phil.—A. R. Callaghan, New South Wales (biology); L. G. H. Huxley, Tasmania (physics); B.Sc.—M. L. Formby, South Australia (medicine); R. N. McCulloch, New South Wales (physics); F. L. Thyer, South Australia (medicine). Final Honour Schools.—Natural Science, first class, G. W. Paton, Victoria. Natural science, second class, A. H. Christian, Western Australia. Philosophy, politics, economics, second class, J. E. Barry, Queensland. Part I. of the final honour school of chemistry, K. R. Allen, Western Australia.

DISTINCTIONS GAINED BY SCHOLARS

Among the distinctions won by Rhodes Scholars at Oxford were the following:—J. C. Eccles, Victoria, Research Fellow at Exeter College. H. W. Florey, South Australia, Rolleston Memorial Prize. R. Wilson, Tasmania, a Commonwealth Fund Fellowship for study in the United States. P. H. Rogers, the New South Wales 1905 Scholar, has been appointed a Justice of the Supreme Court of his native State.

AUSTRALIAN ATHLETES

Several Australians were also prominent in sport. M. L. Formby, of South Australia, was a member of the Oxford lacrosse team which met Cambridge; W. N. Harrison (Queensland) was a member of the athletic sports team against the same university; K. R. Allen, of Western Australia, was included in the water sports team, also against Cambridge. A. C. Wallace, the New South Wales 1922 Scholar, and P. Lawton, the Queensland 1927 representative, were members of the Australian Rugby football team which toured England in 1927. Wallace was captain of the team.

ADV. 9-1-29

DIPLOMA OF ADMINISTRATION

ACTION BY THE PUBLIC SERVICE ASSOCIATION.

The secretary of the Public Service Association (Mr. L. C. Hunkin) stated on Tuesday that for some time the association had been endeavoring to have established a diploma of public administration at the Universities throughout Australia. He had been notified by the Registrar of the Sydney University that the senate of that institution had decided, on the recommendation of the Faculty of Economics, to establish a diploma course in public administration. It was expected that the course would be instituted in March of this year, and attendance at the lectures at the University would be compulsory.

The association hoped that the precedent established by the Sydney University would be followed by others. The Adelaide University had assisted already to the extent of establishing a special course for public administration, and this had been attended by a large number of the civil service, 15 of whom had been successful in their final examinations. Mr. Hunkin was among the successful.

The diploma course at the Sydney University provides that the student need not have secured his matriculation papers. It extends for three years, and in the first year economics I., with an optional subject, must be taken. In the second year public administration I., economics III., or an optional subject must be taken, and for the third term modern political institutions, public administration II., economics III., if not already taken, or an optional subject, must be studied. One of the optional subjects must be chosen from the list prescribed for the students in the faculty of arts, and public finance is included in economics III.

It was hoped by the association that officers would be trained to undertake duties in the higher grades of public administration other than those conducted by the professions, the preparation for which had not been available to the men before.