

Advice to Youth of Australia

Australians have been told many times that they have the politicians they deserve. The question is asked whether sufficient interest is taken in the affairs of the country by professional and business men and even university students.

At a recent meeting of the men's union of the University of Adelaide it was stated that during the coming year the members would undertake a closer study of current politics.

Sir William Mitchell (vice-chancellor of the University) said that this determination was the result of the visit to Adelaide of Dr. T. Z. Koo (vice-chairman of the World Student Christian Federation).

"Students should interest themselves in public questions," Sir William added. He quoted the example set by Oxford and Cambridge and other leading universities of the unions inviting leaders of thought to address and debate with them.

He trusted that the local union would do the same. It was free from the control of the University, and could do as it pleased. He hoped, however, that no violent activity similar to that of students in Madrid would occur.

The union, he thought, should take a strong point of view. Its purpose was never propaganda, but a wide understanding of all sides of a question.

Sir William made it clear that the proper work of the student was his study and discussion his recreation, but the latter could be all the more vigorous because of that.

FAILURE OF DEMOCRACIES

"Political discussions are apt to consist of saying the same thing for the thousandth time," he added. "Democracies that have failed have never done so for want of talk. The only political thing is the ballot box. It is the white man's burden. The students are young and bold enough to believe that we can carry it."

Mr. Oscar Seppelt (president of the Chamber of Manufacturers) was emphatic that sufficient interest was not taken by all classes of the community.

"All forces will have to take a deeper

interest in public affairs. The gravity of the position has not yet been fully appreciated," he declared.

Mr. Seppelt believes that the economic position has become so grave and the handling of financial problems by "amateurish political financiers at Canberra" so startling, that unless some powerful and fearless leader arises quickly a catastrophe of the first magnitude will overwhelm the country.

LEVEL-HEADED POLITICIANS

Mr. Norman H. Taylor (vice-president of the Chamber of Commerce) said that sufficient interest had not been taken in politics. Times had been too prosperous, and the people had not noticed the drift. The present trouble, if it did no other good, would certainly make the commercial community take more interest.

Young men of today should participate in debating, and should join such classes in the opinion of Mr. A. J. W. Lewis (Mayor of Port Adelaide and chairman of the Suburban, Municipal, and District Councils Association). He thought that great good would come of such activities.

Level-headed business men should be approached to stand for Parliament, he added. They should be elected for a period of five years in an endeavor to right the economic position.

Adv. 8-4-31

FIFTY YEARS AGO

FROM "THE ADVERTISER" OF APRIL 8, 1881

The Council and Senate of the University of Adelaide have met in the buildings on North-terrace, which still await completion. Archdeacon Farr has been re-elected Warden of the Senate.

UNCLAIMED WEALTH IN ANTARCTIC

Seals, Fish, Penguins, and Whales

SIR D. MAWSON BACK

Beside their proved wealth in whales, the Antarctic seas presented a wonderful field for the exploitation of fish, seals and penguins which existed there in millions, said Sir Douglas Mawson yesterday on his return from the second expedition in the Discovery.

In common with other members of the expedition he looked remarkably fit. Having spent many months amid the ice, he had to wait until he returned to sunny Australia to contract a heavy cold. He will spend a few days at home shaking it off before he resumes work in earnest.

Big fishing ground, he said, were found quite close enough to the Australian coast to make them a commercial proposition of the work of the expedition in future. Much was devoted to analysing ocean waters, their chemical constituents, and the marine life associated with different localities. The results would be of immense value when profitable fishing grounds were being sought. Even from that point of view the expedition had achieved all that the leaders hoped to achieve.



Sir Douglas Mawson

Discussing the possibility of Australia gaining some of the wealth which foreign companies are gleaming from the whaling seas to the south of our coasts, Sir Douglas said Australian companies, or English companies with Australian headquarters, might join in. Even if Norwegian concerns could be induced to establish branches in Australia it would be of great economic advantage to this country. Hobart was the temporary headquarters of one of the European concerns, and it was estimated that it brought trade worth £40,000 a year to that town.

It should be possible for Australian companies to engage in whaling with excellent prospects, because the richest seas were those closest to Hobart.

Restrictions Necessary

Last season, said Sir Douglas, whales were slaughtered in thousands, and at that rate it would not be long before the seas would be seriously depleted.

south of Adelaide, secured a catch worth £900,000. Most of the companies were Norwegian or Anglo-Norwegian.

"If the industry is properly administered, it can continue for a long time," he said. "Last season '60 many vessels were operating. The nations interested are now negotiating to see if they can find an equitable means of limiting catches."

Big Area Explored

On its second voyage the Discovery covered a third of the Antarctic region, traversing 120 degrees of longitude. The shores of Enderby Land, Kemp Land, MacRobertson Land, and the recently named Princess Elizabeth Land—a compliment to Princess Betty and the Duke and Duchess of York, who were interested in the expedition—were charted accurately. Much of the mapping was done with the aid of the aeroplane.

Although the ice pack was much closer to Australia than in other years, the sea off MacRobertson Land was comparatively free, and the Discovery was able to steam close to the shore, making accurate maps of the coast and adjoining islands.

Ice Influences Weather

Sir Douglas said the proximity of the ice pack opened the interesting question of a connection between that fact, and the cool weather Australia had had since last June. The scientific staff had made many observations, which when collated, would be of great value in determining the influence which the Antarctic had on our climate.

The expedition found and named land Banzare Land, after its own initials, and confirmed reports of land made in 1840 by the American expedition under Admiral Wilkes. The discoveries of the 1911-14 expedition were also widened.

Beside investigating oceanography, the expedition obtained valuable meteorological data, which had yet to be collated and published. Strata and nature of air currents were determined with balloons which ascended thousands of feet.

Professor Harvey Johnston, who was in charge of the zoological section, obtained between 30 and 40 tons of specimens and samples. It would take months for them to be sorted out and examined.

"Until that work is finished it is no use talking about anything more," said Sir Douglas when asked if he planned further trips southward. "The value of the expedition will lie in the published reports. Besides, one of the big considerations is expense."

Future of Discovery

He paid a high tribute to all members of the scientific staff, Captain McKenzie, who was in charge of the Discovery, her officers and crew. All had co-operated earnestly to ensure the success of the expedition.

The Discovery was lent to the sponsors of the expedition by the Falklands Islands Government, and as she must be handed over again on July 15, so she will have to make a fast trip back.

She is now in dock at Williamstown, having a quick overhaul. It was hoped to take her to Sydney for inspection, but that will be impossible.

As she has only limited bunker capacity, she will call at Wellington, sail around the Horn, and pick up more coal at one of the South American ports.

Adv. 10-4-31

WILL ACT AS GOVERNMENT STATISTICIAN

Professor Giblin Appointed

Canberra, April 9.

The Minister for Home Affairs (Mr. Blakeley) announced to-day that the Government had arranged with the Chancellor of the Melbourne University for the services of Professor L. F. Giblin to be made available as Acting Commonwealth Statistician during the illness of Mr. C. H. Wickens.

Mr. Blakeley said that before his appointment with the Melbourne University Professor Giblin was Deputy Commonwealth Statistician in Tasmania, and had also occupied the position of statistician for Tasmania before the amalgamation of the State and Commonwealth Statistical Bureaus.

Professor Giblin is expected to leave Melbourne next week for Canberra to assume his new duties.

MODERN EDUCATION QUENCHES SPARK OF GENIUS

THE MODERN system of education was apt to quench the spark of genius, Prof. Kerr Grant (professor of physics at the University of Adelaide) stated this morning.

Such a system had been in force in the Commonwealth for at least two generations. "Where are our great poets, composers, inventors, and writers?" the professor asked.

He did not think it was lack of innate ability on the part of youth. Rather was it the fault of a system which made the student the passive recipient of information. The scholar was never called upon to exert his own natural powers. Initiative and imagination, two most important qualities for success of any kind, were, if not entirely destroyed, not developed, he declared.

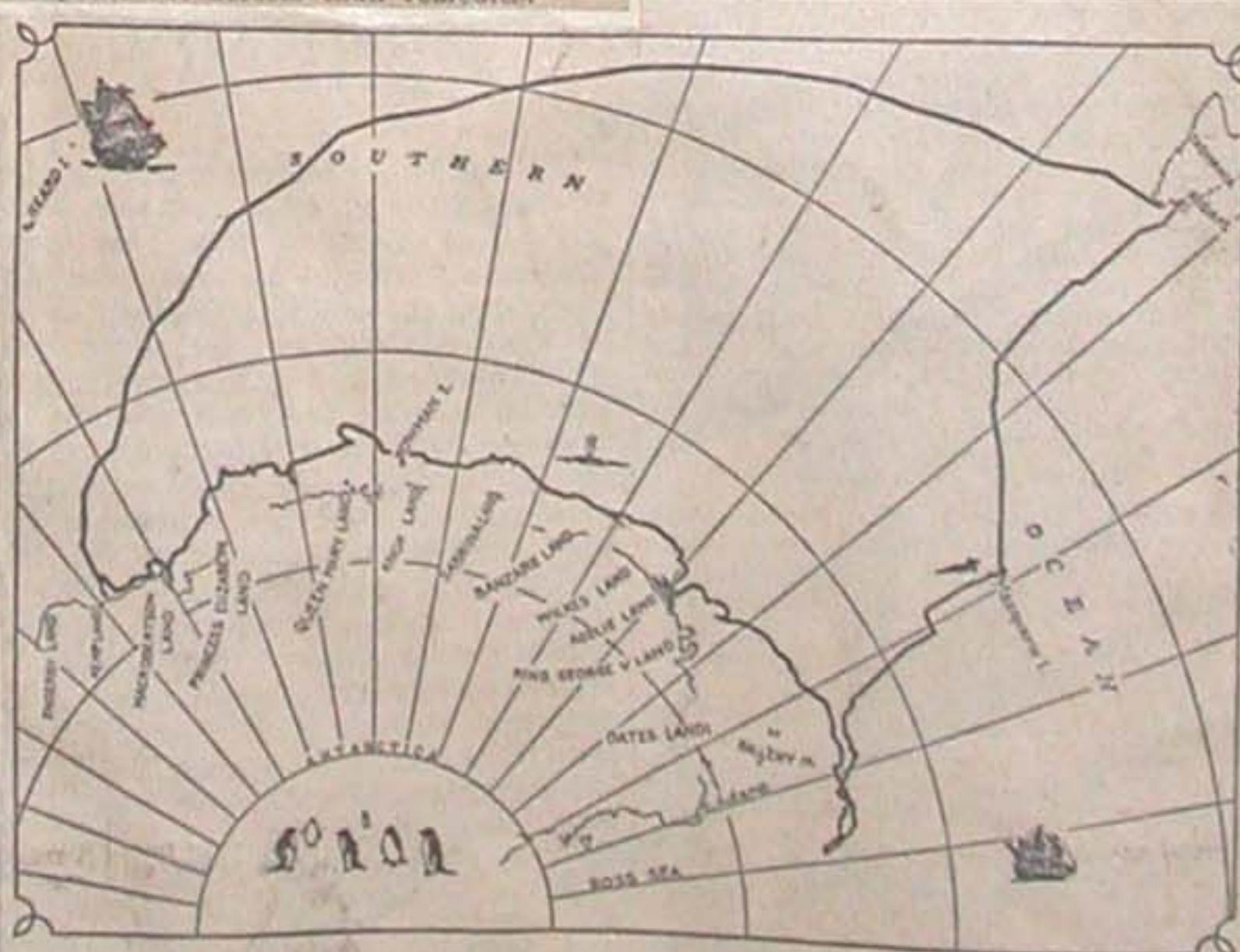
He would rather see one spark of genius allowed to mature than that it should be killed and in its place rise a number of students of mediocre standard.

At the Wireless Institute social last night, Prof. Grant remarked that after 40 years in education he believed that the modern young man was drowned in education, and that he would probably be better off without it. He repeated those views today, but added that those scholars who could breast the flood of learning were all the better for their immersion. A large number, however, drowned.

One was disappointed to find that young men who had received the benefits of education made so little use of them. Many were less inclined to exert themselves mentally than those who had not their knowledge.

The modern system of education was one easy to operate, and made little demand upon teacher or pupil and was made available at a relatively small financial outlay. It was a machine-like system.

"All teachers know that," Prof. Grant declared. "Good teachers deplore it," he added. "However, it was much easier to point out defects than remediate."



Track of the Antarctic exploration ship Discovery, during Sir Douglas Mawson's recent expedition.

More than 40 mother ships, each with from six to ten chasers, operated, and nearly all obtained full catches.

The Sir James Clark Ross, from which the Discovery obtained coal south of New Zealand, and her chasers obtained £500,000 worth of oil in a four months' season, although the price had fallen by £7 10/ a ton. The Kosmos, another mother ship operating exactly

STATE TO LOSE NOTABLE GEOLOGIST

Dr. Lockhart Jack Going to Broken Hill

Dr. Robert Lockhart Jack, Deputy Government Geologist, has accepted an appointment with the Broken Hill Proprietary Company. He will take up his new duties after Easter.

Since he came from Sydney 19 years ago, Dr. Jack has travelled extensively throughout the State, gaining an extraordinary knowledge of its mineral and water resources. His departure will be a severe loss, for his services to South Australia have been manifold and of great value.

His geological exploration work has extended to the Musgrave Ranges, and to Cordillo Downs, in the far north-eastern corner of the State. For many years he has been consulted by some of the biggest pastoral companies, whose development of underground water supplies he has guided.

Systematic reports have been written by him on iron and other mineral deposits, salt, gypsum, and phosphate deposits, and building stone in all parts of the State.

The Government Geologist (Dr. Keith Ward) said last night that he felt it would be impossible to replace so valuable an officer.

Dr. Jack is a graduate in engineering of Sydney University. Last year he received the doctorate of science from Adelaide University.