

LORD BIRKENHEAD WRITES BOOK ON WORLD 100 YEARS HENCE

Says Babies Will Be Developed In Laboratories

FANTASTIC THEORIES QUESTIONED BY PROFESSORS



Prof. L. G. Melville



Prof. Harvey Johnston



Prof. Kerr Grant



Lord Birkenhead

LORD Birkenhead, one of the most brilliant lawyers and politicians in England, has written an astonishing book, *The World in 2030*.

In it he pictures the world as he thinks it will be a hundred years from now, and his most startling prophecy is that babies will be developed in laboratories.

This and other forecasts are received with scepticism by Adelaide University professors. That Lord Birkenhead is no scientist, and is only sponsoring the wildest speculations of the age, is the opinion of Professor Kerr Grant (physics) and Professor Harvey Johnston (biology).

Professor Kerr Grant asks what Lord Birkenhead would provide to replace the influence which a mother exerts on the unborn child. He believes that the outburst of genius is due to the genius of womanhood.

"While women dwell upon the frivolous things of life, a race of geniuses is impossible," he says.

"As this pre-natal influence is so strong, it seems extremely unlikely that ecto-genetic births will be a real success. Haldane has experimented with animals and has achieved some success, but whether this principle can be applied to the human child is debatable."

Professor Harvey Johnston agrees that ecto-genetic births are highly improbable, although not impossible, and thinks that even if they were proved to be possible, the acceptance of them would not be universal. He believes that the parental impulse is so strong that any movement to suppress it would be unfavourably received by the public.

SOME OTHER PREDICTIONS

Some of Lord Birkenhead's prophecies for 2030, and Professor Kerr Grant's opinion of them, may be quoted.

Lord Birkenhead thinks there will be unlimited motive power—"Questionable," is the professor's comment.

Stereoscopic television, in natural colours—"Easy for anyone who does not know of

the technical difficulties involved."

Parliamentary debates heard by everyone—"Why?"

A national vote by all the electors, like a Parliamentary division, within 20 minutes—"I do not think that will ever be possible."

The professor goes part of the way with Lord Birkenhead when he forecasts that disease will be practically abolished. He agrees that synthetic foods will be widely used.

"Lord Birkenhead, whatever eminence he may have achieved as a politician and a lawyer, has, as far as I am aware, no claim to speak with authority on scientific topics," says Professor Kerr Grant. "He is only sponsoring the boldest speculations of the age, and his pronouncements will not carry much weight with scientists. He does not feel the restraint of indulging in speculations that a trained scientific man would."

FEDERATED EUROPE

Professor Melville (economics), in commenting on Lord Birkenhead's prophecy of a federated Europe, said, "I do not know whether such a huge federation would be practically possible, but there can be no doubt that from an economic point of view the breaking down of trade barriers, particularly in Europe, where every State is an isolated economic unit, would increase the efficiency of production and lead to a higher standard of living."

COMORIN'S MAILS

ARRIVED IN BAD CONDITION

Melbourne, April 6. Advice has been received by the Director of Postal Services (Mr. H. P. Brown) from the British postal authorities that the Australian mails which were flooded when a fire occurred on the Comorin at Colombo recently were received in London in bad condition. They were still wet, notwithstanding the efforts to dry the bags on the voyage. The letters will have to be subjected to a drying process, and this will cause delay in delivery.

Steps are being taken by the British postal authorities to recondition the mail matter; but as the newspapers arrived in a state of pulp nothing can be done with them.

Adv. 9-12-29

DUTY ON BOOKS

ACTION BY PUBLISHERS

The following motion was passed by a meeting in Sydney, held to take steps to combat the proposed increase in duty on books:—

"That this association of British Book Publishers' Representatives of Australia and New Zealand invites the hearty co-operation of all book lovers, the booksellers of Australia, educational institutions, public libraries, and others interested in books in the taking of immediate action to prevent the proposed imposition of an import duty on books now admitted into Australia free of duty, believing that such a duty will not only constitute a menace to educational work in all its branches, both in universities and schools, but also seriously retard the economic development of Australia, and incidentally create additional unemployment. The population is not yet sufficient to induce publishers to print in Australia to any appreciable extent special editions of British copy-sponsoring the boldest speculations of the age, and the reduced sale of books, consequent upon considerably enhanced prices, which must result from an added duty, would have the tendency to make publishers resign this territory as being unprofitable, and so render necessary the reduction of the staffs now employed in bookselling establishments. Thus, the introduction of a duty on books would also operate against the interests of those Australian authors who experience difficulty in publishing in Australia owing to the problem created by small circulations, which have the effect of forcing up the retail prices of their books to prohibitive levels; hence they are compelled to seek the aid of British publishers having organisations able to command world-wide trade."

"Rumor without foundation. Matter not on tariff schedule. Have asked Minister to note your request for future guidance."

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION ACTS

Strong Protest Sent to Canberra

Canberra, December 11. Mr. J. L. Price, M.H.R., stated today that he had received the following telegram from the executive of the Australian Library Association, Adelaide:—

"The Australian Library Association in conference with representatives of University, Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery, Institutes Association, Booksellers' Association (including educational booksellers), School of Mines and Industries, Public Teachers' Union, Parliamentary Library, Railways Institute, Adelaide Circulating Library, Poetry Society, Economic Society, Repertory Theatre, emphatically protest against the import duty on books, periodicals, newspapers, and magazines. It is not protective, nor will it increase the sales of Australian publications. The principle is unsound, the same goods not being manufacturable here. It is impossible to define an educational book. Thus the duty penalises knowledge by limiting the acquisition of the leading thoughts of the world. It is anti-democratic, injuring the workers most by restricting the acquisition of trade and technical books. Schools and countless institute libraries will also suffer. We cannot find any citizens or even printers favoring the duty. The interests enumerated represent approximately 100,000 adults."

Reassuring Reply

Mr. Price has despatched the following reply:—"Advise all the named parties that I have interviewed the Minister of Customs. No duty on books is contemplated without a full public enquiry by the Tariff Board, when all interested parties will have a full opportunity of presenting their views."

Adv. 24-2-30

SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SALARIES

From "TOO MUCH SPENDING":— In all the welter of criticism and advice on public expenditure and need for retrenchment, why does no one mention the urgent necessity for reducing the ridiculous salaries of Civil Servants? Take school teachers. These are educated at public expense, and to gain their votes their pay has soared out of all reason. Parents have to pay extra taxes to meet the amounts paid to teachers, so that it would be cheaper for parents to pay for the schooling of their children and for teachers to be paid in accordance with the work they do. Doctors, lawyers, and those connected with other professions pay their own University fees, so why not teachers? The greatest evil of free University education given to teachers is that often the working type of person is attracted to the calling, and people unfitted by birth and home surroundings are placed in charge of young people, to the detriment of all concerned.

Adv. 26-2-30

SCHOOL TEACHERS AND THEIR SALARIES

From "EX-TEACHER," Croydon:—"Too Much Spending" is unfortunate regarding his facts as well as his comparisons. The pay of teachers was fixed by the South Australian Industrial Court in 1925. There has been no increase since that year, and the higher taxation therefore has not been due to higher rates of pay to teachers. If teachers were paid in accordance with the work they did, there would be a material increase in salaries. I left the department because, like many others, I realised that the remuneration of teachers was low when compared with that obtainable (often with less effort) in other walks of life, and I was not sufficiently high-minded to work for less than the value of my labors. If doctors and lawyers received only the salaries of teachers very few would pay their own University fees when studying—the return in after years would not be worth it. Only by making the training of teachers free are men and women enabled to devote the time necessary to acquire the skill essential for members of the teaching profession. The final generalisation in the letter of "Too Much Spending" refutes itself.

From "LOOK BOTH WAYS":—"Too Much Spending" letter shows a shallow knowledge of facts. He says "Teachers are educated at the public expense." This statement is far too sweeping, as hundreds of teachers are spending their own money.

DUTY ON BOOKS

NONE AT PRESENT

Enquiry to Take Place

The fear that there was to be taxation on books has proved groundless.

The announcement made recently that books coming into Australia were to be heavily taxed was greeted with consternation by all those connected with educational institutions, libraries, the reading public, and those engaged in the trade, and many meetings have been held throughout Australia during the past week protesting strongly against any such proposal on the part of the Federal Government.

Members of the House of Representatives were communicated with, and they brought the matter before the responsible Minister, and the result has been the receipt of a communication announcing that no taxation on books will be imposed without a full public enquiry having first been made by the Tariff Board.

"Rumor Without Foundation"

The secretary of the Library Association (Mr. F. E. Meleng) stated last night that he had received the following telegram from Senator Daly:—

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE TO MAILS

Action by Postal Department

Melbourne, March 16.

The Director of Postal Services, Mr. H. P. Brown, stated on Saturday that he had been in communication with the postmaster at Colombo, who had undertaken to have the mails dried as quickly and effectively as possible and sent to Britain at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Brown said he had considered sending two expert officers from Perth to attend to this work, but this had been found impracticable owing to the time which would elapse before they could reach Colombo. The exact extent of the damage was not yet known, but it was considerable. Duplicates of the Comorin's mail docketts would be sent to London for use in the identification of damaged packages. All letters on which the addresses could be distinguished would be delivered.

A. 1-5-30

Opening of England - Australia telephone service - Intra alia -

Adv. 16-3-30

ADV. 12-12-29

Picked Up at University
The opening conversations were also picked up successfully at the University, where Professor Kerr Grant had tuned a set for the purpose. The Chancellor (Sir George Murray), Vice-Chancellor (Sir William Mitchell), Sir Langdon Bonython, the Premier (Hon. L. L. Hill), the Chief Secretary (Hon. J. Jelley), the Lord Mayor (Mr. Lavington Bonython), and members of the Council of the University were among the interested listeners at the physics lecture theatre, where the test was heard.

Owing to the interference of the local rebroadcast, Mr. MacDonald's and Mr. Scullin's speeches could not be picked up direct, but were heard from 5CL. After that station closed down at 5.15 however, the conversations which followed could be heard clearly, particularly on the earphones where they were quite as distinct as a long distance telephone call.

A 1-5-30

Mr. H. W. Cartrell has been appointed by the Government as an honorary commissioner to enquire into and report upon the methods of testing and treating ores in Great Britain, Canada, and the United States of America.

R. 2-6-30

The Bandy Prize for English Verse offered by the Adelaide University, has this year been awarded to the Rev. N. J. Beale of North Adelaide.