

Reg 23-7-30

TO STUDY NATIVES IN CENTRAL AUSTRALIA

Varsity Expedition Next Month

Another expedition to study the habits and characteristics of aborigines in Central Australia will leave Adelaide in mid-August.

The party will be staffed from the Adelaide University and the Museum and will carry on the work of previous anthropological expeditions, probably in a district about 160 miles north-east of Alice Springs.

This work is carried out under the direction of the University Board for Anthropological Research and is partly financed by a Rockefeller Foundation grant administered by the Australian National Research Council.

Physiological observations, including measurements of natives' heads, limbs and bodies, blood examinations, tests of the senses and intelligence tests will be made. Phonograph records and films will be made. The personnel of the party has not yet been decided upon.

Ado. 23-7-30

ANTHROPOLOGICAL TRIP

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News 26-7-30

ANGAS ENGINEERING

Scholarship to C. M. Sprigg

WILL GO TO ENGLAND

At a meeting yesterday afternoon the council of the University of Adelaide awarded the Angas engineering scholarship for 1930 to Mr. Charles Mosse Sprigg. Mr. J. E. Kindler was placed next in order.

The scholarship, which is awarded every two years, is of an annual value of £200, with an additional allowance of £100 for travelling expenses.

Mr. Sprigg will go to England to study. He has completed the electrical engineering course at the University, and is doing the practical work this year at the Adelaide Electric Supply Company, Limited, of which his father is secretary. He is the only son of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. M. Sprigg, of Medindie, and will be 21 years of age next Saturday.

Besides being a keen student, Mr. Sprigg has achieved prominence in tennis and golf. He is first man for University in pennant tennis, and was a member of the State team that played Victoria in Melbourne last year. He is a member of Kooyonga Golf Club, and competed in the open competition on the club links today.

Following are the awards since 1921:— Messrs. R. C. Robin, B.E. (1921); W. M. Anderson, B.E. (1922); C. D. Gibb, B.E. (1924); F. H. Humphris, B.E. (1925); R. J. Bridgland (1929). The scholarship was not awarded in 1928.

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Reg 29-7-30

Engineer Lieut.-Commanders W. Berry Smith and G. I. B. Hutcheson have been promoted to the rank of engineer commander. The officers, who are graduates of Adelaide University, are serving on the cruisers Australia and Canberra respectively.

Reg 28-7-30

WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE PRAISED

"Doing Valuable Work For Pastures"

HIGH praise of the work of the Waite Research Institute in improving pastures was paid by Professor Stapledon, Director of the Welsh plant breeding station, and Director of Agricultural Botany at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth.

Professor Stapledon, who has written a book on a tour of Australia and New Zealand, said the work at the institute was proving of great value. He suggested that some of the smaller clovers might be useful in improving pastures. In the Australian wheat belt there was a great field for research with Australian native grasses and fodder plants.

Thus various species of danthonia or kangaroo grass appeared to possess great possibilities, and its improvement should well repay selection and breeding.

HOW BEES HELP

Blue delphiniums help to produce pedigree strains of red clover at the Aberystwyth Plant-Breeding Station. To fertilise red clover bumble bees are essential. Capt. Williams, who has charge of the work, finds delphiniums the best bait for bumble bees.

While the bee is busy extracting honey from the blossom, Mr. Williams puts a glass tube over it. The bee is carefully washed for the first and last time in its life, lest it should have clover pollen about it. Then it is put into an insect-proof cage with clover plants which it is desired to cross.

When first released the bees carefully collect pollen and carry it on their legs just as a honeybee does. When they find it useless, since they cannot take it home to their hive, the bees cease to collect it.

Mail 26-7-30

IMPROVING PASTURES

Waite Institute Work

PRAISE FROM OVERSEAS

(SPECIAL TO "THE MAIL") LONDON, July 26.

Waite Agricultural Institute, Adelaide, of which Dr. A. E. V. Richardson is in charge, came in for high praise this week.

Prof. R. G. Stapledon (professor of agriculture and botany at Aberystwyth Plant-breeding Station), who thinks the work done at the Waite Institute for improving Australian pastures most valuable, suggests that some of the smaller clovers might prove very useful.



Dr. Richardson

Prof. Stapledon, in an interview, spoke in the highest terms of the work which the Waite Agricultural Institute, Adelaide, is undertaking.

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Reg 30-7-30

Two Rhodes scholars will leave the Adelaide University this week. On Saturday Messrs. L. C. Wilcher and B. W. Honebrow will leave for England by the Hobson's Bay. As no Rhodes scholar was chosen in 1929, it has been provided that these two students go together on Saturday. On arrival in London, the two will stay there for a month, before going to Oxford. Mr. Wilcher will be resident at Balliol, and Mr. Honebrow at New College. The former spent five years at Pulteney Grammar School, and the latter at St. Peter's College. Mr. Honebrow was educated at Prince Alfred College. Both studied at the University as arts students.

Ado. 30-7-30

OCEAN DEPTHS CHARACTER AND FORMATION

Lecture by Sir Douglas Mawson

The formation of the ocean bed, life, currents, and temperatures, was dealt with by Sir Douglas Mawson in a lecture at the University last night.

Sir Douglas said the shallow sounds near the coastline descended until a mean line was reached at 1,450 fathoms. That was the depth which would be maintained if the bulges on the earth's surface were shovelled into the ocean depths. A more or less true sphere would be formed at that level, showing that there was far more depth in the ocean than high lands. Deeper still were the abyssal regions. All parts more than 3,000 fathoms were regarded as deeps, and 58 per cent. of the ocean basin ranged between 2,000 and 3,000 fathoms.

Determining Depths

The old method of determining depths was to throw over a hand-line made of rope, with weights attached. To the bottom end of the sinker tallow was pressed into a depression, and when that struck the bottom some of the organisms of the ocean bed were drawn up. In that way its character was determined. However, old-time mariners had little knowledge of the oceans over which they sailed. About 1840 Sir James Clarke Ross used ropes to 3,600 fathoms, but later the use of a steel planoforte wire met with considerable success, and had since been used. A further improvement was the Lucas sounding machine. It consisted of a small drum on which 5,000 or 6,000 fathoms of wire was wound. The wire passed through a recording sheaf. At the end was a valve which was driven into the mud when it struck the surface.

The latest invention was the echosounder. A sound was sent from the bottom of the ship and received by a hydrophone on its return. With it soundings could be made in a short time in the roughest weather. A disadvantage was that it could not recover any bottom samples. Those, however, were not so valuable as they were, as much was known of the formation of the ocean bed.

Deposits on Ocean Floors

Deposits on ocean floors were organic and inorganic. In true oceanic basins were to be found debris from volcanoes, small pieces of pumice, and cosmic dust, and little particles of meteorites. There were constantly falling through the atmosphere small particles from meteors. In the deeps there was being continually sorted out magnesia and iron oxides, and the former were responsible for covering with black stones recovered from these beds. The only organic parts found in deeps over 3,000 fathoms were mostly confined to whale carbones and the teeth of sharks. In some cases the latter belonged to extinct species—some which existed a million years ago.

The total quantity of solids dissolved in sea water amounted to about 3 1/2 per cent. In the polar areas there were rich nitrogen waters. The reason for that was not actually known. It was believed that in tropical waters organic life was barely dead before bacteria destroyed the nitrogen in it. It was thus possible to map out potential whaling grounds by a chemical analysis of the water. It was interesting that for every mile of descent into the ocean one ton of pressure was added.

Dealing with currents, Sir Douglas said the warm caline equatorial waters travelled to the polar regions, where they helped to melt the ice. The cold waters travelled to the equator, and thus currents were set up.

Ado. 4-8-30

TSCHAIKOWSKY PROGRAMME

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA

By ALEX. BURNARD

The third concert of the season by the State Orchestra, under Mr. W. H. Foote, attracted an eager audience on Saturday night. This is possibly not the place for a disquisition on the merits of Tschaiikowsky as a com-

War and echoes of war, whether national or of the individual inner spirit, seem the ideal fare for the muse of Tschaiikowsky to feed upon. The performance was brilliant and impressive.

The seven numbers of the charming "Nut-Cracker" Suite, in the main delighted us, though there were some exasperating moments. That cor anglais, now—cannot something be done to ensure, at least, accuracy of the pitch? The pianoforte, vice the usual celesta, did good work in the dainty second number, though there was a clash between its pitch and that of the unfortunate oboe. The monotonous color achieved by the clarinetist went far to assist in the bleak mood of the "Danse Arabe," with its backing of muted strings and occasional tambourine. In the "Chinese Dance" flutes and piccolo lent excellent effect as did pizzicato fragments from the violins. A feature of this, too, was the incessant alternation of two notes, staccato, by the bassoons, the lung-power of the two players being strenuously taxed by the long breaths. Again, the oboist was the delinquent in the "Reed-pipe Dance," but in fairness to him, it should be said that he made amends thereafter. The indolent grace of the Strauss-like "Valse des Fleurs" was preceded by a lengthy cadenza-exordium from the piano. I forgot; it was after this number that the oboe commenced to blend. The whole suite was capably done, and proved an acceptable foil to the other weighty items.

Mr. Peter Bornstein has our gratitude for his inspired playing of the Saint-Saens B Minor Concerto. We heard it recently from Kubelik, with piano, and are satisfied that the orchestra is its true medium for accompaniment. One phase of the first movement recalled vividly certain aspects of Walther's Prize Song, by the fervid line of it. Mr. Bornstein reached, and sustained, a high level of pure idyllic happiness in the Andante quasi allegretto—a gentle, "soothing thing," as the poet has it. The harmonies at the close of it were wonderfully done. The intense, tightly-packed finale, following on its dramatic introduction, showed us the soloist's round, vibrant tone quite unmistakably. His technique was all there, with a bit to spare. His spiccato bowing in the Coda was incisiveness itself. It was a great triumph for him, and he more than earned our plaudits. The orchestra, apparently, had to be nursed carefully on one or two occasions, but were, in the main, an ideal background. Mr. Bornstein, in response to the insistent clamor, added that epitome of all philosophy, the Bach Aria for the G string—beautiful, pregnant, abiding. Here, of course, his poetry of tone was outstanding. And how was such tone produced? I hope all present, string players especially, realised that restraint, equally with outgoing effort, was a largely-informing factor.

And then the "Symphonie Pathetique," that principal motif of the opening movement, is, indeed, a thing of beauty, especially when heard for the first two or three times. Therein lies the test of every manifestation of beauty; its capacity to endure. I am always glad when the crash comes, dissipating the lotus dream of the other. The brass instrumentalists were fully equal to the demands on them here, culminating in the exhaustion and despair of the downward sliding trombones. I think that one of the finest pieces of orchestral feeling is produced towards the end of the lovely five-four movement, where the timpani maintains its unflagging crocheted pulse, against the one-bar sospirandi of the rest; as of a huge heaving of some slow, glassy ocean surface. Then came the stirring march. I should have preferred the more usual slackening-up of pace toward the end, but was otherwise as thrilled as ever, especially by the virile canons from the brasses. To what pitch does Tschaiikowsky lash himself in the last movement! Those despair-laden upward rushes of the strings, those unplumbable depths expressed by the lowest registers of bassoons, 'celli, and basses! Sometimes it is as if some immense antediluvian monster were thrashing about in the las, agonies; at others, the emotions referable solely to the oppressed human spirit. It was a wonderful movement. The performance was a fine one, and reflects credit on all concerned, especially Mr. Foote, and Miss Sylvia Whittington, who led, as usual, in impeccable style.