

GOVERNOR-GENERAL DECLARES JOHN DARLING LABORATORY AT WAITE AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE OPEN TODAY—



—Those on the platform are (left to right)—Sir George Julius, Mr. J. Lavington Bonython (Lord Mayor), Hon. G. Ritchie, M.L.C., Sir Langdon Bonython, Lord Stonehaven, Hon. W. H. Harvey, M.L.C., Sir George Murray (Chief Justice), Lieut. H. F. Robertson-Aikman, A.D.C., Prof. A. E. V. Richardson (director of the institute), His Excellency Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C., Mr. W. J. Young, Prof. Sir William Mitchell, and Sir Samuel Hordern.

DARLING LABORATORY OPENED

Governor-General Praises Scientists

Work being accomplished by scientific research was lavishly praised by Lord Stonehaven (Governor-General) this morning in declaring open the John Darling Laboratory at Waite Agricultural Research Institute. He pointed out that until recently prickly pear had been spreading at the rate of an acre a minute. Now by the aid of science land previously covered by that pest was being brought back into bearing.

A large and distinguished gathering was present at the opening, including His Excellency Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C. Sir George Murray (Chancellor of the University of Adelaide) presided. In asking Lord Stonehaven to declare open the laboratory, Sir George said that the John Melrose and John Darling laboratories would for all time be a visible testimony to the public spirit and liberality of some of the descendants of the early pioneers of South Australia, and should be an inspiration to the generation which they were intended to benefit. Sir George said that in Prof. A. E. V. Richardson (director) and Prof. J. A. Prescott (agricultural chemist) the institute had two men whom there were none more competent or distinguished in Australia. Their ability was early recognized by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, and it was recently proposed by the council that the University should co-operate in establishing a division for soils research for the whole of Australia under the supervision of Prof. Prescott, the building to be provided at the institute by the University, and the staff and equipment to be made available by the council.

TWO COURSES OPEN

At the time the University had no money, but the family of the late Mr. John Darling generously stepped forward with a gift of £10,000. That briefly was the origin of the laboratory. "We are depending almost entirely for our prosperity on what we can produce from the soil," declared Sir George. "The problem is how to carry on at a profit. There are two courses open. The first is by scientific investigation and the application of scientific methods to make the soil produce more. The second is to devise ways to reduce the cost of production, of transport, and of marketing. With the latter we are not concerned. Our efforts are being concentrated on the former."

"INDUSTRIOUS LITTLE FELLOW"

Lord Stonehaven said that no Government could possibly cover the whole ground in the development of resources, and the fact that the institute owed its origin to three individuals whose names were household words showed that Australians were determined to co-operate in developing their country. While travelling about he had noticed the ravages to which Australia was exposed, and he saw a most depressing sight when he journeyed through the prickly pear area in some of the finest parts of Australia. He was told that it was spreading at the rate of a million acres a year. That was about an acre a minute. Scientists, however, had discovered an insect with the name of "cactoblastus cactorum."

"And a very industrious little fellow he is," said Lord Stonehaven. "Now land which was a depressing sight five years

ago is cleared, occupied, and carrying sheep."

Referring to other pests, Lord Stonehaven said that tomato wilt had also been checked. He had seen experiments as a result of which one tomato had, so to speak, "snapped its fingers at the wilt."

All these diseases were being scientifically attacked in the institute, and it was only by such activities that the potentialities of Australia would be realised. When a new country was opened up the people skimmed off the cream—and they would be foolish if they did not. When the cream was skimmed off they could not clear out. Consequently they had to improve their methods, so that a profit could still be made.

Lord Stonehaven stressed the fact that once knowledge was obtained it was necessary to see that it was imparted to those who needed it—the men on the land. Publicity, he added, was a science in itself, almost an art, the use of which was indispensable to the proper dissemination and utilisation of the knowledge which was acquired in the institute.

VALUABLE WORK

It was good news, he stated, to know that the institute was visited by many farmers during Show Week. That indicated that the value of the work done there was recognised by the right people.

Sir George Julius (chairman of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research) proposed a vote of thanks to Lord Stonehaven. He believed that there was a growing realisation that the only hope of salvation lay in primary production. Australia had devoted too much effort in past years to building great and beautiful cities. The fact that the whole prosperity of the country was bound up in agriculture had been lost sight of. Unless the man on the land could make a comfortable living Australia could not go ahead, and the present depression was entirely due to the fact that agriculture was not prosperous.

RESEARCH NECESSARY

Most of what was produced today was sold at a loss, and it was hardly necessary to remind those present that no country could exist which sold at £1 what it cost £2 to grow. There was a greater need for scientific research, despite that articles had appeared in the Sydney press advocating that Australia should not continue to spend money on it. The position was not that Australia could not afford research, but that Australia could not afford to do without it.

Sir George Murray apologised for the absence of the Hon. L. L. Hill (Premier) and Senator J. J. Daly (Vice-President of Federal Executive Council), who, he said, would have supported the vote.

Visitors then inspected the new laboratory, and were provided with morning tea.

FIVE PER CENT. REDUCTION OF REAL WAGES WOULD DO FOR PRESENT, PROF. MELVILLE SAYS

Immediate Action Or More Unemployment, He Tells Board Of Industry

"REMEDY SHOULD BE AUSTRALIA-WIDE"

A reduction of five per cent. in effective wages was all that should be necessary at present, but the position would have to be reviewed again. Professor Melville told the Board of Industry yesterday, during its hearing of the application for a revision of wages.

If the present economic conditions continued, there would have to be further reductions.

Professor Melville, examined by Senator Daly, who appeared for the employees said that Australia was paying a higher rate of interest than some countries with which it was competing in exports. There should be consideration given to interest rates, but they could not interfere with overseas rates. A reduction of interest would not materially affect the position.

It would help industry, but it would have the effect of the bankers paying lower rates of interest to industries with money invested at fixed deposit. He would not agree that high rates of interest were connected with the high cost of living.

FEARS AND INSECURITY

If the price levels fell there would be an automatic fall in the rates of interest for overseas money, because the high rate today was partially due to a sense of insecurity.

A reduction in cost of production and real wages would relieve the tension, and would lead to a reduction in interest. Any alteration in the rate of interest would not affect the rate of wages. Interest did not play any appreciable part in industry. Unless they put their house in order they would have to pay higher rates.

Mr. Daly—Is it not that unless we put our house in order we might not be able to pay any interest?—I would not say that. We can pay the bondholders. There are alternatives.

Mr. Daly—Yes, to reduce wages. If it is a question of equality of sacrifice, should not the bondholders stand in.

Professor Melville said he would not wince on the ethical side. There were business concerns which had obtained money before the war, and the bondholders suffered during that period through the high costs, and had not complained.

Mr. Daly—But if we had lost the war they would have lost their money.

Professor Melville—The gamble is the other way now.

Wage-earners suffered less during the war than the small money-holder.

"MORE UNEMPLOYMENT UNAVOIDABLE"

Wages should be as high as possible, said Professor Melville, provided they did not result in unemployment. The reduction of

wages would immediately create more unemployment, because of the dislocation. Prices would not fall as rapidly as wages, but would respond. Wages had already been cut, but in a month or a little longer there would be a fall in prices.

Business with money borrowed at fixed rates of interest would go out in some instances, on account of the deflation, and there would be inevitable dislocation.

They would be over the worst in three months, with a 5 per cent. reduction in real wages. There would not be a rapid labour absorption, and more unemployment was unavoidable under any conditions. About £60,000,000 would have to be cut off the Australian wage bill, but it would not affect the price of meat or butter rapidly, or wheat at all.

NEED TO RESTORE CONFIDENCE

Professor Melville said rapid action had to be taken to restore confidence with creditors.

Mr. Daly—Will a reduction of wages, increased unemployment, and chaos create that confidence?—There will be more unemployment unless we take this action. The remedy should be Australian wide, or the effect will be severe on the States adopting it.

Mr. Daly—If we are the only State to act the cure may be worse than the disease.—There would be dislocation, but the flip would be given to those industries which export to other States because of the reduced costs, and they would have a better chance in the local market.

Mr. Daly—But if a reduction of 15 per cent. were made by this board, it would not affect meat, motor body building, timber, clothing, and other industries, because they are working under Federal awards, and there would be further dislocation; and is it not merely a gesture?—If the reduction would not apply to the industries then it would not be effective.

Professor Melville said a lower wage standard might result in a lower standard of efficiency. It would be undesirable to have workers leaving South Australia for a State where a higher standard was offered.

Mr. Daly—You came to this State to better yourself?—Yes.

The President (to Mr. Daly)—Is that why you went to Canberra? (Laughter.) The hearing was adjourned until next Tuesday.

Adv. 25 9 30

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS

"ALL IS NOT WELL"

To the Editor Sir—"Doccil" is quite right when he says that all is not well among a section of the students, over the results of the examinations in certain subjects. In education, 174 students sat for the terminal examination, and of these 29 obtained 60 per cent. or over (which was considered by the lecturer to be a pass), 46 gained 50 per cent. and over, whilst 43 got less than 20 per cent., including 12 who obtained no marks at all. It certainly must indicate that if 12 students cannot get a single mark between them in an examination, when they have attended nearly all of the lectures, either they are mentally deficient or else the ex-

aminer is at fault. Such a standard should never exist in a University, and it cannot be explained by saying that the students this year are very dull, because the education results for past years tell the same tale. The majority of the students who do education are in the Education Department, and hence their grievances cannot be spoken without fear of suffering at some time or other when their appointment to a school is being considered. When the results were announced after the education examination it was hinted, although not definitely stated, that many of those students who did not pass in education at the end of this year may not obtain an appointment, since education is a compulsory subject for their classification. I am not in the Education Department, but am a student, and have nothing to fear from that department in writing this letter.—I am, Sir, &c., UNIVERSITY STUDENT.