

## BREEDING OUT BLACK BLOOD

### Scientists' Views On Perth Doctor's Suggestion

#### INTER-MARRIAGE QUESTION

Members of the Board for Anthropological Research at the University are much interested in the suggestion of Dr. Cyril Bryan, of Western Australia, that steps should be taken to reduce the half-caste population of that State by scientifically breeding out the black blood by marrying them to persons with a greater proportion of white blood.

Professor T. Harvey Johnston, Professor of Zoology, who during five visits to Central Australia has taken blood tests from hundreds of natives, said that the blood characteristics of the Australian aborigines were much more closely related to those of the white race than they were to those of any other race. The two blood groups which occurred among aborigines were those which were the main groups in the white races. He had seen children of mixed blood in Central Australia who could pass for white children in Adelaide, but because they had a trace of aboriginal blood in them they were classed as natives. The dilution of aboriginal blood by intermarriage with whites could go right on, and it could probably be swamped much more readily than that of the negro. There were some characteristics of the negro, such as crinkly hair and certain facial features, which it was very hard to breed out. Australian aborigines, on the other hand, had softer, wavy hair, more akin in texture to that of Europeans.

"In the East Indies, where one finds a mixture of Dutch and Malay blood, all those persons with a trace of white blood in them are classed as white," he added. "The Portuguese adopt the same principle in India and Africa, but British communities work on different lines. We class anyone with a trace of dark blood in them as black."

#### Hard To Breed Out

Professor H. J. Wilkinson, Elder Professor of Anatomy and Histology, said that, as far as he knew, black blood could not be bred out, but it could be greatly diluted. As long as one could trace a black in the ancestry of a person, one could not say that that person's blood was pure, although the black blood might be so diluted as not to be noticeable in any way.

"When I was in America in 1929 I discussed this question with some of the leading scientists there," he added, "and they all admitted that it was a very difficult one to solve. Some of them went so far as to say that it is only a matter of time before all the negroes will have been absorbed into the nation, because it is impossible to prevent the infiltration of their blood up from the bottom. Low grade whites will marry negroes, and their half-caste offspring again marry low grade whites, and so the negro blood will become further and further diluted, until the time will come when a person will not know whether he has a little black blood in him or not. Those scientists told me that they could not see any way of preventing the ultimate diffusion of negro blood throughout the nation, in the same way as Red Indian blood had been diffused through many of the leading families of America by intermarriage in the early days of the settlement of that country."

Professor Wilkinson said that the ultimate result of a complete absorption of the Australian aborigines by the white population would be a definite degradation of the whites. He was strongly in favor of preventing as far as possible intermarriage of the races by segregating the blacks on reserves of their own.

#### Fifteen-Sixteenths White

Mr. N. B. Tindale, ethnologist of the Museum, said that in a native camp in the Gawler Ranges he had seen a girl about four or five years of age whose blood was fifteen-sixteenths white, but one of whose parents was still associating with full-blooded aborigines and living under the most primitive conditions. In that camp there were all shades of color, from pure-blooded natives, who had only recently come in from the back country to the girl in question. It was impossible without knowledge of the case to tell that

that child was not of pure European parentage. It would be very unfortunate for her if she were brought up with her mind trained to tend towards native rather than to European customs, because, although in every sense white to look at, she would in time, through her association with the blacks, become to all intents and purposes a true aborigine. That was one of the dangers of the non-segregation of half-castes from full-bloods. Many persons with a dash of native blood in them would pass for whites, and they should be encouraged to take their places in the world as Europeans.

#### Segregation Of Aborigines

"I know of one blue-eyed, fair-haired man," Mr. Tindale added, "who lives practically on Government charity as an aborigine, but who openly boasts that he can at any time he likes enter an hotel and get a drink. Because of his resemblance to a European his right to do so has never been questioned. He should be encouraged to sever his connection with his aboriginal associates and to become a European. It would be a good thing if more attention were paid to the segregation of true aborigines, and an attempt made to disperse those of mixed blood, such as half-castes, quadroons, and octo-rooms, among the general population."

Mr. Tindale said it was generally understood, when persons of negro origin mated with whites, that, even after the passage of several generations in which the black blood had apparently been bred out, there would appear spots or variations tending back towards the dominant characteristics of the negro. Characteristics such as the crinkly hair, dark skin, the negro walk, which was due to a slight difference between the formation of their legs and those of Europeans, the negro lip and nose, were difficult to eliminate. In the case of the Australian aborigines, however, it had generally been noted, although it did not yet amount to positive proof, that the dominant aboriginal characteristics did not reappear after the passage of several generations unless there was a fresh infiltration of black blood. It appeared, therefore, as if, with a steady dilution of black blood through intermarriage with persons of European types, the aboriginal blood would tend to merge into that of the general population and ultimately disappear.

"The only apparent exception to this merging of black color into white," he added, "appears to be in the case of a few families of mixed blood in South Australia who date back to the early days of the colony. It is however, known that, in those early days, there were a number of Mauritius mulattoes and American negroes in the crews of the whaling ships that visited our shores. The seemingly aberrant genetic behavior in the inheritance of these families, therefore, may be due not to pure aboriginal blood but to other alien strains, such as that of the negro. The consensus of opinion in what little literature there is on the subject is that aboriginal blood through intermarriage with whites over several generations tends to merge into that of Europeans. These have, however, been few systematic investigations into this question, which is one well worthy of the attention of those interested in the study of human biology."

# Sir J. Symon Dies

## WAS Q.C., AT 35

### Succeeded In Politics

#### LED PARTY

Sir Josiah Symon, K.C.M.G., K.C., the eminent South Australian barrister and constitutional lawyer, died today at the age of 87.

His death will be mourned throughout the Commonwealth. He is remembered as one of the most brilliant members of the national convention which met in Adelaide and framed the Commonwealth Constitution in 1897-8. Sir Josiah had been moving about normally until a fortnight ago, when he became ill. His condition gradually became worse, and he died at his town house at Buxton street, North Adelaide, at 7.45 a.m. today.

No arrangements for the funeral have been made yet, except that it will be held on Tuesday afternoon.



SIR JOSIAH SYMON

Sir Josiah is survived by Lady Symon, five sons—Messrs. Oscar, Carril, Oliver, Charles, and Romilly Symon—and five daughters—Mrs. M. Clark, Misses Kilheny, Margaret, Angel, and Lenore Symon.

Sir Josiah was born at Wick, Scotland. At the age of 15 he was dux of the high school at Stirling, Scotland, and later he attended the Free Church Training College at Edinburgh.

He came to South Australia as a young man, and was articled to his cousin, Mr. Sutherland, a lawyer at Mount Gambier. Mr. (afterwards Sir Samuel) Way heard of the young Scotsman's legal skill, and persuaded him to come to Adelaide and complete his articles in his office.

Mr. Way took him into partnership five years later, and it was not long before the younger lawyer came to be acknowledged as the leader of the Bar. He was a brilliant advocate, and many were the legal battles he fought with his great adversary, the late Mr. Paris Nesbit.

Sir Josiah was called to the South Australian Bar in 1871, and he became a Queen's Counsel in 1881 when only 35 years old.

The Premier (Mr. Butler) said today that he very much regretted the death of Sir Josiah Symon. Sir Josiah had a remarkable career both in politics and at the Bar, of which he had been a leader for many years, said Mr. Butler.

His success had been due not only to his great ability, but to his untiring energy and industry. Those qualities had enabled him to build up a record of achievement of which any man might be proud.

The Premier deeply sympathised with Lady Symon and relatives.

The Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell) said that Sir Josiah Symon had been a member of the University Council even before Federation, and he had always taken a great interest in the University.

"Apart from his public work," said Sir William, "Sir Josiah had an intimate knowledge of English literature. His library was one of the best in Australia, and he was thoroughly familiar with it."

#### LED OPPOSITION

Sir Josiah made an unusual entry into political life. When the late Mr. Justice Bunday retired from the Morgan Ministry on March 10, 1881, Sir William Morgan selected Josiah Henry Symon to fill the vacant Attorney-Generalship.

That was a month before the general elections, but Mr. Symon, although not a member of Parliament, was eminent in his profession, and he was returned in the following month for Sturt.

He took his seat in the Assembly on the same day as the late Sir Lancelot Stirling.

From late in 1881 to 1884 he was Leader of the State Opposition, and in 1885 he refused a judgeship of the Supreme Court. In 1887 he left local politics, but he had already thrown himself into the fight for federation, and from that year onwards he was president of the South Australian Federation League and of the Commonwealth League.

Elected by his State a delegate to the convention of 1897-8, he was made chairman of its judiciary committee. In the general debates of the convention he vigorously attempted to protect the smaller States against domination by the more populous.

#### TOPPED THE POLL

In 1898 he visited London to confer with the Colonial Office on the new Constitution. At the first Federal elections in 1901 he topped the poll for senators from South Australia.

Sir Josiah Symon was the last surviving South Australian member of the Federal convention that framed the Constitution.

Sir Josiah recently wrote a book about the Federal convention entitled "The Dawn of Federation." He was created a Knight Commander of St. Michael and St. George in 1901 for his services to Federation.

In 1904-5 he was Attorney-General in the Reid-McLean Federal Ministry, and in 1913 he retired from politics.

Outside politics, his chief interests were educational and literary. He was for many years a member of the council of the University. He established scholarships at the Sydney University and at Scotch College, Adelaide, and he gave the Lady Symon Building for the Women's Union at the Adelaide University.

He wrote extensively on Federation and constitutional subjects, and published studies on Shakespeare and poetry.

Subject to the wishes of Lady Symon during her lifetime, Sir Josiah's private library at his home, Manoah, Upper Sturt, will become the property of the public.

#### GIFT TO STATE

In 1928 he informed the board of governors of the Public Library, Art Gallery, and Museum that he intended to bequeath his library to the national collections, accompanied by a contribution towards the expense of removal from Upper Sturt and provision for annual upkeep.

He proposed to give not only his books, which number about 8,000, but the shelving, furniture, and ornaments of his library, and also his accumulation of signed photographs, letters, and manuscripts, so that the library might be transferred from his home as nearly as possible in the form in which he used it.

On April 21, 1928, Sir Josiah reappeared in the Supreme Court to move for the admission of his younger son, Mr. O. J. L. Symon, to the South Australian Bar.

Sir Josiah and Lady Symon celebrated their golden wedding on December 12, 1931.

Sir Josiah was an active sportsman in his younger days, but in later years his recreations were confined to gardening and the Gladstonian occupation of woodchopping.

Winemaking was another of his occupations. He owned Auldana, one of the oldest and best-known Australian vineyards.