

News 27-4-32

DIRECTORS FOR RAIL CONTROL

"Reduce Wasteful Competition"

REMEDIES URGED

A DIRECTORATE system of rail control and co-ordination between rail and motor to remedy the present uneconomic competition, with a transport board constantly watching the position, were advocated by Prof. T. Hytten, of Hobart, in an address at the University last night.

"Political control of railways has proved impossible," said Prof. Hytten, who occupies the chair of economics in the University of Tasmania. He was addressing the local branch of the Economic Society on "The Future of Our Railways." The Railways Commissioner (Mr. Anderson) was present.

"The directors could criticise the executive head and introduce new ideas," said the professor.

Prof. Hytten made several references to the one-man control exercised over the South Australian Railways a few years ago by Mr. W. A. Webb.

"If he had been responsible to a directorate," said the professor, "the directors would have asked questions about his schemes, and some of them would never have been gone on with."

THE OBVIOUS REMEDY

"Co-ordination between rail and motor is obviously the remedy for the present uneconomic competition. In the past the railways had a monopoly, and had no need to study the wants of their customers. Now they must be more alert, and must seriously try to please their customers."

Prof. Hytten said that rail losses since 1915 had totalled £68,467,158, to which could be added the losses for the current year, estimated at £8,200,000. The losses had increased enormously in recent years, thus:-

Losses in the five years to 1925, £12,500,000; average, £2,500,000 a year.
Five years to 1930—£32,500,000; average, £6,500,000.
Two years to 1932—£18,600,000; average, £9,300,000.

The losses resulted chiefly from motor competition, over-capitalisation, the protective tariff policy of the Federal Government, political interference with railway managements, and lack of co-operation between the States.

ADVANTAGES OF MOTOR

The advantages of motor transport were that goods could be delivered right to the door, there were fewer breakages, and the motor driver could act as an agent for his customer.

But if terminal charges were disregarded the motor was more costly than the railway, and therefore could not compete with the railway over long distances.

There was no straight-out solution. Each was more economical in its own sphere. It would be impossible to say whether the motor was more economical over 20, 30, or 40 miles, because conditions were different in various localities and changed with time.

Prof. Hytten said that the best way to overcome the competition problem was to have a Transport Board constantly watching the position. The men on these boards should not be representatives of various transport and commercial interests, as the Commissioners had suggested in their recent report to the Premier's Conference, but independent men of high general ability.

Adv. 28-4-32

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN ORCHESTRA

The South Australian Orchestra is entering on a new phase of its existence, following the departure of Mr. W. B. Foote, who was the conductor for more than 10 years. During that period on two occasions only was the orchestra presided over by a guest conductor—Mr. Percy Grainger. This year four guest conductors have been invited to take charge at concerts. The first will be Mr. Peter Bornstein. The programme selected for May 7 includes many favorite compositions of a high orchestral standard, the foremost being the First Symphony of Haydn and the Bach Concerto in G for solo violin, two flutes and string orchestra, the soloists being Miss Sylvia Whittington, Miss Constance Pether, and Mr. J. Shinkfield. Many other lighter works will enhance this programme, which will be interspersed with songs by Miss Hilda Gill. Mr. George Pearce will be the accompanist.

Adv. 29-4-32

DR. GRENFELL PRICE Degree To Be Conferred Today

The ceremony of conferring degrees on successful candidates will be performed in the classics room of the University of Adelaide, at 3.15 p.m. today. The degrees will be conferred as under:—



Dr. Grenfell Price.

Doctor of Letters, Archibald Grenfell Price; Bachelor of Laws, Ralph Meyrick Hague; Bachelor of Arts, Cyril Maitland Ash Brown, and Herbert Richard Taylor; honors degree of Bachelor of Science, Robert Francis Thyer; Bachelor of Engineering, Lancelot Ingham Cox, Thomas Rex Viner Lloyd, Edward Robert Turner, and Lindsay Cramp Dawkins; Applied Science, Lancelot Ingham Cox, Thomas Rex Viner Lloyd, Edward Robert Turner, and Lindsay Cramp Dawkins.

The degree of Doctor of Letters has never before been conferred in South Australia, although it was established in 1926. The successful candidate must have published a work or a type-written thesis containing an original, scholarly, and substantial contribution to some branch of letters.

As the degree had not been previously awarded, it was necessary to establish a standard. For this purpose Professor R. Coupland (professor of colonial history at Oxford), and Professor Scott (professor of modern history at Melbourne) were appointed as examiners. They made a joint report, warmly recommending Mr. Price for the degree.

When the degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred yesterday upon Archibald Grenfell Price, who is the first to receive the degree from the University of Adelaide, the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) warmly congratulated him on having received the high degree.

"It is very gratifying to those who formed such a high opinion of your work in the past to know that that opinion has been confirmed by such authorities as Professors Coupland (Oxford), and Scott (Melbourne)," the Chancellor said.

This was a special conferring of degrees. It took place in the classics room at the University, and was attended by approximately 100 people. Others upon whom degrees were conferred were Messrs. R. M. Hague (Bachelor of Laws), C. M. A. Brown and H. R. Taylor (Bachelor of Arts), R. F. Thyer (Honors Degree of Bachelor of Science), L. I. Cox, T. R. V. Lloyd, and E. R. Turner (Bachelor of Engineering and Diploma in Applied Science), and, in his absence, L. C. Dawkins (Bachelor of Engineering and Diploma in Applied Science).

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Conservatorium Organ Recital

Mr. John Horner's organ recital in the Elder Conservatorium Hall during the lunch-hour yesterday attracted a large audience.

Opening with Mendelssohn's first organ sonata, in which a commonplace beginning is richly atoned for by the brilliancy and beauty of succeeding movements, Mr. Horner then played "Funeral March and Hymn of Seraphs" (Guilmant) with good effect. Vierne's "Pastorale" and Elgar's "Carillon," interesting studies in modernist musical idiom, quiet and boisterous, were well rendered.

Dr. Ray Newling sang "The Wanderer" (Schubert) in good style, to the recitalist's felicitous pianoforte accompaniment.

A Bach programme, to be presented by Mr. Horner next Thursday, will include the D minor toccata and fugue and the gavotte from the sixth 'cello suite.

Adv. 29-4-32

Conference Of Music Examiners

The annual conference of the Australian Music Examinations Board will begin at the Elder Conservatorium today.

The delegates include Professor Bernard Heinze and Messrs. J. A. Steele and J. Sutton Crow (University of Melbourne), Dr. Arundel Orchard and Mr. Frederick Hutchins (State Conservatorium of Music, Sydney), Professor J. Stable (University of Queensland), Mr. A. J. Leckie (University of Western Australia), and Colonel L. R. Thomas (University of Tasmania).

Dr. Harold Davies, Director of the Elder Conservatorium, is chairman of the examinations board in Adelaide.

The conference, which will extend over tomorrow and Monday, will discuss syllabuses, especially those of elocution, and general policy.

Adv. 30-4-32

Mr. F. W. Eardley, Registrar at the University of Adelaide, who has been on annual leave, will resume duty on Monday. He spent some of his holiday at Kangaroo Island.

News 29-4-32

Our First Doctor of Letters

A brief but impressive ceremony this afternoon marked the conferring of degrees at the Adelaide University by the Chancellor (Sir George Murray). The degree of Doctor of Letters was conferred upon A. Grenfell Price, Master of St. Mark's College. Dr. Price is the first in South Australia to win the degree.

The University council, which met this afternoon, adjourned for the ceremony.

The following degrees were also conferred:—

Bachelor of Laws, Ralph Meyrick Hague; Bachelor of Arts, Cyril Maitland Ash Brown, and Herbert Richard Taylor; honors degree of Bachelor of Science, Robert Francis Thyer; Bachelor of Engineering, Lancelot Ingham Cox, Thomas Rex Viner Lloyd, Edward Robert Turner, and Lindsay Cramp Dawkins; Applied Science, Lancelot Ingham Cox, Thomas Rex Viner Lloyd, Edward Robert Turner, and Lindsay Cramp Dawkins.

Adv. 30-4-32

SPECIAL CONFERRING OF DEGREES

High Award For Dr. Grenfell Price

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Adv. 30-4-32

From Our Special Correspondent

Canberra, April 29.

Large Ottawa Delegation

It is evident that the Government is to be criticised in the House for the large staff it is taking to the Economic Conference at Ottawa.

Including Professor Richardson, who will be the chief adviser on marketing problems, seven officials will travel overseas to assist the two Ministers. Considering that the future of many of the primary producing industries of Australia will hinge upon the discussions which will take place; the magnitude, in terms of money, of the tariff changes which will be mutually agreed upon; and the political and economic consequences of the conference, the delegation cannot be considered to be overstuffed.

According to cabled advices, the English delegation to Ottawa will be 60 strong. This number includes the economic and business advisers of the British Government's representatives. The Commonwealth delegation will be 14 strong, including the five business advisers, and only one of these—the Labor representative (Mr. M. B. Duffy)—is being sent at Government expense.

Adv. 2-5-32

BETTER SHEEP AND MORE WOOL

How Science Is Helping The Pastoralist

BLOWFLY PROBLEM

Work on most of the programme laid down by the late Professor Brallsford Robertson has been continued by the Division of Animal Nutrition, according to the annual report of the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. In the Adelaide laboratory the sur-

Adv. 2-5-32 continued

and on the same diet supplemented by wool hydrolysate (which is naturally rich in cystine) are in progress.

Finally the calorimeter housed at the Institute has been used to determine the energy expended by a fasting animal at rest with an environmental temperature of 68 to 77 degrees Fahrenheit. This figure is a measurement of the energy required just to keep the animal alive and its internal temperature constant. It is a determination underlying further work on drought feeding.

Although progress of work on regeneration of pastures at Koonamore (north of Yunta) was impeded by drought, certain valuable information has been obtained by the Division of Plant Industry, particularly regarding the grazing effect upon saltbush vigor. Observations were made also on spear grass within and without fences, and results showed that continued grazing during dry seasons removes many well-established plants, which would normally serve both as feed producers and soil binders. Studies of root systems were made, and it was found that plants remaining green for eight months or more have highly developed root systems which penetrate to a depth of about 4 ft.

Banishing The Blowfly

Control of the sheep blowfly by trapping, carcass destruction, jettisoning, applying curatives and preventives are being investigated by the Division of Economic Entomology. Work on biological control has been discontinued as it was clear from Dr. Holdaway's work in Europe that prospects of success of applying this method to the blowfly problem in Australia were practically nil.

Accurate knowledge has been obtained of the habits of various species of blowfly which attack sheep, and definite information has been acquired regarding the species, which first attack uninjured sheep, and which are therefore responsible for the damage; and secondly, those which will only "strike" the sheep after the way has been prepared for them by the attack of "primary" species. It has been established that there is a very definite series of the flies, which arrive at successive stages in the process of decomposition of the sheep's body. If the species responsible for the "primary" strike can be controlled, the problem will be largely solved.

The organism responsible for one of the types of wool stain has been isolated, and by artificially implanting cultures of it in the wool of sheep it has been found that only the areas thus infected will be struck; the other parts of the fleece remain untouched.

vey or various proteins from the viewpoint of the cystine (high protein) content has been continued, and a number of estimations of cystine have been carried out on wheat, wheat offals, oats, rubber seeds, blood meal, fish meal, and yeast. The importance of cystine to sheep in relation to wool production, says the report, has been indicated by work at Meteor Downs field station, Queensland. Much work has been done to determine phosphoric acid in tissues, and results so far seem to indicate little difference in the ratio of calcium and phosphorus in the bones of different sheep even where the bones come from badly developed and mal-formed animals.

Further work on the iodine survey of thyroid glands obtained from various parts of Australia has failed to indicate that iodine deficiency exists in the country, the report says. There are, however, large areas in Australia from which specimens have not been collected for examination yet.

Other investigations in the laboratory concern conditions determining the solubility of calcium phosphate in the intestines of sheep; the effects of the removal of the thyroid and pineal glands; the effect of a small daily intake of fluorine upon the well-being of sheep; and studies on the intake, storage, and output of nitrogen and sulphur in Merino sheep. The work with the pineal gland removal has confirmed results of previous work by Dr. Demel in Vienna in so far as they have demonstrated that the treated animals grow from 40 to 80 per cent. more wool, and of better quality, than untreated sheep. The treated animals, however, reached full weight, whereas those of Dr. Demel grew to only two-thirds of what would otherwise have been their normal weight.

The report says that it is realised that it would be impracticable to operate on any great proportion of Australian flocks in this way, but the fact remains that it has been found possible to increase the wool per animal very considerably, and further work may ultimately indicate a way to do this on a practical scale.

Work At Waite Institute

At the Waite Institute the division is continuing experiments on the optimal growth of the Merino sheep with a view to obtain an average growth curve for this breed under luxurious conditions for use as a standard of reference. Experiments on the growth of wool in a diet deficient in cystine.