

News 10-8-32  
SOIL SURVEY AID  
TO FARMERS

Beginning of Big  
Research Scheme  
GOOD PROGRESS

WE regard the regional survey only as a beginning in soil research work," said the chief of the soil research division of the Commonwealth Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (Prof. J. A. Prescott) today.

Prof. Prescott gave a lecture on the results so far obtained in the soil research work which he has directed from his headquarters at the Waite Institute, Urrbrae, and which recently reached a partial consummation in the publication of the first soil map of Australia, showing the different soil regions.

Lands departments and agricultural departments in all States have assisted Prof. Prescott, together with five scientists forming a soil survey staff.

"So far we have divided the Commonwealth into 10 major soil regions," said Prof. Prescott. "There are others not yet quite defined, and when our research is finished we may have established 15 or 20 soil regions."

HELPS LAND POLICIES

"Results so far have been based largely on survey and exploration records. Now there is a good deal to be filled in by work on specific localities and attention to problems of specific parties, such as irrigation settlers."

"The principal value of the regional work is to enlighten public opinion on the possibilities of Australia, and to aid Governments in the formulation of land and settlement policies. The detailed work will be of more particular benefit to individual primary producers."

South Australia has been prominent in soil research work. Prof. Prescott, who is a leading authority on soils all over the world, has had on his staff of trained chemists at the Waite Institute Messrs. J. K. Taylor, M.A., B.Sc., T. J. Marshall, B.Sc., and P. D. Hooper (well-known as a tennis player).

Another South Australian, Mr. H. N. England, B.Sc., is working for the soil research division with the Irrigation Commission in New South Wales. The fifth man on Prof. Prescott's staff is Mr. C. G. Stephens, a Tasmanian, who has worked in Tasmania.

Adv. 16-8-32

Good Conservatorium  
Programme

Advanced students of the Elder Conservatorium gave their third concert of the year last night. Some difficult tasks were essayed. On the whole, the general standard of performance was creditable.

Outstanding in the instrumental section was Miss Hansie Cornish's playing of the Nardini violin concerto in E minor. Miss Alethea Upton did well in a Beethoven concerto movement, with Miss Maude Puddy at the second piano. Mr. George Hooper was heard to advantage in a Tschalkowski melody and a Dittersdorf scherzo, in each revealing evidence of careful violin study.

In a Beethoven trio (Op. 70, No. 1 in D major), Miss Betty Puddy (piano), Mr. Hartley Williams (violin), and Miss Gwenneth Thompson (cello), though their individual performances were creditable, hardly succeeded in ensemble playing. Each part seemed to go its own way—which, though a good way, missed the goal of the composer's intention.

Miss Freda Lohe's Chopin B flat minor scherzo was marred by violent tone contrasts. In the Schubert B flat impromptu, Miss Winifred Fisher's good technique would have impressed more had her playing been less mechanical. Schumann's F major novelette, though on the whole creditably played by Miss Evelyn Green, suffered from occasional frantic fortes. In a short, simple Gluck aria, Master Cecil Beurie showed that he is grappling with the difficulties of cello playing on right lines.

Of the singers, Miss Thalia Allin and Mr. Clement Hardman proved most effective. The former's rendering of "Sognal" (Shirer) revealed a pleasing contralto voice with possibilities. The latter's "Two Grenadiers" showed the possession of a good baritone voice, clear enunciation, and a sense of the dramatic.

In Elgar's "A Sabbath Morning at Sea," Miss Lois Dunn's singing suffered from poor enunciation, as did that of Miss Kathleen Magarey in her songs.

The accompanists were Misses Alice Meegan, Jean Barbour, Gwen Paul, Jean Finlay, Betty Puddy, and Topsis Doonan.

THE NEWS

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 1932

OTTAWA AND WORLD  
RECOVERY

BROAD and comprehensive in its scope, the report of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Ottawa Conference, as indicated in the cable news of today, will meet with general acclaim not only throughout the Empire, but in all leading international circles as well.

It must be surprising indeed, and, what is more, most gratifying to the world at large, to know that a great Empire Conference should have moved so far outside the orbit of imperial insularity as to stress as the first essential to the recovery of world prices, the necessity for international co-operation.

Ottawa, while not minimising the importance of what may be termed the purely domestic affairs of British Commonwealth of Nations, is proving itself to be the complement of Lausanne. The extinction of war debts and reparations is necessarily outside its powers, but it has concerned itself with a major factor in the world depression—the raising of the general price level by means of low interest rates and a plentiful supply of short term money. And this, it rightly urges, should not take the form of further loans to Governments, but "should stimulate industry and revive confidence in general business."

Happily the period of cheap money appears to have set in once more, and as a result the deflation of prices, which has been in evidence ever since the collapse of the Wall Street boom in October, 1929, has been definitely checked. As Prof. T. E. G. Gregory, who accompanied Sir Otto Niemeyer, pointed out in his Joseph Fisher lecture at the Adelaide University in August, 1930, there is a close relation between Wall Street conditions and world prices.

The New York boom of 1926-9, as he pointed out, was actually fed by the fears of the European investor, who sold his securities in his own country to invest in a market that appeared to offer a safe and highly profitable field for investment. The backwash from the Wall Street collapse, together with reactions following the general gold and banking position of the world, precipitated the tragic fall of prices that overtook mankind.

But Prof. Gregory urged that the ultimate recovery on Wall Street would synchronise with and afford an indicator of the passing of the cycle of deflation and the recovery of general price levels.

This is what has actually happened. The Ottawa Conference Committee seeks by its resolutions to avoid the pitfalls of the past by insisting upon reliance being placed not on Governments, but on general industry to utilise the cheap money that is now available throughout the world, but which can only be moved from centres where it is accumulating to countries which need it for their development as national and international confidence is revived.

Ottawa, like Lucerne, has set out to provide the machinery essential to secure the return of prosperity, and there is every indication that its labors will materially aid the coming of brighter days for all mankind.

News 17-8-32

PROF. HARVEY JOHNSTON was appointed a member of the Fauna and Flora Board of South Australia in succession to Mr. J. F. Bailey at a meeting of the Executive Council today.

News 16-8-32  
Scots and Scott

THE establishment of a Sir Walter Scott lectureship, which has been approved by the University Council, is one of the chief plans of the Scott Centenary Committee in South Australia. "On September 21 it will be 100 years since Scott died, and the Caledonian Society and Lothian Club, as representative of the Scottish folk of this State, are combining to celebrate the centenary," said Sir David Gordon today. He is chief of the Caledonian Society and chairman of the centenary committee.

The committee is also conducting an essay competition for scholars of public and private schools on "The Scott Novel I Love Best." There will be a separate division for University undergraduates. The Scott lecture at the University is to be delivered triennially.

Dr. W. Ramsay Smith is vice-chairman of the centenary committee, and Mr. J. B. Anderson, president of the Lothian Club, secretary, and they are busy raising the £350 necessary for the establishment of the lectureship and other expenses of the celebrations.

Sir David anticipates no trouble in raising the amount from his fellow-Scots.

Adv. 17-8-32

WORK OF RESEARCH  
COUNCIL

Great Aid From  
Rockefeller Institute

SYDNEY, August 16.

The annual meeting of the Australian National Research Council was held today in Science House. Sir George Alfred Julius was unanimously elected president for the current year.

The financial report stated that the assets were now £18,800. A considerable amount of the funds had been accumulated, but most of this was ear-marked for specific purposes.

Professor Osborn presented the report of the executive committee, which stated that the Rockefeller Foundation had contributed generous support to anthropological research work in Australia and the islands. He said that 20,000 dollars was granted in 1931, and the Foundation had promised to continue this grant for 1932, 1933, and 1934, without conditions. The Foundation, however, had expressed the wish that steps be taken in Australia to maintain the support of the Chair of Anthropology.

It was agreed to establish lectureships in honor of Professor Sir Edgeworth David and Sir David Orme Masson, the first and second presidents of the council, in the subjects of biology and geology and in physics and chemistry, respectively. The first David lecture will be held in 1933, and the first Masson lecture in 1935.

The following were elected members of the executive committee for the ensuing year—Vice-presidents, Sir William Mitchell, Dr. A. C. D. Rivett, Professors N. T. M. Willsmore and H. C. Richards; honorary secretary, Mr. Alex. J. Gibson; committee, Sir Douglas Mawson, Dr. B. T. Dickson, Professors E. J. Goddard, W. E. Agar, T. G. B. Osborn, E. W. Skeats, and R. D. Watt, Dr. G. A. Waterhouse, Messrs. E. C. Andrews, H. W. Gepp, and W. E. Wainwright.

Adv. 17-8-32

From Our Special Correspondent  
PERTH, August 16.

A lively discussion followed a statement by Sir John Kirwan, at a meeting of the University Senate last night, that professors were dodging away from the State on the slightest pretext. Four professors and another member of the staff, he said, had left recently to attend the conference of the Association for the Advancement of Science in Sydney. Other members of the staff were on the other side of the world. If the University were not suffering, it was evidence that the teaching staff was overmanned.

The senate considered that conferences should be held in the long vacation.

The University Senate has resolved to make application to the Carnegie Corporation for a grant to assist adult education and for the purchase of books for university extension work. The Perth University, being a free institution, is hampered by the paucity of income other than Government.

News 17-8-32

IN the Executive Council today the following appointments were made to the Adelaide Hospital:—Drs. E. F. Gartrell, R. G. Burnard, and H. W. Wunderly, clinical assistants to the medical section; Drs. G. H. Burnell, W. J. W. Close, and A. F. Hobbs, assistants to the surgical section; Dr. M. Schneider, assistant to the ophthalmic section; Dr. W. C. T. Unton, assistant to the skin section; Dr. H. E. Fellow, anaesthetist; and Dr. T. D. Hannon, dental surgeon.