News 9.8.35

Aim of London Institute

9 AUG. 1935

BURSARY TO S.A.

"THE main hope for unity among the people of British origin is the maintenance, through education, of a common type of citizen," Prof. F. Clarke, adviser to overseas students at the Institute of Education of the University of London, said today on his arrival in Adelaide from Melbourne.

The object of Prof. Clarke's visit is to gain an intimate knowledge of Australian educational and living conditions to equip him for his new position. He will leave for Perth on Tuesday.

"The Institute of Education is really a school for education and statesmanship," he said. "It is the old London Day Training College, founded in 1902, and it has been taken over by the University of London to give it freedom and scope for meeting new educational needs in the British Empire.

"Its particular aim is to provide a centre for the study of problems of educational policy and administration.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN CHOSEN

"In it will assemble people whose business is the educational policy. The Carnegie Corporation made the institute possible by generous benefactions, and it will supply sufficient money for three years and for eight scholarships each year. Two scholarships will be available for each of the major dominions, Canada, South Africa, Australia, and New Zealand, tenable for one year, and worth from £250 to £300.

To fill these fellowships, the institute was not looking for young men fresh from college, but sought "mid-career" men who were likely to hold important positions, said Prof. Clarke.

The two Australian scholars have already been nominated. One is a South Australian—Mr. F. W. Mitchell, who graduated B.Sc. in 1927 and B.A. in 1933 at the University of Adelaide. Mr. Mitchell is aged 29, and is a son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Mitchell, of St. Peters.

He was educated at St. Peter's College, and gained a Varsity blue for athletics. He is a member of the staff of the Teachers' Training College, and is assistant commissioner for training of boy scouts. Mr. Mitchell will leave for London in the Marlow from Outer Harbor on September 4.

GOVERNMENT AID SOUGHT

"After three years it is hoped that the Governments will assist financially in maintaining these fellowships," said Prof. Clarke. "The success of this plan depends upon the manner in which the scholar translates his knowledge he gains in England, and adapts it for practice in his own country.

Prof. Clarke will address teachers in the physics lecture room at the University tonight, and during his visit to Adelaide will investigate education methods and confer with the Vice-Chancellor of the University (Sir William Mitchell), whom he met in England.

Prof. Clarke was for 20 years professor of education at the University of Capetown, and for six years in the same post at the University of McGill, Montreal.

HOMEWORK PROBLEM

Commenting today upon the report that a drastic reduction in homework and the abolition of the matriculation examination is expected to be among the revolutionary changes to be made by the Board of Education in England, Prof. Clarke said that the board had no mandatory authority.

The real source of control lay in the local authorities in the cities and counties in England, and the board could make recommendations only through its inspectors.

"I would not like to see any weakening of the link between the school and home, but it should not be mechanical or tyrannical," he said. "If a child is getting knowledge from school he wants to carry it home. Set sums and spelling are examples of mechanical home work. A child should be allowed to follow his natural bent."

News 9.8.35

Rules for R.A.A.F. Enlistment

9 AUG. 1935

JOBS OPEN SOON

MELBOURNE, Friday.

INTENDING applicants for the 75 Royal Australian Air Force cadetships are given, by the Air Board, the famous advice once tendered by Lord Kitchener to "boys" about to marry—Don't—because no married men will be accepted for cadetships, and if cadets marry before graduation they will be discharged from the force.

This is one of the conditions of enlistment, for which applications from single men between 18 and 21 will be called at the end of this month. Others are:—

Candidates must have passed either the intermediate junior public examinations conducted in the various States. Physics (or elementary science) and mathematics are compulsory subjects.

They must be of pure European descent; British subjects and the sons of parents both of whom are British subjects. Where there is a doubt the burden of proof will rest with the applicant.

Those who, from their written applications, appear to be qualified, must be interviewed by a board sitting in the capital city of the State in which they reside.

AIR FITNESS TEST

They must then be medically examined by a service medical officer and undergo a preliminary test of their air fitness. Candidates presenting themselves for interview or medical examination are required to pay their own travelling expenses.

All candidates must produce, at the interview with the selection board, a character reference, an extract of birth entry, originals of educational certificates, and a head master's recommendation. Other references will not be considered.

It is not necessary for candidates to undergo a course of flying training before submitting applications for cadetship.

Successful candidates will receive free passage from their home to the Royal Australian Air Force station, Point Cook, where they will undergo a course of training for about 12 months.

Any cadets found unsuitable during the course of training are liable to discharge. The instruction may also be terminated in the case of those found medically unfit.

TRIP TO ENGLAND

Air cadets who graduate will be appointed to short service commissions of four years' duration, with the initial rank of pilot officer. At least 15 of the cadets appointed this year will serve their short service commissions in the Royal Air Force, and for this purpose free passages to and from England will be provided.

Should an officer be selected by the British Air Ministry for a permanent commission, the Air Board will absolve him from his agreement to return to Australia after completion of his short service commission.

When beginning duty at Point Cook a cadet is allotted a room to himself. On reporting at the station he should have at least £5 to meet initial expenses. Free uniform, quarters, rations, fuel, and light are provided, and it is claimed that the rate of pay, 10/ a day (subject to financial emergency reduction), is ample to cover other normal expenses.

Although officers on short service commissions are normally placed on the reserve at the end of four years, a limited number of these commissions may be extended for another three years, or they may be made permanent, according to the officers' ability and the needs of the service.

There is a probable career in civil aviation ahead of those passed over, for a Royal Australian Air Force cadet, on leaving the service, may, without further test, be issued with a civilian pilot's passenger-carrying license.

adv. 10.8.35

From more than 60 applicants from all parts of the Commonwealth, the Senate of the University of Queensland yesterday appointed Mr. C Pagehanily registrar of the University in succession to the late J. J. McCaffrey, states a message from Brisbane. Mr. Pagehanily is at present assistant manager of the State Advances Corporation.

News 9.8.35

COMMON POLICY ON EDUCATION

10 AUG. 1935

Aims Of New London Institute

FELLOWSHIP FOR S.A. TEACHER

Professor Clarke In Adelaide

Details of the building up in London of a centre for the study of problems associated with educational policy and administration were given yesterday by Professor F. Clarke, who is adviser to overseas students at the Institute of Education of the University of London. Professor Clarke, who has been in Australia for about a fortnight, arrived in Adelaide by the express from Melbourne yesterday. He will leave for Perth by the East-West express on Tuesday.

Professor Clarke was for 20 years professor of education at the Cape Town University, and subsequently for five years he occupied a similar position at the McGill University, Montreal. When the University of London recently decided to establish the Institute of Education, Professor Clarke was asked to accept the post of adviser to overseas students. For the first three years the institute will be financed by the Carnegie Corporation, of New York, which also paid for Professor Clarke's visit to the Dominions, in order that he might study educational affairs in other countries at first hand.

The Carnegie Corporation, said Professor Clarke, had also established a number of fellowships in connection with the institute. Eight fellowships would be granted in each of the three years during which the corporation was financing the institute. Two scholarships would be made available each year in Australia, two in Canada, two in South Africa, and two in New Zealand. The fellowships were valued at between £250 and £300, and the holders would visit England for one year. They would visit English educational establishments, study methods, and confer with others at the institute. It was not intended only that the holders of the fellowships should learn from conditions in England, but that they should also give to British educationists the benefit of their experience in the various Dominions which they represented, and that there should be an interchange of ideas with the object of arriving at some common policy and ideal with regard to education.

Unity Through Education

"The object of the institute, and, indeed, of my own belief, is that the main hope for unity among people of British origin and, indeed, among all people of British sympathies are British, lies in the maintenance, by means of education, of a common type of citizen, with the same basic ideals," said Professor Clarke. "At the institute will assemble those whose work it is to shape educational policy, and from the new ideas that each will bring in, and from the interchange of experiences between them, it is hoped that there will evolve a basic philosophy which may be applied to the life of the members of the British Empire and other nations.

"The essential value of the plan depends upon the manner in which those scholars who are selected translate the knowledge that they gain there in terms of the needs and conditions of their country on their return to what they come."

Professor Clarke said that the fellowships were allotted by an advisory committee of University vice-chancellors, who looked not for young men, fresh from college, but for what he termed "mid-career" men, whose work had indicated that they were likely to hold important positions. The recommendations of the committee were subject to the approval of the Institute of Education.

The advisory committee has chosen for the Australian fellowships this year a Western Australian and a South Australian scholar. Mr. F. W. Mitchell, a lecturer on the staff of the Teachers' Training College, is the South Australian. He has graduated B.Sc. and B.A. Mr. Mitchell had a brilliant scholastic and sporting career at St. Peter's College and at the Adelaide University. For three years he held the State 120 yards hurdles championship. He is keenly interested in scouting, and is an assistant commissioner for training.

"At the end of the three years, during which the institute will be financed by the Carnegie Corporation, it is hoped that the value of the college will have been proved to a degree which will encourage the University of London to continue to maintain it, and that the various Dominion Governments will have been sufficiently convinced of the value of the scheme to assist financially in the maintenance of the fellowships," added Professor Clarke.

Homework Problem

Referring to a cable message stating that the Board of Education in England was contemplating the abolition of the matriculation examination and a considerable reduction in the amount of homework, Professor Clarke pointed out that the Board of Education had no mandatory powers, and could only, through its inspectors, recommend that schools should adopt its views. Although he favored drastic changes in the homework system, he would deeply regret any weakening of the link between the home and the school. The system of setting a rigid and mechanical class of work to be done by scholars at home should be abolished. Nothing should be set for homework, but each boy or girl should be encouraged to investigate and study further the particular subject that interested him or her most at school. The trouble today was that the home was not prepared or equipped for the doing of homework, and the atmosphere was wrong; but at all costs children must be prevented from feeling that, when the doors of the school closed behind them, their association with the school was ended for that day.

Yesterday Professor Clarke met the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Sir William Mitchell) and other University officials. Last night he addressed teachers in the physics lecture room at the University. He is accompanied by his daughter, Miss Mary Clarke.

News 9.8.35

EXAMINATION ENGLISH

Sir—"An Adelaide Father" seems to have stirred up a great many critics of the present examination system in English literature. Surely he cannot seriously expect the Public Examination Board to construct a new, its well-balanced syllabus covering a general and very necessary knowledge of English literature, a series of preparatory school spelling tests and hand-writing examinations.

And what a reflection it would be on Australian culture if an Adelaide Father asserts the study of Shakespeare and Milton "might suit a few literary faddists living in the past!"

"Business Man" wishes to know why boys and girls aged 14 to 16, "before they have learnt to express themselves fluently in straightforward modern English prose, should have to submit to a gruelling, long-drawn-out analysis" of a Shakespearean play, and goes on to say that this is probably the reason for their aversion to Shakespeare in after life. I would reply to the first that a study of Shakespeare should be the means of teaching them to express themselves better, and to the second that if they had so little literary appreciation at the age of 16 as to find a study of Shakespeare gruelling they would not be likely to enjoy his works in later life in any case.

North terrace. MOTHER OF TEN.

adv. 12.8.35

Sir William Mitchell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, gave a luncheon at the Hotel Richmond on Friday, when the following guests were present:—Professor F. Clarke (adviser to foreign students, the Institute of Education, London University), Professor Chapman, Dr. Fenner, Dr. Schulz, Inspector Allen, the Rev. A. G. Pentreath, and Messrs. F. W. Eardley, R. West, Lushery, and Mitchell.