

Sinking of Varsity Bore Draws Curious Crowd

The unusual sight of a bore being sunk through the narrow straits between the University front office and the Conservatorium attracted a crowd of curious onlookers today.

The bore is being sunk to a depth of 30 ft. from the bottom of an old 18-ft. drainage well to allow drainage waters which have been accumulating in the basement of the University main building to drain away.

University authorities are hoping that the bore will not tap an artesian basin, because the drain would be turned into a fountain that would spout all the basement.

MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY VISITORS

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APPECIATION AND ADVISORY COUNSEL

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To the Faculty,
I Sir—Before leaving South Australia, I should, as leader of the successful debating team from the University of Melbourne, like to record my appreciation of the royal courtesy and the imperial hospitality of the civic and University authorities of Adelaide. In my city of America there is so lively and generous spirit of co-operation between city and University. The way in which the great city of Adelaide, for the purposes of gracious entertainment, placed at the disposal of the Men's Uniting Society of all the University of Adelaide, is an indication of this. The co-operation of the city and University holds promise of a rich cultural life for each, and a contribution to make to the other, apart from their co-operation arises that will be of benefit to the people to both the things of the mind and the urgencies of our practical lives. From the division of the two, spring many of the most important problems: a narrow and too often eccentric individualism on the one side; a somewhat gross materialism and indifference to spiritual and mental values on the other.

Thanking for myself, I feel some dismay that the three major issues of our time are (from mistaken reasons of course, perhaps) largely avoided in my city of Adelaide. These are: discussion—religion, the family, and property; and these are menaced not only by the materialism and the significant groups, as by our own naive inadvertence. The impression seems prevalent that religion can be preached in a safe, untroubled, and untrammelled, and that from all discussion, so private and personal, and yet so much of the life of the nation, is excluded with a cold deliberation. Today, overlooking this unfortunate legacy of distance from a past time, we should boldly face the provocative and fundamental issue: whether or no man's mind should be free, and if indeed, it be so, then economic palliatives are the opium of the people, and no real solution of the anarchy of our social, family, and personal life can be achieved apart from the revolutionary force of integral truth. If we are to have a free and perfect freedom for the human intellect and will, that freedom should normally have an economic content, as a Christian, and content with economic dependence, and its concomitants, intellectual, and spiritual freedom. The use and possession of property must be the acknowledged right, and not the withheld privilege, of the average man. If, on the other hand, we are to have a servile state, there is little to choose between dependence on Stalin and dependence on Hitler. Like the children of the Jews of Okinawa, they are sisters under the skin—Amazonas pretty tough and draconian. Finally, by permitting distance from the past, we ourselves discipline from within, we must build up men and women free from the inner discipline—economic and otherwise—of the middle-headed propaganda of the concept. Unless these latter are boldly faced and fought, we shall be led to the land of light and heading, will become one vast cemetery haunted by a handful of old-age pensioners and a few stragglers from the Crimea. Where the family fails to flourish, the people perish.—I am, Sir, etc.

K. T. KELLY, B.A.,
Leader Melbourne University Debaters.

Doctors Aid The Adelaide Hospital

From "Citizen"—It is very difficult to understand the policy of the Government as regards the Adelaide Hospital. In the old days, when it was a small institution and only those who were really poor took advantage of its services, it was easily staffed, as far as the resident medical officers were concerned, by the students who had just completed their course. Today, with its business so vastly increasing, the outgoing students are no longer sufficient to cope with the number of patients, and the Government proposes to import doctors from other parts of the world to the work. At the same time it is a matter of common knowledge that medical practice in South Australia is overstocked, and that a number of practitioners, especially the younger ones, who have never had an opportunity of making money as his older generation did, have the greatest difficulty in making ends meet. These doctors, if they are to be employed in the public hospitals, if the Government is willing to pay a living wage, it is not only the Adelaide Hospital which will be thereby financially straining for the coming year, there are also the Children's Hospital, the Adelaide Hospital, and the Adelaide Diseases and Marfan's Hospital. At present a vicious circle is being established. As these hospitals increase in size, it will be necessary to import more doctors from England and elsewhere, and these young men, when their year of service is completed, will seek to put themselves into the competitive medical market. Finally, the miserable pecuniary return from the Adelaide Hospital, which has already had its natural result in decreasing the number of students at the University, will be the last straw. The Government will be obliged to disband many members of the great unions who are on half-time or quarter-time work, and will be obliged to bring out more artisans or engineers to compete with them, there would be such an outcry—and a just outcry—that the Government would be financially completely dropped. Medical practitioners are already suffering from loss of private practice, incidental to the increasing monopoly of medical work in public hospitals, and it is manifestly unfair that the Government should add to their troubles the importing of competitors from outside.

Benefits Of Research

WHILE in Canberra yesterday, Mr. R. B. McComas was interested in the research work being done in the field of boracic acid and glycerine—work which Dr. McComas, and Mr. R. Freney, of the C.S.I.R., and Mr. R. Prentiss, appears to be a great improvement in the treatment of flycatcher's crop.

"If it reproduces in the field results shown in the laboratory," he said, "it should justify the work more than all the other investigations. Results in prickly pear eradication in Queensland indicate the worth more than all the research expenditure at Canberra."

Work in South Australia at the Waters, Botanic and Animal Nutrition Division is also showing results which should lead those on the land to realise that the money spent at these institutions is an extremely profitable investment. South Australians have been very liberal to the Waite Institute, including the founder, the late Mr. Peter Waite, Sir J. G. Bennett, the Darling family, and Mr. J. T. Mortlock, but there is still need for more buildings and equipment provided by those generous supporters."

Openings For Graduates (Canberra)

The Federal Government has announced yesterday that further applications will be invited this year from University graduates desirous of entering the public service.

Details will be announced towards the end of the year.

Among the members of the medical profession in Adelaide who intend to be present at the British Medical Association congress in Melbourne from September 20 to 27, Dr. W. W. Cowan, (president of the S.A. branch of the association), Sir Henry Newland, Dr. Humphrey Makin, Dr. Ivan Lamb, Dr. D. G. Gillin, Dr. A. G. Sleeman, Dr. R. F. Matters, Dr. S. R. Burston, Dr. A. Britten Jones, Dr. H. A. McCoy, Dr. G. R. West, Dr. G. H. Burnell, Dr. A. L. R. Wootton, Dr. H. M. Fisher, Dr. G. C. Gilbert, Dr. M. Angus, Dr. H. M. Jay, Dr. Gilbert Brown, and Dr. H. C. Giblin.

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SOURCES OF ENERGY

Evils Of Economic Nationalism

ANTARCTIC AS SOURCE OF POWER

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Such widely varied subjects as economic nationalism, the polar regions as a source of power and their potentialities as holiday resorts, the nervousness of traders, and the high cost of nutritive and adequately advanced food were discussed by speakers invited at the opening of the congress of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Norwich today. In his presidential address to the economic section, the Dean of the Faculty of Commerce at the University of Birmingham (Professor J. G. Smith) cited the repercussions in New Zealand as an example of the evils of self-protective efforts to attain self-sufficiency, and pointed out that if the present state of affairs were to continue, New Zealand would be forced to diversify its population into economic secondary industries and to exclude every article which could be produced at home. The speaker pointed out that the system and the control of exchange had gone far beyond their original purpose, and that the policy of bringing out more artisans or engineers to compete with them, there would be such an outcry—and a just outcry—that the Government would be financially completely dropped. Medical practitioners are already suffering from loss of private practice, incidental to the increasing monopoly of medical work in public hospitals, and it is manifestly unfair that the Government should add to their troubles the importing of competitors from outside.

Professor Smith said he considered that the restoration of world trade, which had been the object of the Ottawa Agreements had diverted rather than enlarged trade. Stabilisation, which was essential, unhappily did not appear to be within sight.

Potentialities Of Polar Regions

The Professor of Geography at the University of Cambridge (Professor J. Debenham), in his presidential address to the geograph section, said that the Polar regions might be a future source of power. The persistent snow and frequent icebergs and Arctic blizzards offered a store of energy the supply of which, unlike that of coal and other sources of power, was inexhaustible. The future would probably see giant windmills erected in Antarctica producing power to be wireless throughout the Southern Hemisphere.

Drawing attention to the northward trend of cruising, Professor Debenham suggested that holiday resorts might be established at Stritzenberg and other Arctic lands. Medical research should be financed by the Rockefeller or similar foundations to determine the value of residence in the Polar regions for the treatment of pulmonary and other diseases. More and more people were turning towards the Polar areas. A team of geographers and geologists, the Arctic Survey, and this number might be trebled if the venture were less expensive.

The Director of the Psychological Laboratory at the University of Cambridge (Professor C. S. Myers) attributed crasse fatigue to a deficiency in the psychological condition of "accident proneness," and he advocated special tests to determine the nervous reactions of all road-users.

Discussing the economic aspects of diet, the Professor of Physiology at the Glasgow University (Dr. E. P. Cathcart) pointed out that nutritive and adequately balanced food was unnecessary. Professor P. S. Florence, Professor of Commerce at the University of Birmingham, criticised the ignorance of housewives who were a menace to the health of the nation, and recommended wider Government publicity for food and household management. Professor of Commerce at the School of Economics and Commerce Dundee, pleaded for closer co-operation between the universities and business.

The fairy tales of science have put those of the nursery so completely in the shade, that mankind is almost in danger of losing the faculty of wonder. When, therefore, Professor J. Debenham, in his presidential address before the geographical section of the British Association, summarised in our cable news today, talks of harnessing the blizzards in Antarctica to the service of industry, few people, perhaps, will see anything very incredible in the prospect. Harnessing sea-tides has long been a picturesque engineering project, and one has heard not a little of schemes for extracting from the sun's rays heat enough to drive railways, ocean liners, and masses of machinery. Then we have had proposals for transmitting vegetable matter into energy powerful and abundant enough to relieve us from dependence on coal or oil. It is natural that attention should be bestowed by the industrial world stands more in need than fresh sources of energy. Indeed, as population expands, such an increase of mechanical power may in time become a matter of life and death.

Already, as Dr. W. Tennent Cooke remarks—his interesting review of the position will be found in another column—"few countries produce any large proportion of foodstuffs without the aid of power-producing machinery or artificial fertilisers manufactured by power." Thus we have to think of a nation's wealth no longer in terms of gold, but rather in terms of its capacity to derive from its natural resources efficient and abundant power.

The notion of restoring to its old place as a source of power the wind which went to waste when no longer wanted for driving ships or mills is not quite new, for ten years ago the British Museum conducted the first of the generation of electricity, and something was done on a small scale, and more promised. But in no other part of the world is the energy latent in the moving air so colossal as elsewhere in the polar regions. As indicated in the records of Scott's last expedition, it is nothing for the far-famed blizzards to maintain for hours together an average velocity of from 50 to 70 miles an hour, the which proved fatal to a whaler at Cape Adare, blowing at times to 84 miles an hour. The windmills suggested by Professor Debenham surely need to be of Herculean strength to withstand a strain like this. But this gain to our own continent, could this energy be made available throughout the Southern Hemisphere, and suggested, would be incalculable, and the South Australia, which, as Dr. Tennent Cooke again reminds us, is so poor for natural motive power than any other State in the Commonwealth. New South Wales has its coalfields; Victoria its inexhaustible supplies of lignite; and Queensland and Tasmania make up a considerable showing with their coal and water power. Even Western Australia, in some senses the "Cinderella" of the group, is not without coal. Cheap power, as Dr. Cooke has no difficulty in showing, is the well-spring of industrial development. It is a determining factor in production. A country that can command a cheaper and more plentiful supply of mechanical energy than its neighbors, has an immediate competitive advantage, and