

some life would be a great boon, but lack of funds had been responsible for the idea not being carried into effect. The University was now recognised as an absolute necessity to the progress of the nation. He desired every boy or girl to have a free run from the kindergarten to the University. In a speech before the London School Board in 1871 Professor Huxley said:—"I should like to have an arrangement by which a passage could be secured for children of superior ability to schools in which they could obtain higher instruction than in the ordinary schools. I believe no educational system in England will be worth the name of a national system or fulfil the great objects of education unless it is one which establishes a great ladder, the bottom of which will be in the gutter and the top in the university." That was the ideal of the men who had done so much for the education system of South Australia and that was the ideal of the Labor Party. He felt confident that the Premier would give the motion favorable consideration. If Mr. Peake could add this to his other achievements in the education movement he would do something of which any man might be proud. Should they succeed in extending the University facilities they would make it possible for South Australia to attain to that position in the world which he was sure they all desired she should occupy.

On the motion of the TREASURER the debate was adjourned till Wednesday, November 10.

when, on the motion of Sir Norman Lockyer, it was unanimously agreed that Australia should in the interests of science establish a Solar Observatory. Dr. Duffield on that occasion was asked to do what he could to gain recognition of the need on his return to Australia, and he promised to do so. With a view to further the movement a public meeting will be held in the council chamber of the Melbourne Town Hall on Tuesday evening, October 26, at which the Governor-General (Lord Dudley) will preside, and will be supported by the Victorian State Governor (Sir Thomas Carmichael). The speakers will include Sir John Madden, Professor David, F.R.S., Mr. P. Baracchi, and other well-known authorities on solar research.

Mr. G. H. Reid, M.H.R., seconded the motion. He said some of their wealthy men should immortalise themselves by the endowment of an observatory. By establishing a Solar Observatory Australians would render valuable service to the world, and play a part worthy of their great future.

The motion was carried with cheers.

Advertiser Oct 20th, 1909

Advertiser Nov 1st 1909

Register, Oct 18th 1909

A SOLAR OBSERVATORY WANTED IN AUSTRALIA.

An important movement is on foot for the establishment in Australia of an observatory for the study of the sun, and the solar physics committee of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science has issued an interesting memorandum on the subject. It states that a co-operative scheme has been initiated between the great Solar Physics Observatories of Europe, America, and India, and Australia's participation in this international work is essential to its success. "The study of the sun is important from two points of view—one is purely scientific, and the sun is regarded as typical of one stage of the evolution of celestial bodies; the other takes account of its unrivalled influence upon the physical and meteorological conditions of the earth." The memorandum explains how an Australian Solar Observatory will fill a gap in the existing chain of similar observatories around the earth, and how the Commonwealth's position south of the equator, and its unique climatic conditions make the proposed establishment of urgent importance. The Australian movement has received probably as influential support as it is possible to obtain for any scientific project; among others that of the International Solar Research Union of the Royal Society, the British Association, the Australasian Association, the Smithsonian Institution of the United States, and other leading scientific bodies in Europe and America. It is mentioned that several problems connected with the sun depend for their solution upon a continuous series of observations made throughout the 24 hours, during which period the earth rotates once about its axis, and presents different parts of the surface in succession to the sun. Therefore solar observations spaced regularly around the earth are required. The great gap between India and America could be filled by a station in Australia, where the almost perpetual sunshine and clearness of atmosphere, so admirable for the work, should be taken advantage of. Practical reasons why the Commonwealth should favour the establishment in the interests of its own people, as well as of science generally, are supplied in the connection between solar and terrestrial phenomena, between sunspots and rainfall, barometric pressure, the hope of improving weather forecasts, and the study of solar radiation in its relations to life and climate and power upon the earth. Members of the solar physics committee are:—Mr. G. H. Knibbs, Commonwealth Statistician (President); Professor Bragg, M.A., F.R.S., President of the Australasian Association, and formerly of Adelaide; Professor Lyle, M.A., D.Sc., Professor of Physics, University of Melbourne; Professor Pollock, D.Sc., Professor of Physics, University of Sydney; Professor McAulay, M.A., Professor of Physics, University of Tasmania; Professor Chapman, M.A., Professor of Engineering, University of Adelaide; Mr. P. Baracchi, Government Astronomer of Victoria; Mr. W. E. Cooke, M.A., Government Astronomer of Western Australia; Sr. Keating, and Mr. James Oddie, F.R.G.S. The secretary (Dr. W. G. Duffield, of Glasgow) is now in Melbourne, partly in connection with the proposal. He was present at the International Solar Congress held in Paris in 1907.

SOLAR OBSERVATORY FOR AUSTRALIA.

At the suggestion of his Excellency the Governor-General a public meeting will be held at the Melbourne Town Hall on Tuesday evening next with the object of furthering the movement for the establishment of a solar observatory in Australia. Lord Dudley will preside, and will address the meeting. The Governor of Victoria (Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael) will also speak. Sir John Madden will represent the Melbourne University, Professor David the Sydney University, and Professor Henderson the Adelaide University, and it is expected that the Hobart University will also be represented. Mr. P. Baracchi will speak on behalf of the Melbourne Observatory, while Mr. G. F. Dodwell, Government Astronomer of South Australia will attend as the official representative of the State, and also on behalf of the Astronomical Society. A memorandum has been issued by the solar physics committee, giving a history of the movement and describing its objects.

Advertiser Nov 10th 1909

SOLAR RESEARCH.

AUSTRALIAN OBSERVATORY QUESTION.

Melbourne, October 27.

In a speech at a public meeting held at the Town Hall last night to promote the establishment of an Australian Solar Observatory, the Governor-General (Lord Dudley) said the importance of solar research was sufficiently attested by the existence of an international union for co-operation in this work in which all the great European nations and the United States were taking part. None of the self-governing dominions had embarked upon this research, but he believed the time had come for Australia to play her part. The main reason for the establishment of a well-equipped Solar Observatory in the Commonwealth arose from the geographical position of Australia, which seemed to mark the country as most suited to fill the gap in the chain of observatories around the earth. It was obvious that the proper conduct of Solar research depended upon a continuous series of observations being made throughout the 24 hours during which the earth rotated upon its axis. It was estimated that a minimum capital expenditure of £10,000 would be required for the establishment and that maintenance would involve an annual expenditure of £1,500. No more notable monument could be raised to the memory of a great Australian by his friends and relatives than the endowment of a Solar Observatory. It would be little short of a national misfortune if for the sake of a few thousand pounds Australia failed to take her place amongst the nations in scientific research, for which her geographical position marked her out. Australia's interest in the problems connected with her rainfall pointed to her being the spot for linking up the American and Indian Observatories.

The State Governor (Sir T. Gibson-Carmichael) said the Premier had assured him that the scheme would have every sympathy extended to it by the Government. Mr. Murray had given him to understand that if nothing better could be done the Ministry would do all they could to enable observations to be taken from Melbourne.

Sir John Madden said the scheme should receive the support of the Commonwealth Government.

Professor Henderson (Adelaide University) moved:—"That the establishment of a Solar Observatory is desirable, and that the Federal Government be strongly urged to assume the responsibility of carrying it into effect."

A SOLAR OBSERVATORY.

WHAT IS BEING DONE.

Mr. G. F. Dodwell, B.A., of the State Meteorological Department, who spent last week in Melbourne, had something to say on his return on Saturday with regard to the movement that is on foot for the establishment of a solar observatory in Australia. He attended a meeting held to discuss the subject, at which, at the instance of Professor Henderson, of the Adelaide University, a resolution was carried strongly urging the Federal Government to assume financial responsibility in connection with the matter. It is not known yet whether they will do this, but a deputation has been appointed to wait on Mr. Deakin and his colleagues with regard to it. The initial cost of the observatory is put down at £10,000, and at least £1,500 per annum will be required for its upkeep. Lord Dudley, Sir Thomas Gibson-Carmichael (Governor of Victoria), and Sir John Madden all made strong speeches at the meeting in support, and the latter, in emphasising the educational value of an institution like that proposed, said it would provide a splendid outlet for some of the talent fostered in the Australian universities. Apart from the purely scientific benefits that will accrue, one of the main reasons advanced in advocacy of the establishment of a solar observatory in Australia is that it will assist the meteorologists to forecast with greater accuracy the vagaries of the weather, and possibly also to predict the character of seasons. It is believed by scientists that there is a connection between the spots that appear on the sun's disc and the seasons on the earth, so that the study of the central body in the solar system becomes a matter of material consequence, as well as scientific interest. It follows, also, that if the sun is to be studied to advantage the observations must be made in a land where the atmosphere is clear and the luminary unobscured by clouds on a maximum of days. As Mr. Baracchi, the Government Astronomer for Victoria, pointed out in making a strong plea for an observatory at the meeting held in Melbourne, Australia shares with Sicily the distinction of having a maximum of sunshine. Solar observatories exist in various parts of the world, but in no place outside of the Commonwealth can the sun be seen to such advantage. Hence those moving in the matter of the establishment of an observatory think they have a good case. Discussing the question of site, Mr. Dodwell said the general opinion was that none of the existing Australian observatories would answer the demands of a solar observatory. They are all occupied with important meridian work, and are not equipped with the instruments suitable for solar research. Further, they are too close to dusty and smoky cities, and too near sea level. The ideal solar observatory would be one established in a locality where the skies are clear, and the altitude high. Mr. Dodwell said he believed if the Federal Government took the matter up they would want the observatory established at Yass-Canberra, the site selected for the Commonwealth capital; but if that were not so South Australia, on the point of sunshine, should have a good claim. He was of opinion that those interested in the matter here should push the claim while there was yet time.