

Advertiser 4-6-17

PROFESSOR STIRLING KNIGHTED.

A WELL-DESERVED HONOR.

His Excellency the Governor-General announced on Sunday that his Majesty the King had been pleased to confer the honor of Knight Bachelor on Professor E. C. Stirling, C.M.G., for services rendered to the Commonwealth.

The announcement will be received with widespread satisfaction in this State and throughout Australia. Professor Stirling has rendered conspicuous service and has won a world-wide reputation as a scholar. He is a native of Strathalbyn, a son of the late Hon. E. Stirling, and a brother of Sir Lancelot Stirling. His career has been one of devoted service and brilliant achievement. His early education was received at St. Peter's College, after which he went to Cambridge, where he graduated at Trinity College in arts, science, and medicine. His distinguished work in the lastnamed two branches of learning has received the recognition of several important bodies. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons and also of the Royal Society. For a time he filled the posts of house surgeon, assistant surgeon, and lecturer in physiology at St. George's Hospital, London. In 1881 he returned to South Australia, where he at once took a foremost place in his profession. His work as professor of physiology at the Adelaide University has been widely recognised, and the service he has rendered to Australia in the capacity of Director of the National Museum, an office he filled for many years, was suitably acknowledged when he retired from the responsible position. A beautifully-illuminated address was presented to him by the Public Library Board, which stated:—"Your first association with the institution dates back for more than 30 years. You were a member of the board of the South Australian Institute in 1881, and its chairman in 1882-3; and you became hon. curator of the Museum in 1889, and continued to direct the work of the department in that capacity until 1895, when you were appointed to the position which you are now resigning, and which you have held with so much credit to yourself and benefit to the institution. The board, recognising the value of such lengthy service to the institution and the State, desires to assure you that, while your resignation has been accepted with regret, it is glad to learn that you do not propose entirely to sever your connection with the Museum, and that you are prepared to continue to perform certain duties as director in an honorary capacity. The board is relieved to know that the preparations for arranging the specimens in the new building are not to be interfered with, and that under your able direction it may expect in that structure a display which will reflect credit alike on the Museum and yourself." On that occasion the zeal of the professor in obtaining Australian specimens for the Museum was favorably commented on by Professor Henderson and others.

The new knight has had experience of political life, having been a member of Parliament from 1883 to 1886, and to him belongs the distinction of having been the first South Australian legislator to introduce a Bill to extend the franchise to women, a reform that has since been adopted, not in this State alone, but throughout Australia. Last year he was elected president of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, in succession to the late Sir Samuel Way. He has made many contributions to scientific literature, and is a member of the University Council.



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—Distinguished Soldiers and Great Citizens.—

Several other well-known South Australians were mentioned in the honours list as having gained the coveted D.S.O. Col. C. T. C. de Creapigny, who went out with a field hospital, was resident medical officer at the Adelaide Hospital, and was noted as an expert in nervous disorders and bacteriology. Lieut.-Col. Charles Butler, a son of Sir Richard Butler M.D.

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WAR FINANCE.

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AN ABLE LECTURE.

A large audience heard the subject of "War finance" analysed by Professor R. F. Irvine, of Sydney—an authority on money matters invited this year to deliver the Joseph Fisher Lecture in Commerce—at the Victoria Hall on Tuesday evening. This technical subject the lecturer enlarged upon both lucidly and interestingly. Among the auditors were His Excellency the Governor (Sir Henry Galway) and the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray). Mr. J. R. Fowler, M.A., presided, and supporting him on the platform were Professors Mitchell, Henderson, and Rennie, and Messrs. F. Chapple, C.M.G., H. Angus Parsons, K.C., J. Shields (manager of the Bank of Adelaide), W. R. Bayly, B.A., B.Sc., Harold Fisher, C. R. Heaton, M.A., M. M. Maughan, B.A. (Director of Education), J. R. Booth, M.A., and W. Herbert Phillipps, and Professor Perkin (Director of Agriculture).

The Chairman outlined the origin and development of the lecture, which was established by the late Mr. Joseph Fisher about 12 years ago. The foundation of the commercial school in the University of Adelaide, he said, had been laid by Professors Bragg and Mitchell. In introducing the lecturer, Mr. Fowler said that Professor Irvine represented the pioneers of the work of commercial education in the universities in the other States.

—Expert Observations.—

Professor Irvine, who was received with applause, spoke on the subject, "War finance, loans, paper money, taxation." It was impossible, he said, to deal intelligently with war loans, paper money, and taxation without having some clear idea of what was meant by money loans. Some time ago he heard a well-known politician speak of the great total of British loans as four thousand million golden sovereigns. The man then amused his audience by calculating how long it would take to count that pile. When it was hinted to him that there was only in the British Empire about 5 to 10 per cent. of that vast sum of gold, he explained that he did not really mean what he said, but he did not explain what he really did mean. (Laughter.) The idea prevailed, the lecturer observed, that for every note, cheque, bill of exchange, and loans, public and private, there was guarded securely an equal sum in golden sovereigns. He submitted that money was something quite different from what the man in the street conceived it to be. He had defined money as simply a collective name for all the devices they used to enable them to exchange commodities and services. With that definition, it was quite meaningless to take money to be a standard of value. Because gold was the unit of value, it would be illogical to assume that coin money must necessarily form any but a fractional part of money defined as means of exchange, or that the quantity of money so defined was based solely, or to a large extent, on the amount of gold actually held in reserve. The greater part of exchanging among civilized people was nowadays carried on, not by the use of gold, but by a refined system of bartering.

—Gold Not the Basis.—

The greater part of modern money was not based upon gold, but upon the general wealth of the community, and banks were instrumental in enabling them to liquify that, or portion of it, into currency or means of payment. In British speaking countries the chief currency was the bank cheque. Money, in his opinion, was a function of the general wealth of the community, and not a function of one item called gold. Therefore loanable capital also depended upon general wealth. If a community had great resources of material, technical knowledge, skill, organizing power, and plenty of means for fitting men and women, who would do the work of civil life, it need not worry about war finance because it could create its own money. Money was the emanation of the wealth it controlled. That was the whole secret of the main idea of money. Professor Irvine then analyzed the financial methods adopted by Great Britain, France, and Germany. Modern Government, he proceeded, when faced with war, did not venture to commandeer the materials and services it required. It might compel men of military age to join the colours, but where the civil population was concerned it usually adopted another method to secure organization. It adopted the customary commercial manner. To do that it must get command of general purchasing power, but clearly money was only a convenient intermediary to get the real stuff—munitions, food, clothes, ships, and so on.

—Several Expedients.—

The sources upon which a Government might draw were as follows:—It might borrow or issue loans, resort to taxation, issue paper money, issue other forced loans, resort to tributes or indemnities, or get means from Government undertakings. For in war they were actually in a state approaching socialism, because the Government was forced to take command of many industries. No great war was likely to be financed by taxation alone. That would tend to dislocate existing economic life. Continuing, the lecturer said that the issue of paper money had been almost universally condemned by economists and financial authorities, and yet nearly all the present belligerents had had recourse to the device of inconvertible paper money, either from necessity or after reaching the conclusion that the method was not so bad as it had been pointed out. It had been said that America held all the

gold and Europe in the paper. Gold had been flooding the neutral countries, which had even introduced legislation to damn back the "yellow peril." (Laughter.) Holland had more gold than she needed, and the people had been compelled to purchase English Treasury bills. They feared that the flood of gold would cause a rise in the price of commodities. America had met with the same experience, and the adoption of a similar procedure had been advocated. As regarded the present, Professor Irvine said that the whole drift of modern finance, whereby wars had been carried on mainly by loans, indicated the line of evolution in money. With respect to the drastic confiscation of income, that was a policy which no Ministry would be likely to face. In all probability this would result in great disunion at a time when it was necessary to keep the nation harmonious.

—Thanks.—

Professor Mitchell (for the University of Adelaide) moved, and Mr. E. Allnutt (in behalf of the Adelaide Chamber of Commerce) seconded, a vote of thanks to the lecturer, which was carried with acclamation.

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Surgeon-Lieutenant-Colonel Hayward,
upon whom has been conferred the Com-
panionship of the Order of St. Michael
and St. George.

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THE CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION.

"It must be a delightful thing to be a member of Professor Darnley Naylor's class for any student who has caught his enthusiasm for the study of language as an artistic instrument of expression, and as a subtle half-unconscious record of feeling." So writes Professor Conway, of Manchester, in an article in the March number of the "Classical Review," while reviewing Professor Naylor's book, "More Latin and English Idiom." At the meeting of the Classical Association at the University on Tuesday evening the members experienced something of this delight as Professor Naylor showed how a similar study of order could assist in the interpretation of the works of the poet Horace. The professor selected six vexed passages from the Odes and one passage from the Epodes, and in a highly interesting lecture proved clearly that the study of order applied to the works of the poet was of the greatest value, not only in removing the difficulties that have confronted generations of commentators, but also in revealing the marvellous skill with which the correct emphasis was secured. A careful comparison of all the poems showed that the arrangement of words in a sentence was never the result of accident or metrical convenience, but always served the useful purpose of enforcing the meaning.

The annual election of officers resulted:—Patron, Sir George Murray; president, Professor H. Darnley Naylor; vice-presidents, Professor Mitchell, Messrs. W. R. Bayly, T. A. Catorer, and A. J. Perkins; committee, Miss Clark, Messrs. R. J. M. Clucas, and G. A. McMillan; hon. treasurer, Mr. J. F. Ward; hon. secretary, Mr. D. H. Holidge.

War Poems by Leon Gellert

THE DIGGERS.

The diggers are digging, and digging deep,
They're digging and singing,
And I'm asleep.
They're digging and singing and swinging
they're swinging
The flying earth as it falls in a heap,
And some of it scatters and falls on my
head,
But the diggers dig on, They can only dig,
They can only sing, and their eyes are big,
Their eyes are big and heavy as lead,
They dig and they sing, and they think I'm
dead.
The diggers are digging, and filling the hole,
They're sighing and sighing,
They pray for my soul,
I hear what they say, and from where I am
lying
I hear a new corporal calling the roll,
But the diggers dig on and fill in my bed,
The diggers dig on, and they sweat and they
sweat,
They sigh and they sigh, and their eyes are
wet,
The broken earth clatters and covers my
head,
Then I laugh and I laugh, for they think I'm
dead.

THE HOSPITAL FOR THE BLIND.

A red-roofed house is shining to the skies,
A house red-roofed and brilliant in the
wind,
A house of color filled with wandering eyes,
And all the eyes are blind,
A gentle sound of moving fills each room;
A sound of hands—dumb hands that touch
and pry;
A sound of fingers feeling in a tomb
Before they close and die,
A hundred windows face long rows of
flowers—
Long rows of flowers, and flowers that
sway and dance;
Dance where lidded eyes can gaze for hours
and hours;
Blue eyes that shut in France.

BEFORE ACTION.

We always had to do our work at night,
I wondered why we had to be so shy,
I wondered why we couldn't have our fight
Under the open sky,
I wondered why I always felt so cold,
I wondered why the orders seemed so slow,
So slow to come, so whisperingly told,
So whisperingly low,
I wondered if my packing-straps were tight,
And wondered why I wondered.... Sound
went wild....
An order came.... I ran into the night,
Wondering why I smiled.

A NIGHT ATTACK.

Be still. The bleeding night is in suspense
Of watchful agony and colored thought,
And every beating vein and trembling sense,
Long-tired with time, is pitched and over-
wrought,
And for the eye, the darkness holds strange
forms,
Soft movements in the leaves, and wicked
gloves;
Strange shapes of white and grey that no
one knows;
And for the ear; a sound, a pause, a
breath,
A distant hurried footstep moving fast,
The hand has touched the slimy face of
death,
The mind is raking at the ragged past,
.... A sound of rifles rattles from the south,
And startled orders move from mouth to
mouth.

PATIENCE.

Red! red! red!
Is there no black?
Red like the bloody earth, this pack!
Knaves! Kings! Queens!—all red!
Where are the black?
Shuffle again!
Will not the other cards come back?
The only cards to clear the brain!
Dear God, 'twill crack!
Shuffle again!
Red! red! red!
Black! black! black!
Is there no red?
Has all the blood on earth been shed?
Each Queen! Each King! And every Jack!
Where are the red?
Shuffle again!
Has blood within the world all bled?
The millions mourning for the slain?
The million dead?
Shuffle again!
Black! black! black!
From "Songs of a Campaign" (Hazel
Adelaide).

Leon Gellert! A new name to this page, a
new name in Australian literature. ETC