

TIMBER PROBLEMS

Forests Quickly Disappearing

RESTORATION URGENT

(By "Hardwood.")

Afforestation is a problem that is being taken up by Australian Governments in a halfhearted manner. Recently it was announced in an electioneering campaign that £50,000 would be expended within the next five years in South Australia. The Advisory Board of Agriculture then discussed the matter and made recommendations. It is certain, however, that the seriousness of the question is not fully grasped by the people generally.

Unless something on a comprehensive scale is undertaken Australia will soon be denuded of commercial timbers and be in the same plight as other nations whose rapidly diminishing forests are a matter of grave concern.

An indication of the rapid depletion of forests may be gained from the fact that in the two islands of New Zealand in 1840 there were nearly 40,000,000 acres. A year ago it was estimated that the area had been reduced to 11,500,000 acres—a reduction of nearly 75 per cent.

Occasionally an effort is made to place forestry on a more satisfactory basis, but generally it is considered subservient to other industries in which more labor is employed. The loss of timber by fire and waste is colossal, and for the last few years those conversant with the question have pointed out the danger of a timber famine.

The Forest Act of New Zealand of a year ago inaugurated a sound policy for the preservation and assurance of ample timber supplies at equitable rates. New Zealand is regarded as possessing the best softwood forests in the southern hemisphere, and has little competition. Australia is considered superior in hardwoods, but it must be realised that for every thousand feet of hardwood used the requirements are tenfold in softwoods.

The individual varieties of hardwoods indigenous to Australia and Tasmania are estimated at about 500, as against 800 in the United States and Canada and 2,000 varieties in the Philippines.

A leading timber merchant remarked that the present was an opportune time to grapple with the question, and that it was an urgent matter if the threatened famine were to be forestalled. He said that the greater part of the world was apparently awakening from the lethargy which had characterised the industry for many years, and that Australia could not afford to be behind the times.

The total woodlands in Great Britain, exclusive of those planted within the past three years, are stated to be more than 2,000,000 acres. Now an effort is being made to utilise the 15,000,000 acres of waste land which still exists—mostly mountain and heath country, where timber could be successfully and commercially grown. Great Britain imports more than 10,000,000 tons of timber each year. This costs more than £45,000,000.

In 1919 a Forestry Commission was established in Scotland and commissioners appointed with power to spend £3,500,000 within 10 years. Great Britain can never be expected to yield the amount of timber and firewood that is consumed there, and must turn to her colonies. Fortunately in Canada she possesses a country yielding prolific softwood timbers. Canada has at present about 3,800 mills, and even though the milling industry tends toward America and there there are about 21,000 mills, Canada's soil may be expected to produce demands when American forests are depleted. It must be remembered that America has a population of more than 111,000,000 to supply. Canada has fewer than 9,000,000 people.

The wood pulp industry is making rapid inroads into forest areas in both countries. In 1913 in Canada 330,000 tons of newsprint was made; the output increased to more than one million tons in 1922. Shipping facilities have opened the Canadian markets to the world, and their export trade is now six times greater than it was in 1915. Australia has increased her imports in a like manner.

Afforestation is a problem that must be dealt with in Australia, and not in a small way, but in keeping with present and probable requirements.

Miss Annie Ridley, who died in England, and whose will was recently passed for probate in South Australia, was the daughter of John Ridley, the miller, of wheat stripper fame. The Ridleys came out in the Warrior in 1840. John Ridley set up his steam mill at Hindmarsh, and in it ground the first fruits of the first harvest in South Australia. He was always inventing, and the wheat stripper was the outcome of his fertile brain. He did not patent this invention but gave it for the benefit of agriculture in the colony.

SOCIAL INSTINCT

PSYCHOLOGY AND HISTORY.

LECTURE BY PRINCIPAL KEIK.

The second of four free public lectures arranged by the Workers' Educational Association was delivered in the Prince of Wales Theatre University on Thursday night, when Principal E. S. Keik, M.A., B.D., gave an interesting and instructive talk on "The Social Instinct."

Mr. W. C. Melbourne (vice-president) presided.

Principal Keik asserted that a close relation existed between psychology and the historical sciences. Psychology and history enriches and illuminates one another. Modern development in psychology, notably the study of psychology of the crowd stressed the conviction that what was called individuality was largely determined by their sociality. They ought not to think of themselves as flung together like marbles in a box; in a real and vital sense they were members one of another. The gregarious and imitative tendencies of human nature ought to be recognised as factors for good: an isolated man might be a saint or a hero "born out of due time," but he was more likely to be a crank or a criminal. Some "high-brows" were never tired of abusing "the crowd." Principal Keik considered that these men were partly responsible for the reaction against democracy which was so evident in many parts of the world. He agreed that the social instinct was not rational in origin, but this did not mean that it could not be justified by reason. The theory that society emerged from an historical "contract" was unsound historically, but it embodied an idea that was fundamentally true. Society was rooted in the very nature of man, but society could only justify its existence in so far as it served to make possible the good life. If any type of social organisation became purely materialistic in character and end, its doom was writ.

Principal Keik pointed out that many societies existed beside the State; the social instinct manifested itself in the creation of churches, trades unions, and no end of associations. These societies often did work that the State could not do, or could not do as effectively. The vitality of the social instinct, and the stability of the State itself, might be measured by the multiplicity of these organisations. But the existence of such organisations created problems, especially in cases where societies transcended State boundaries and claimed a loyalty that might come into conflict with loyalty to the State. Certainly the State ought not to be set up as an object of worship—as a kind of modern Moloch. Imperial Germany had proved the folly of this. Mere patriotism was not enough and the spirit of exuberant nationalism was largely responsible for the miseries of the world to-day. On the other hand there was danger in a sloppy cosmopolitanism. The lecturer thought that even an exuberant nationalism might be infinitely preferable to an anarchy of selfish individualism or to a class loyalty that manifested itself chiefly in class hatred. The time might come when the State would be transcended by some larger form of organisation but at present the State was the most vigorous and influential product of the social instinct. There was need for a new philosophy of the State, for a fresh exposition of the principles of political obligation. The tremendous events of the recent past and the revolutionary movements and fierce reactions now in progress called for this. Good citizenship depended on right thinking, not on flag-waving. The purpose of the forthcoming course of lectures was to set this issue in the light of the thought and experience of the past, for no philosophy of the State could be sound which was not rooted and grounded in history.

Questions and discussion followed the lecture. A hearty vote of thanks was accorded the lecturer.

WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The third of a course of four free public lectures arranged by the Workers' Educational Association was delivered in the Prince of Wales Theatre University by Mr. A. L. G. Mackay B.A., B.E.C. on Tuesday evening on "Economic Searchlights" Professor Darnley Naylor presided.

The lecturer said that the average citizen was unfamiliar with recent development in economic thinking and was accustomed to pass cheerfully through life accepting the economic system as it stood and feeling bewildered by the various economic catastrophes that took place all around him. The function of a searchlight was to throw light into dark places and hence the function of an economic searchlight was to explain to those who were willing to listen the outstanding features of the economic environment which were clothed in darkness to the average citizen.

Directly they threw their economic searchlights on to the industrial system the following economic objects stood out with remarkable clearness. First they had a greatly improved system of productive transport and service as compared with that of years gone by and they found this alongside of this there was comparatively insignificant improvement in the general conditions of life. There was no doubt that the conditions of life of the average man had greatly improved at the same rate as the improvement in the present industrial system. Coupled with that they had the alluring phenomena of the steady rising of prices. This rising in prices began away back in 1900 and it had steadily mounted ever since, though in certain cases there had been individual drops followed by rises. On the whole when they could say that of recent years there had been a gradual tendency for prices to rise. Another feature of the present system was the growing demand for an improved standard of life in all countries and sad to relate with this had gone the increasing suspicion with which classes regard each other. In company with this and possibly connected with it were movements which to the impartial observer could only be described a combines of both capital and labor with the object of giving a minimum of work or a maximum of return. On the side of capital this state of affairs was brought about by what was called the theory of monopoly price and price agreements and on the side of labor by means of sabotage and 'canny methods.

Neither side could be blamed for doing this because they were driven to do it on circumstances over which they probably had no control. In another direction they saw the general displacement of the hopes citizens who had looked for a solution to economic difficulties in political changes of the administration of production, the possession of political power, the raising of wage, profit sharing co-operation and if none of these were to solve the riddle of the spinn then it was hoped that benevolent legislation would bring about the desired end.

Turning again to another quarter the searchlight revealed a form of activity that was not often spoken about though it was known to exist. The reference was to the control that finance and financial considerations exercised for the policy of production and over our Governments. This coupled with the predominance of artificial influence over the law of supply and demand played a very important part in the economic organisation. Flowing from the control which finance exercised for policy they found also that there was a necessity for ever increasing exports, laid upon all countries at the cost of home consumption. This necessity of ever increasing exports had quite a definite influence on the foreign policy of most Governments and was not connected with the cause of war.

Finally they had the results of a policy of inflation which though admittedly had not seem to be worse than the difficulties and dangers of deflation and we get so wise a thinker as Mr. McKenna advising the financial world to endeavor to steer a middle course between these two rocks of destruction. This description of the economic environment revealed by their searchlights, received almost universal support from all parts of society from politicians like Mr. Lloyd George, Mr. Ramsay MacDonald Signor Silla and Mr. Baldwin, from bankers and business men like Mr. McKenna and Mr. Henry Ford, from socialists like Mr. Morell, Mr. Bradford, Mr. Willis and finally from economists like Gide, Keynes, Watson and Hobson.

A final remedy for such a state of affairs was hardly the task of one man but there was substantial agreement amongst those competent to judge as to

what was the cause of these economic inconsistencies. All the men mentioned would probably agree that the difficulty was the shortage of purchasing power. Mr. J. A. Hobson found that the shortage of purchasing power was due to what he called over investment resulting in the building up of masses of capital, the capital goods which had become so unwieldy that it was possible to absorb the goods which were produced therefrom. Other thinkers could blame the fact that inflation and the policy of inflation practised by European Governments during the war had destroyed and sucked value from purchasing power that already existed in the community. As the task of industry and industrial captains during the 19th century was to cooer the supply of goods in the 20th century since they had perfected their mechanism of production the task was that of cooering demand of producing extra purchasing power or the giving of orders so as to make the industrial machine work and so as to absorb the goods that it produced.

Whether this be true or not there was no doubt that the present industrial system was one which revealed great potentiality and the task was not so much the production of goods, for that could easily be done but rather a sale of these goods once they were produced and they found evidence of the fact in the extraordinary strength which was being paid to the arts and science of advertising in the modern industrial world. Furthermore there was a tendency toward the national debt as a great millstone tied about the neck of the nation. While that was in a measure true when looked at from a certain point of view there has been a great amount of light thrown upon their concept of the national debt by the work of two Australians recently Mr. and Mrs. Leo Watson. Their ideas upon the national debt were not exactly orthodox but they were interesting in that they acted as a sort of sign post pointing the direction along which they might travel. The national debt to them was nothing other than a measure of the nations capacity to produce and deliver goods. If this were so, and if it were true that the national debt could use a medium for increasing the purchasing power of the community then there was no doubt that they had placed within their reach a means of salvation as important as were the scientific discoveries of the 18th century. What they required now was education in some of the more modern developments in order that they might be sufficiently intelligent to pick up the remedy that lay by their sides.



Dr. Jethro Brown
President of the Board of Industry

UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE (3)

SPECIAL EXAMINATIONS FOR DEGREES OF B.A., B.Sc., AND B.E. (Pass Lists: Not Classified.)
Elementary Comparative Philology (8).
Gerlach, Max Johann; Nicholls, Jonathan Kingsley.
Logic (21).
Hoskins, Howard Berthold.
Pure Mathematics, First Year (50).
Alderman, Arthur Richard; Thomas, Richard Greenfell.
Physics, Second Year (38). Full course.
None passed.
Physics, Second Year (38a). Short course.
Rodley, Harold Royce Ernest.
Chemistry, First Year (45).
None passed.
Geology, Part I. (Theory) (52).
Scott, Alfred Eric.
Forest Botany (68c).
Symonds, Wybert Milton Caust.

DIPLOMA IN COMMERCE.
Supplementary Examination.
Commercial Law.
Third Class.—Brigham, Alexander George Herlet.

Register 24 MAR 1924
Miss Annie Ridley, who died in England, and whose will was recently passed for probate in South Australia, was the daughter of John Ridley, the miller, of wheat stripper fame. The Ridleys came out in the Warrior in 1840. John Ridley set up his steam mill at Hindmarsh, and in it ground the first fruits of the first harvest in South Australia. He was always inventing, and the wheat stripper was the outcome of his fertile brain. He did not patent this invention but gave it for the benefit of agriculture in the colony.