

**A FEDERAL FORESTRY SCHOOL.**

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) upon his most recent visit to Adelaide, was approached by a deputation, which urged upon him the national importance of the work being performed at the School of Forestry, at the University of Adelaide, and expressed the hope that the Federal Government would help to forward the undertaking by a monetary grant. It was pointed out that the Adelaide Forestry School is the only institution of its kind in the Commonwealth, and that, with the tacit, if not the formal, approval of all the States, it had for several years constituted the Australian centre of forestry training. Of the excellence of its scientific standard, and the practical thoroughness of its work, Mr. Bruce was given ample assurance. The Prime Minister expressed both interest in the achievements, and sympathy with the aims, of those responsible for the conduct of the school which is acknowledged to be the best of its kind in the southern hemisphere; but he was understood to say, in reply to the request for a grant, that the question was not one which fell within the jurisdiction of the Commonwealth. Mr. Bruce is reported to have declared:—

That if the States who were responsible in the matter should come to the conclusion that it was necessary to establish a proper training ground for those who were going to control the forests in the future, the Commonwealth Government would be prepared to consider the position sympathetically. . . . There were Ministers in each State who were responsible for that great question.

The Prime Minister went on to suggest the possibility of a conference, representative of all the States, to deal with forestry training as an Australian question. The implication was that the Federal Government, from whose jurisdiction forestry was excluded, would take no direct part in such a conference; for Mr. Bruce concluded by saying that if the States "had difficulty in carrying on the work, the Federal Government would be quite prepared to listen to any representation from them."

The consistency between the Prime Minister's polite refusal of the request of the Adelaide deputation, and his announcement, made on Friday, that "the Cabinet had decided to establish a forestry school in the Federal Capital Territory," is far from obvious. The Commonwealth Government could not properly bear part of the expense of the existing school; but it can legitimately pay the whole cost of the building and maintenance of an institution which threatens to supplant it, or to produce a grave duplication and overlapping of effort. There could be no better example of the effect of illogical processes of Federal thinking, which commonly begin with the assumption that no good thing ever came out of one of the smaller States. Even the Commonwealth Forestry Adviser, Mr. Lane Poole, whose enthusiastic advocacy of the establishment of a new Australian forest school has so surprisingly borne fruit within a few days of the publication of his report, admitted that the Adelaide institution had trained "some enthusiastic and fine young foresters." It is true that he deplored the fact that South Australia was lacking in forests, and that, in that respect, the existing school was badly situated; but he was speaking of the whole of Australia when he added, on the general question of training in forestry, that "the main difficulty has been, and must continue to be, the lack of demonstration forests." Obviously, that difficulty will not be overcome at Canberra; and, if it be true that an Australian forester should have a practical knowledge of forestry conditions in all the States, he might without disadvantage continue to make the Central State his headquarters. Despite Mr. Lane Poole's ambitious

ideas, the system adopted for the training of forestry students at the Adelaide University has worked well. The Conservator of Forests of Western Australia, a State in which that office is of special importance, is a product of the Adelaide school.

Let it be supposed that every State in the Commonwealth were simultaneously to require an Australian-trained Conservator of Forests. By the appointment of only six men, all the "plums" offered to the profession in Australia would be allotted. What are the inducements held out to the other graduates in forestry? What ever may be the answer to the question, it is evident that the demand for forestry experts is not sufficient to justify the training of a large number of foresters, and, therefore, that two Australian forestry schools are unnecessary. Accordingly, for all practical purposes, the announcement of the establishment of the Canberra institution is tantamount to an intimation that the Adelaide school must close its doors—a singularly poor requital for the enterprise and well-directed energies of the pioneers of forestry training in Australia. It is admitted on all hands that the School of Forestry at the Adelaide University has done much valuable work, and that its opportunities for usefulness might be further extended by no very heavy addition to its financial resources; it has yet to be proved that a Federal Academy of Forestry, conducted on an ambitious, probably wasteful, plan would accomplish more than, or even as much as, already stands to the credit of the institution whose place it is obviously intended it should take. If the Commonwealth Government, reversing Mr. Bruce's recent dictum that forestry is not within its jurisdiction, is really eager to spend money on the development of Australia's long neglected timber resources, the opportunities are ample. Of no State in Australia can it be said with truth that it is in no need of stimulus in the work of afforestation. Mr. Lane Poole's report tells anew the lamentable story of generations of neglected opportunities, which is the history of Australian forestry—or the lack of it. If the Commonwealth could but arouse the States to the need for the immediate prosecution of an energetic policy of afforestation on wholesale principles, it would be entitled to claim a distinction which does not belong to the proposal merely to transfer the teaching of forestry from Adelaide to Canberra, and, in the process, make it more expensive. Australia wants a sufficiency of forests, rather than an over-supply of foresters.

ADVERTISER 11-5-25

**NOTED PHYSICIST TO VISIT ADELAIDE.**

A noted physicist, Sir Ernest Rutherford, Cavendish Professor of experimental physics and director of the Cavendish Laboratory, at the University of Cambridge, is to visit Adelaide early in September for the purpose of delivering two lectures under the auspices of the Adelaide University. Sir Ernest Rutherford is a native of New Zealand, and graduated at the New Zealand and Cambridge Universities. He has gained many degrees and awards for research work, and is considered to be the leading physicist of the world. His lecturing tour throughout Australia and New Zealand is being arranged through the co-operation of the various universities.

NEWS 13-5-25

At the next luncheon of the members of the League of Nations, the guests will be Professor W. Mitchell (Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University), who recently returned from Britain, and Mr. Malcolm MacDonald, of the Oxford Debating team, now visiting Adelaide. Mr. MacDonald is a son of Mr. Ramsay MacDonald (leader of the British Labor Party).

**FORESTRY EDUCATION.**

**Plea for Adelaide School.**

**Valuable Work Done.**

The announcement by the Prime Minister, which appeared in The Register on Saturday, that the Commonwealth Government had decided to establish a forestry school in the Federal Capital Territory came as a surprise to many persons in South Australia, who, in the past, have taken a keen interest in the planting of forest trees, especially in view of the Prime Minister's sympathetic reply to a deputation which waited upon him when he was in Adelaide recently.

The school of forestry at the Adelaide University, which is at present the only one of its kind in the Commonwealth, is doing a national work for Australia, and the South Australian graduates have been given important posts in the various States. In the Western Australian Department of Forestry seven of the past students of the Adelaide University school are employed, and one of them (Mr. S. L. Kessell) is the Conservator of Forests. The South Australian department also employs four from the school. Moreover, students of forestry in the other States have come to South Australia specially to follow their studies in the subject at the Adelaide University. The school has published literature on forestry, and, besides disseminating a large amount of technical knowledge, it is continually working on problems of interest and importance. The Adelaide University was the first and the only one in Australia to award the Bachelor of Science degree in forestry, and the unanimous opinion of those interested is that there should be a centre for the training of the more advanced students in forestry. This has been emphasized for years by conferences of foresters, the universities in conference, and the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science expressed a similar opinion in Adelaide in 1924. Several statements concerning the nature of the forest training, and the location of the school of forestry, which was to train professional foresters for Australia, have been made in the interstate press, but, while the Adelaide University has for years been steadily working and training men who were undoubtedly making good, the school in the bush, as proposed by the Prime Minister, might take another period of years to materialize, and would cost a large sum of money, and at the same time give a lower standard of training than a well-equipped university forest school, which would cost only a fraction of the Prime Minister's proposal, and give better and immediate results.

**Co-operation Among States.**

The Instructor of Forestry at the Adelaide University (Mr. H. H. Corbin), when approached by a representative of The Register on Monday, expressed regret at the Prime Minister's decision, especially in view of the favourable reply he had given to the deputation in Adelaide recently. He stated that Sir David Hutchins, after his enquiries into the special conditions existing in Australia, had said, "It should be the policy in Australia to foster that esprit de corps which is such a conspicuous feature of the forest service of the other countries. When the forest service is organized none but men with a university training should be in the higher ranks, or men specially promoted for efficiency." Continuing, Mr. Corbin said the forest conferences for years had adopted resolutions supporting the principle of a forest school, and the most recent conference of foresters of Australia held in Sydney in 1924 had adopted a resolution which, with the exception of one member, expressed the unanimous opinion that the school should be attached to a university in the Commonwealth. That marked a distinct advance, for the reason that hitherto some of the delegates had been doubtful whether the school should be located in the bush, or attached to a university. It had been pointed out that the expenditure on a school in the bush would be prohibitive to produce anything like the same standard of results which with a relatively smaller outlay could be produced at the university, where the building and the staff for teaching the allied subjects were already available.

**School Should be in Adelaide.**

Mr. Corbin said the opinion of foresters that the School of Forestry should be centred at a university was now practically unanimous. The Interstate Universities Conference in 1924 had adopted a unanimous resolution in favour of the school being located at Adelaide. After long correspondence with the dis-

forestry officials in Australia, it had been ascertained that the majority would support a school at the Adelaide University because (1) the principles of forestry were the same the world over, and the quality of the teaching was relatively unimportant; (2) the students had to gain wide practical experience in the forests of the various States, and work in the forests of those States during their university vacations, which could obviously be arranged, irrespective of the State in which the school itself was situated. On those grounds, Adelaide as a centre for the training of foresters was as well situated as any other. The University of Adelaide and the State of South Australia had done practically all the pioneering work in the matter of training foresters, and the University had associated itself with the forest at Kuitpo, which was within 20 miles of Adelaide. In that forest, during the shorter vacations, students had gained very valuable experience in forest routine, management, and an insight to experimental work.

**Funds Needed.**

The way had been prepared, added Mr. Corbin, for co-operation in the matter of forestry training between the States of the Commonwealth, but nothing substantial had resulted yet. The Adelaide school, therefore, had a very strong claim for consideration. Funds were sorely needed to extend its usefulness, as it could not be expected that the whole burden of the work in that important department of education should continue to be borne by one lecturer. Contributing bodies had been invited to send students to the school, and take graduates into their services, in order that adequate training would result, which would be immediately reflected in the increased returns from the forests, owing to the more satisfactory methods that would be applied.

of instituting an Elder Conservatorium Association that should prove very active in advancing the cause of music in South Australia. He said that it was difficult to get the vast majority to take the subject of music seriously. Those people did not realize how vitally important it was in the life of the community. If the association were formed, the members should bring in people with whom they came in contact, and induce them to give the subject more earnest consideration. It was necessary also that, in forming such an association, all concerned should realize the ethics of its formation. A good many unions existed so that their members might get something out of them. That was laudable, up to a point. But, in the present instance, members should not only strive to get what they could out of it, but also to put something into it, too. In proportion, they would get out of it just what they put into it. The speaker went on to point out the chief considerations that were involved in seeking to elevate and advance the cause of music in the State. He spoke of its advancement, of the enthusiasm necessary to effect this, of the opportunity that would be given for the encouragement of original composition, and of the fraternal feeling that would be promoted. Incidentally, also, it would be possible to entertain visiting artists of renown. Dr. Davies referred to his recent Sydney visit, where the Musical Association had so fraternally entertained him and his colleagues. The director further suggested that an associate body might also be formed with similar ideas to those being set before the meeting, but such members not necessarily to be members of the Elder Conservatorium. Continuing his suggestions for a wider appreciative atmosphere, Dr. Davies spoke of the helpfulness to be

ADVERTISER 16-5-25

A special meeting of the council of the Adelaide University was held yesterday, when the resignation of Professor Coleman Phillipson as Professor of Law, was received. The Vice-Chancellor (Professor W. Mitchell) stated at the conclusion of the meeting that Professor Phillipson's resignation had been accepted. Professor Coleman Phillipson, M.A., LL.D., Litt.D., is a native of Leeds. He was educated at the Central High School and Yorkshire College, afterwards entering the Victoria University of Manchester, the University College of London, and the Inner Temple. He practised for thirteen years in London, and held briefs from the Crown in which important points of Constitutional and international law were involved. During the war he did special confidential work for the War Cabinet, the Foreign Office, and the Admiralty, and went with the British delegation to Paris as counsel in international law and legal secretary to the law officers of the Crown. He is the author of numerous legal works. He was appointed to the position he has just vacated in 1920.