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WORKERS' EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION.

The department of tutorial classes of the University, in co-operation with the Workers' Educational Association, has completed arrangements for the classes to be conducted at the University this year. Last year, nine tutorial classes were held at the University, and, in addition, classes were conducted at various country towns, and monthly lectures were delivered in country centres where, for financial and other reasons it was not found convenient to hold weekly classes. With the extra grant now available, a large increase in the number of classes is possible. Names are now being enrolled for the 14 classes to be held in the University this year, in English literature (3), economics (2), public speaking (2), modern world history, a history of the working class movement, psychology (3), singing and music and philosophy. The number of students attending classes has steadily increased from a few hundred to between seven and eight hundred. Yet, considering the advantages of such classes, it is surprising that more students have not taken advantage of the classes. For 5/ (for each class) men and women can study at night and at University standard, too, without having to sit for examinations. In addition to the classes, four free public lectures will be delivered in the Public Library lecture room, Institute Building, North terrace, on March 10, 12, 17 and 19, and two in connection with the eighth annual conference on March 25 and 26. Dr. Heaton, the director of the movement, who will return on March 10, will give two of these lectures. The syllabus for the year is now available, and will be posted free.

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THE MAN ON THE LAND.

WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

Victorian Visitor's Eulogy.

General regret was expressed throughout Victoria when at the end of last year Dr. A. E. V. Richardson severed his connection with the Victorian Agricultural Department. For 14 years he had filled the position of Superintendent of Agriculture in such an efficient manner that it was felt that his loss to Victoria would be irreplacable (says The Melbourne Argus). During that period he had established permanent experimental stations for studying agricultural problems, and raising new varieties of wheat and other cereals. The Werribee Research Farm was the most important of these. All of his undertakings were laid down upon sound scientific lines, permitting uninterrupted continuance. Although the farmers of Victoria have benefited most, his work has assumed a national, even a world-wide importance. While it may be said that every country, indeed every district, has its own special problems, the solution of any one of these blazes a trail which other workers may follow. Thus the value of all research work extends beyond the limitations of time and place, adding definitely to the general fund of scientific knowledge and experience which enriches the whole world.

Director's Splendid Qualities.

Quite apart fro mthe value of the research work inaugurated by him, Dr. Richardson had the happy knack of placing weighty scientific principles before farmers in a simple but impressive manner, which has entirely broken down the prejudice existing towards the class of agricultural workers rather contemptuously defined by many practical men as theorists or book-farmers. Those who have followed Dr. Richardson's advice or have been guided by the results of his work have benefited financially, and thus become willing converts to the value of scientific research in agriculture. His genial personality and his willingness at all times to assist any any movement for the benefit of primary producers has won for him many staunch friends and admirers. But whether actuated by friendliness or purely selfish motives all will be glad to know that Dr. Richardson has advanced to a sphere of greater usefulness in the agricultural community; for being freed from the shackles of departmental routine he has now opportunity to devote the whole of his time and energy to the work he loves so well, for which he is so eminently adapted. His early agricultural training in South Australia, long experience in Victoria, and careful study of methods in Europe and America place him in a unique position to direct the research work under the terms of the Peter Waite Agricultural Endowment.

A Splendid Example.

The agricultural Research Institute, made possible by the endowment of the late Mr. Peter Waite, is a splendid example of one of the noblest forms of citizenship, which has contributed much to the advancement of science in other countries. The value of the endowment for probate purposes was £100,000, but the estate today is worth at least £140,000. The yearly income is £5,000, and a grant of £3,000 from the South Australian Government representing 3 per cent. upon the endowment capital makes a yearly income of £8,000 at present available. Subject to certain life interests, a further sum of £20,000 has recently been left to the research institute. The estate consists of 300 acres situated at the foot of the hills at Glen Osmond, within three miles of Adelaide, upon a main road which all travelling to the city or journeying to the hills must use. Another of Mr. Waite's ambitions was the establishment of a school of primary agriculture to form a stepping stone between the primary schools and the Roseworthy Agricultural College. An adjoining estate will ultimately be used for this purpose. The research institute will be under the direction of the Adelaide University, but being privately endowed will be permanently beyond political control or interference. The principal objects will be to conduct agricultural research work with reference to farm crops and soils. Dr. Richardson, who is the director of the institute, will personally supervise the work relating to farm crops. Professor J. R. Prescott, M.Sc., Manchester, formerly professor of agricultural chemistry at Rothamstead, England, and for the British Government at Cairo, will investigate soil problems.

Support from Business Firms.

It is highly gratifying to note that business firms are taking an intensely practical interest in the work of the nistitute, one firm having given the fertilizers required for the coming years, while others have supplied the necessary farm implements. In addition to Dr. Richardson and Professor Prescott, the staff will consist of a plant pathologist, bacteriologist, agronomist, plant breeder, routine chemist, and field officers. The work of the institute will be mainly of a fundamental nature, which will affect the whole of Australia, taking a broad view of the problems confronting primary producers and acting in the interests of posterity, as well as grappling with the present needs of the community. Thus, through the public-spirited action of the founder and the ready support already forthcoming from other citizens, South Australia will possess a research institute which seems destined to become the most important of its kind in the southern hemisphere.

Active Preparations.

It was a great pleasure to the writer to meet Dr. Richardson again and in company with representatives of the Victorian Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association to visit the institute to the development of which his energies will be directed. Naturally for the present there is much spade work to be done, and while thoroughness and efficiency are main considerations, economy in the utilization of existing buildings and equipment is being carefully studied. An area of approximately 50 acres has been cleared and ploughed in readiness for laying out 300 experimental plots as soon as the rain falls. Preparations are being made for planting an arboretum which will contain a collection of trees and shrubs of economic value. One hundred and sixteen permanent grass plots, each 10 by 5 links of one two-thousandth part of an acre, are being laid out. To prevent undue interference, and to confine definitely the plants to this area, all the plots will be enclosed in frames made from 10 by 1½ in. jarrah. The soil will be sterilized to exclude weed growths, and, further, to ensure even conditions, the pathways between the plots will be gravelled. Indigenous as well as exotic grasses will be tried, and promising varieties will be sown or planted out in larger areas.

Fine Modern Equipment.

A very complete set of meteorological instruments is being installed. Among these is a device which will measure to the one-thousandth part of an inch the amount of evaporation from an exposed surface of water. Records of soil temperature are being kept, maximum and minimum thermometers being used for this purpose. A maximum of 130 deg. F. has been recorded one inch below the surface, while the present daily range is 35 deg. Another instrument records the hours of sunshine during the day, and continuous records of shade temperature and the relative humidity of the air will be kept. In this respect it is interesting to note that on account of the complete equipment possessed, the institute has been selected by the British Industrial Institute to conduct tests to determine the rate of decay of cotton, wool, and linen fabrics under varying conditions of exposure. The coachhouse has been converted into a chemical laboratory, and is being equipped with the latest appliances needed for the work to be undertaken. An electrical device for sterilizing soil permits the temperature of its contents to be raised to 200 deg. Ovens for drying, germinator for testing seeds, and muffle furnace used in determining organic content of soil are all of the latest pattern and electrically operated. Other delicate pieces of apparatus are installed for bacterial content of soil, and for nitrogen determination. The most complete set of soil-sampling instruments obtainable includes one known as the Nebraska soil sampler, by means of which soil cores of any thickness from 1 in. upwards can be cleanly cut out. Glazed cylinders for experimental pot culture have been specially made by an Adelaide pottery, and more nearly fulfil the ideal for this work than anything Dr. Richardson had previously used. A site has been selected for an experimental pot-culture house. Half of this will be under glass, the remainder covered with wire screening, the two being connected by tramline to facilitate transportation. Ultimately one acre will be enclosed with glass. A small glass house and a shade house originally upon the premises are being used for pathological and bacteriological investigations. Ample water supply is provided by a spring delivering 1,500 gallons an hour. An interesting electrical plant generates all the electricity required for lighting and energy. A 16-ft. windmill drives a dynamo, which in turn is used to charge accumulators from which a direct current of 110 volts is drawn as required. This plant has been in operation for 30 years.

News 4/3/25

RHODES SCHOLARSHIP

New Field for Women

GOOD RESULTS PREDICTED

Further opinions obtained in Adelaide support the suggestion to admit women as candidates for the Rhodes scholarships.

Miss M. Rees George (former headmistress of the Advanced School for Girls) said:—"There is a great charm in the idea of extending the benefits of the Rhodes legacy to women: it opens up a vista of wonderful interest. It seems to me that one can speak on such a subject in a general way only. No doubt there are young women who are as worthy of the distinction as young men. It may be difficult to decide on the qualifications necessary for a woman scholarship holder, the broad principles underlying the scheme would have their place in any new arrangement. There would have to be special provisions to meet the womanly temperament.

"Women, no less than men, have their ambitions and their ideals. The influence and atmosphere of Oxford would do much to modify prejudices, to direct ambitions, and to develop the best in woman's nature in ways unthought of. They would come back to their own land with a wider outlook, a more comprehensive grasp, and a deeper sympathy.

"With young women as with young men, the influence of residence in a city like Oxford would do much to strengthen the ties that bind us to the motherland and they would thus promote a truly imperial spirit."

Mrs. F. T. Harcus (Girl Guide Commissioner) remarked:—"For years the question of appealing to the trustees of the Rhodes Scholarship Fund to arrange a scholarship for women has been considered seriously by many intellectual men and women.

"One naturally supposes that if Cecil Rhodes had wished such a fund to be established he would have arranged accordingly. But conditions regarding the status of women have changed in the last 20 years. Women have advanced in intellectual development, and have proved their staying power and their capacity for hard work. Had Cecil Rhodes been thinking out his scheme today women would certainly have been included by him among those who would participate in the scholarship fund.

"A woman is often in a position to give more time and attention to public questions than a man. The training of others is of such immense national importance that woman should be given every possible advantage to equip herself adequately."

Adv 5/3/25

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM ASSOCIATION.

An association of past and present scholars of the Elder Conservatorium is being formed, and there is little doubt that the desired object of enlisting at least 1,000 members pledged to the advancement of the best interests of music in the State will be realised within the next few weeks, as names and addresses of old scholars anxious to lend their assistance to the new movement have been coming in freely. It is proposed that there shall be at least four meetings annually, one of these to be of a social nature, and one to be devoted to original musical composition. In order that it may extend as fully as possible, not only in Adelaide, but throughout South Australia, a nominal admission fee has been fixed. The possibilities of such a strong musical force in the community and its strength as a factor in public opinion on all musical matters may be gauged from the fact that within the past six years the number of pupils at the Conservatorium, which in 1918 was 200, has more than doubled.

His Excellency the Governor returned to Government House yesterday from Victor Harbor. He presided at a meeting of the Executive Council in the morning. In the afternoon his Excellency, attended by Captain Brooke, laid the foundation-stone of a memorial kiosk in the grounds of the Adelaide Hospital.

The Chief Justice (Sir George Murray) will leave for England by the R.M.S. Ormonde to-day. During his absence Mr. Justice Poole, the senior puisne judge, will be acting Chief Justice, and will also exercise the functions of Lieutenant-Governor, for which he holds a

Sir George Murray.

dormant commission, should His Excellency the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges) be absent. The Supreme Court bench will have the services of Dr. F. W. Richards (Crown Solicitor) as acting judge, while the duties of Dr. Richards as Crown Solicitor will be carried out during the interval by Mr. A. J. Hannan (Parliamentary Draftsman).

Adv 6/3/25

Sir Ernest Rutherford, Professor of Physics at Cambridge University, who is one of the leading authorities in the world on atomic research, will deliver a series of lectures in the Commonwealth and New Zealand this year. Sir Ernest is expected to arrive in Australia next September, but the dates of the lectures, of which two will be delivered under the auspices of the Adelaide University, have not yet been fixed. Among the honors which have been bestowed upon Sir Ernest is the Order of Merit. He was last in Australia in 1914, with the British Science Delegation. He was born at Taranaki, New Zealand, 53 years ago, and has had a most distinguished career. He was awarded the Nobel prize for chemistry in 1908, and in addition holds the Rumford medal, awarded by the Royal Society, and the Copley, Barnard, and Franklin medals, all of which are highly coveted. In the year in which he was awarded the Nobel prize the Turin Academy of Science gave him the Bressa prize. His publications on radio-active substances and transformations are of paramount importance, and he has also published many papers dealing with physical science. He was president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 1923.