

# NEW YEAR HONORS.

## PROFESSOR MITCHELL KNIGHTED.

His Excellency the Governor-General has received advice that His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer the following Commonwealth honors:—

- K.C.M.G.**  
Professor William Mitchell, Adelaide University.
- C.M.G.**  
Mr. Alexander Foulis Bell, Dried Fruits Control Board.  
Mr. Charles John Cerutti, Auditor-General.
- KNIGHTS BACHELOR.**  
Mr. John Joseph Garvan, Sydney.  
Mr. Alfred Langler, Perth.

**Sir William Mitchell.**  
Professor Sir William Mitchell, M.A., D.Sc., K.C.M.G., Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, was elected to that position in 1916 in succession to the Chief Justice (Sir George Murray), who became Chancellor on the death of Sir Samuel Way. Sir William was born at Inveravon, Banffshire, in 1881, and his early education was received at Elgin. At the Edinburgh University he had a dis-



Professor Sir William Mitchell.

tinguished career. There he studied arts, philosophy, and medicine, and took the degrees of master of arts and doctor of science. He was appointed lecturer in ethics at that University in 1886, and later went to University College, London, as lecturer on education. He was for some time an examiner for degrees in philosophy for the Edinburgh University, and on the theory of education for Cambridge University. In 1894 Professor Mitchell was appointed Hughes Professor of Philosophy and Economics at the Adelaide University, and in 1896 became a member of the University Council. His work has proved of inestimable value to the cause of education in this State, and students who have been privileged to receive his assistance and guidance are enthusiastic regarding the wonderful skill with which he carried out his professorial duties, and also concerning his unfailing courtesy and kindness. He has exerted a great influence on the progress of the University, and has taken much interest in the welfare of those he trained, and others in other faculties whom he assisted after they left the University. He is held in high esteem by the students, graduates, and council of the University, and he is admired for his remarkable talents and lofty ideals by the community at large, not only in this State, but in other parts of the Commonwealth and the Empire. With Sir William Bragg Professor Mitchell shared the credit of having initiated the arrangement with the Government for the University to provide without charge two years' education for all teachers being trained by the Education Department. He was also responsible for bringing about the abolition of the old rigid courses for the degrees of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Science, and the introduction of a wider choice of subjects and a higher standard which might be taken at any time.

At the end of 1922 Professor Mitchell retired from the Chair of Philosophy and was succeeded by Professor McKellar Stewart. The council of the University expressed its extreme regret at the step he had taken and conferred on him the distinction of Emeritus Professor of Philosophy to mark its appreciation of his services. In 1923 his scholarship and broadminded culture received recognition by his appointment as Gifford lecturer at the Aberdeen University. The lectureship, which was established at each of the four Scottish universities, was the result of a bequest of £80,000 by Lord Gifford, one of the judges of the Supreme Court in Scotland—the Court of Session. Professor Mitchell was away from Adelaide for some time while he was Gifford Lecturer, and returned in July last. On his way back by way of Canada he visited the Universities of Montreal and Toronto. He has concerned himself actively with the Students' Union movement at the University, and during his tour he made enquiries regarding such bodies in Canadian universities. He has written important articles on philosophical subjects for leading British and American reviews, and in 1907 he published a work on "Structure and Growth of the Mind."

### The Chancellor Delighted.

The Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray) was delighted to hear that a knighthood had been conferred on Professor Mitchell. "There is no greater authority on education in Australia," he said. "He has done more for the development of the University than any other man since he came here. He is a very distinguished philosopher, and the fact that he was invited to deliver the Gifford lectures at Aberdeen University shows how highly his talents are valued. I am sure all the universities in Australia will be as pleased as the Adelaide University that he has received this honor. They all recognise him as one of the leading authorities on education. He was really trained for the Chair of Education in the Edinburgh University, the intention being that he should fill the position on the retirement of Professor Laurie. He, however, preferred to remain here when the time came to appoint a successor to Professor Laurie."

ADV. 3-1-27

Professor T. G. Tucker, Emeritus professor of classics at the Melbourne University, will arrive early in March to take the chair of classics and comparative philology and literature at the University of Adelaide, vacated by Professor Daruley Naylor. He was born at Burnham, England, in 1867, and received his early education at that University in 1886, and later went to University College, London, as lecturer, subsequently going to St. John's College, Cambridge, where he won many classical distinctions. He was elected a fellow of St. John's in 1882, and in the following year he went to Auckland University College, New Zealand, where he was first professor of classics and English. For two years he was a member of the Board of Education for Auckland Province, and was then appointed professor of classical philology in the Melbourne University, a post he held from 1885 to 1919. In recognition of his Greek publications he received the degree of honor doctor of letters (Dublin). He was made a C.M.G. in 1920.

ADV. 3/1/27

Dr. Harry R. Pomroy (London), the eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. H. Pomroy, of Wallaroo Mines, will return to Adelaide by the Hobson's Bay early in March. He is at present in Vienna. Their second son, Mr. Richard O. Pomroy, B.E., who has been with the leading engineering firms in England for experience for some years, will leave for home in February. Both were graduates of the University of Adelaide.

# NEW YEAR HONOURS.

## Professor Mitchell Knighted.

MELBOURNE, Friday.  
His Excellency the Governor-General (Lord Stonehaven) has received advice that His Majesty the King has been pleased to confer the following honours on citizens of the Commonwealth:—

- To be K.C.M.G.**  
Professor William Mitchell, of the Adelaide University.
- To be Knights Bachelor.**  
Mr. John Joseph Garvan, of Sydney.  
Mr. Alfred Langler, of Perth.
- To be C.M.G.**  
Mr. Alexander Foulis Bell, of the Dried Fruits Control Board.  
Mr. Charles John Cerutti, Federal Auditor-General.

### SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL.

Sir William Mitchell, K.C.M.G., is the son of a Scottish farmer, and was born at Inveravon, Banffshire, 64 years ago. He studied at Edinburgh University, where he gained the degrees of B.Sc. and M.A., with honours in philosophy. Subsequently he became Lecturer in Ethics at his alma mater, whence he went to University College, London, as Lecturer in Education. His ability was recognised later with appointments as examiner in philosophy at Edinburgh University, and in the theory of education at Cambridge. In 1894 he accepted an offer to



SIR WILLIAM MITCHELL.

become the occupant of the Hughes Chair of Philosophy at the Adelaide University, and occupied it until Professor McKellar Stewart succeeded him in 1923. Professor Mitchell shared with Sir William Bragg the credit of having initiated the arrangement with the Government under which the University provided all teachers in training for the Education Department with free tuition for two years. He went to England in 1919, and in 1925 and 1926 delivered the Gifford lectures in philosophy—a series of 10 in each year—at the Aberdeen University. He has been Vice-Chancellor of the Adelaide University since December, 1917. To him is due the reform of the B.A. and B.Sc. regulations, which enable a student to take the examinations at any time, instead of submitting to a rigid course. When he resigned the chair of philosophy he was given the title of emeritus professor of that study.

### Tributes to Sir William Mitchell.

At the invitation of The Register, the following expressions of pleasure with respect to the distinction received by Sir William Mitchell, have been received:—

The Premier (Hon. L. L. Hill):—"For the valuable work which Professor Mitchell has done as Vice-Chancellor of the University, and the great value of his knowledge to the State, such recognition is richly deserved."

The Chancellor of the University (Sir George Murray):—"I am delighted to hear the news. Nobody deserves the honour more than Professor Mitchell, for nobody has done more for education than he. It is a recognition that there are no State boundaries in education."

Dr. E. H. Rennie (the doyen of the professorial staff of the University):—"I am very glad to hear of the honour which has been conferred on Professor Mitchell, and I am sure it will cause universal pleasure throughout the University. He has done a great work, both as Professor of Philosophy for some years, and more recently as Vice-Chancellor. He is known among philosophical writers throughout the world, hence his recent appointment as Gifford Lecturer, and the honour now conferred upon him will, I am sure, be hailed with satisfaction in all University circles."

# POPULAR "HONOUR."

Political opinion may differ as to the expediency of the bestowal of "honours" upon Australians by His Majesty the King, but only the most disgruntled partisan could fail to rejoice when distinguished and disinterested service to the community is recognized in the traditional way. The conferring of a knighthood upon Professor William Mitchell will give genuine pleasure to all South Australians who know anything of his work at the University, and will reflect added lustre upon the institution to which, as a member of the professorial staff, and of the Council, and latterly as Vice-Chancellor, he has given practically a lifetime of service. The cause of higher education in this State has had no more able and ardent advocate than Sir William Mitchell, and his elevation to the Vice-Chancellorship of the University 10 years ago, after he had occupied the Chair of Philosophy for 22 years, was a striking testimony to the admiration and esteem in which he was held, alike for his fine personal qualities, his scholastic attainments, and his administrative capacity. The experiment, if such it can be called, of appointing a member of the professorial staff to the office of Vice-Chancellor, has been entirely successful. There is no more popular figure at the University, and certainly no harder worker. Members of the Council can bear appreciative witness to his immense energy and capacity for mastering the details of the various questions which come up for discussion and decision. His colleagues felt that an honour had been done to Adelaide University, as well as to its eminent Vice-Chancellor, when Professor Mitchell was invited to succeed Lord Balfour as Gifford Lecturer at Edinburgh University. The distinction of K.C.M.G. now conferred upon him is richly merited, and, as the Chancellor observes in his tribute, it is a recognition that there are no State boundaries in education, to the advancement of which Sir William has untiringly and ungrudgingly devoted his talents.

REG. 4-1-27

Professor T. G. B. Osborn and Mrs. Osborn left Adelaide by the Melbourne express on Monday afternoon for New South Wales, where the professor will continue enquiries on behalf of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on the subject of plant problems. He has already conducted investigations in Western Australia and Queensland. The professor's absence will extend over a fortnight.

### REG. 5-1-27 PERTH UNIVERSITY.

The University of Western Australia is inviting architects in the British Empire and the United States to submit designs for a group of buildings, to cost about £150,000, which is to be built with funds bequeathed to the university by the late Sir Winthrop Mackett (first Chancellor of the University, and owner of the West Australian newspaper). Under his will the University received a bequest of £420,000, a part of which will be used for buildings, and a part for bursaries and research studentships for students who otherwise would find it difficult to take up university work. The buildings will include a ceremonial hall and a Students' Union building. The premiums offered for designs are:—First, £300; second, £200; and third, £100. The competition will close on August 24.

NEWS 31-12-26

Dr. F. S. Hone (Chief Quarantine Officer).—From the national point of view I think the formation of the Central Health Council, which will hold its first meeting early in the new year. This is the first recognition by the Commonwealth and all the States of their joint interest in national health. From the international point of view I think the holding of the Pan-Pacific Health Congress in Melbourne. This was the first of its kind in Australia and was the first recognition by other nations of the part played by Australia in the health of the Pacific. From the general point of view I believe the most momentous thing of the year was the increased attention paid to research, as was shown by the formation of the Cancer Research Fund in Sydney.