

ADV. 30.4.26
PROFESSOR W. MITCHELL RETURNS.

SCOTLAND AND CANADA VISITED.

After an absence of several months, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide (Professor W. Mitchell) returned to Adelaide by the Melbourne express on Thursday morning. Professor Mitchell went to Scotland to deliver Gifford lectures at the University of Aberdeen, and returned by way of Canada, where he visited the Universities of Montreal and Toronto. The professor was specially impressed with the educational facilities at the latter place, and spoke enthusiastically of the famous Hart House at Toronto.

Professor Mitchell was in Great Britain during the general strike. To fulfil an engagement at Aberdeen, he raced against time in order to get as far on his journey from London before the strike held him



Professor W. Mitchell

up. He succeeded in reaching York, and by means of motor cars reached Aberdeen in time to deliver his lecture. The professor, however, was most impressed with his Canadian visit, especially his inspection of Hart House, an adjunct of the Toronto University. He describes the institution as the biggest and best in the world.

Hart House was so called, Professor Mitchell said, in memory of the late Mr. Hart Massey, of Toronto. Begun in 1911, it was completed in 1919, and presented, fully equipped, to the University of Toronto by the trustees of the Massey Foundation. To Mr. Vincent Massey was due the idea of the house, the erection of which was carried out under his personal supervision. The plans were prepared by Toronto architects. The building was beautiful, both from an exterior and interior point of view. During the war hundreds of men were trained within its walls for service overseas. Hart House, which was for the use of men only, and was non-residential, was far more than a students' club. It sought to provide for all the activities of the undergraduate's life outside of the actual lecture-room. Architecturally of great beauty, and built round a quadrangle, in which were displayed the arms of the four colleges in the Toronto University (Victoria, University, St. Michael's, and Trinity), Hart House was unique, in that it housed under one roof a final preparation hall, common rooms of every description, a library, lecture-room, music room, a small chapel, together with rooms for the use of the Student Christian movement, a studio for painting and sketching, photographic rooms, a billiard room, senior common rooms for both faculty and graduate members, an upper and lower gymnasium, both admirably equipped, sports rooms for boxing, wrestling, and fencing, and indoor running track, a large swimming pool, racket courts, a room for rowing practice, an indoor rifle range, offices for the athletic and medical staff, a few bedrooms for guests and private rooms for the Warden. Below the quadrangle was a fully equipped theatre with foyer, green room, and dressing rooms. Every male undergraduate of the university was a member of Hart House, towards the upkeep of which he paid a moderate fee. Hart House was entirely dependent on those fees, supplemented by a small revenue obtained from sources within the House. There was no private endowment, whatsoever. The Warden of Hart House, Professor Mitchell said, was Professor J. B. Bickersteth, a brother of the Rev. E. J. F. Bickersteth, headmaster of St. Peter's College, who was at present in England, and to him was entrusted the general supervision of the whole House. Professor Bickersteth was formerly a professor of French in a Canadian university, and had visited Adelaide. The purely athletic activities were in the hands of the Athletic Directorate, a paid board of directors. The Warden was responsible to the president of the Board of Governors of the University. He was assisted by a board of which he was, ex-officio, the chairman, on which sat undergraduate, graduate, and faculty representatives. Five of those undergraduate representatives were themselves the secretaries of the five standing committees—house, hall, library, music and billiards—each of which consisted of ten undergraduates, senior members and the Warden. Other committees controlled the affairs of the sketch club, the camera club, and the squash racket club. The undergraduates on those committees were elected annually by the whole undergraduate membership of Hart House.

Professor Mitchell said an institution of that character should be established in connection with the University of Adelaide. He had conceived the idea of a hall for both male and female students, with the rooms for male students on one side of the building, and those exclusively for the women on the other, with a common hall in the middle. He was of opinion that University Jubilee Week which would be celebrated shortly, would be an ideal time for a move in that direction to be instituted.

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NEWS. 30.4.26

CAUGHT IN STRIKE

Experience of Professor

DASH TO EDINBURGH

An exciting experience, reminiscent of the ride of Dick Turpin from London to York, was related this morning by Prof. W. Mitchell (Vice-chancellor of the Adelaide University), who returned



Prof. W. Mitchell

who returned from Great Britain today.

by the Melbourne express after an absence of several months in Britain and Canada, where he has been in connection with educational matters.

Prof. Mitchell was due to give lectures in Aberdeen when the great strike began in London. He was caught in the midst of it. Undaunted, the Adelaide professor set out for York, but unlike the ride of Turpin, it was wearisome, long journey of 11 hours from London. Even at York he was a long way from his destination, but by the aid of cars Prof. Mitchell reached Aberdeen overnight.

"And I was glad to get there," he said today, when relating his experience. Prof. Mitchell delivered the Gifford lectures in Scotland, and then returned to Australia by way of Canada. During his stay in the latter place he visited the universities of Montreal and Toronto, and especially Hart House, of Toronto.

The up-to-date methods with which the universities are conducted in Canada impressed the professor. Speaking of Hart House College, he said that it was the best institution for students in the world.

ADV. 31.4.26.

The University of Adelaide will confer the degree of doctor of science upon Professor A. J. Ewart, of Melbourne University, at the special congregation to be held in connection with its jubilee celebrations on August 16. Professor Ewart is acting as the representative of the University of Birmingham.

REG. 30.7.26
FLINDERS CHASE.

Dreams Coming True.

A Natural Beauty Spot.

By Professor F. Wood Jones.

In general the realization of ideals is apt to be a slow process. It is easy to dream dreams. It is not so simple a matter to see them come true. At times these things do happen. An ideal becomes real, a dream ceases to be merely a dream, and materializes into fact that will withstand daylight criticism. A little body of men—the Fauna and Flora Board—has dreamed its dreams, and now that dawn is breaking, its dreams have not vanished, but have become real.

What was merely an ideal four years ago when the Rocky River Estate was purchased and added to the Flinders Chase Reserve, is now an accomplished fact, and South Australia can boast a real reserve—a sanctuary in every sense of the word—for the fauna and flora of the State. Flinders Chase is no mere paper reserve, defined only in the terms of a legal enactment. It is a well-regulated and properly supervised portion of unspoiled Australia, in which every native plant and creature is free to live its own life. When the Rocky River Estate was purchased it, for the first time, became possible to ensure supervision of the 200 square miles of bush included on the chase. On this estate are two good homesteads, which have been put into thorough repair, and in one of them there has been installed a young and energetic ranger, whose duty it is to look after the animal enclosures, the fodder patches and gardens, and also to see that no unauthorized persons are on the reserve. The other homestead has been made comfortable as the working headquarters of the board, and is at the disposal of authorized visitors to the chase. Around these homesteads the kangaroos can be seen almost any evening browsing in the open clearing between the swamps of the Rocky River and the sandhills, which protect the homestead area to the south. The "thump" of wallabies can be heard everywhere in the bush, and the beautiful island rosellas come to the homestead door to take the seeds from the dandelions that grow on the flats. The Rocky River station is one of the most beautiful spots in Kangaroo Island, and it is made more beautiful, for those that love such things, by the fact that bird and beast are unmolested and confiding, and the native bush is unspoiled. In order to preserve this natural beauty the whole of the homestead area is being enclosed by a fire break three chains in width, the whole break being six miles in length, and the enclosed area two miles long and one mile wide.

It is one of the defects of the dense bush of the western end of Kangaroo Island that the view to be had from any one spot is very limited. The very uniformity of the bush makes the view restricted and somewhat monotonous. The broad glades, stretching as clear openings through the timber, have added greatly to the beauty of the place and the Rocky River fire break is not only a utilitarian feature, for it greatly increases the aesthetic delights of the place. Not only is the homestead area protected from the dangers of bush fires, but 140 acres of open grass land is provided for the animals, and the place is made more beautiful by the broad clearings through the dense scrub. Now that the central block is protected from fire, all promiscuous burning off of the bush has been totally forbidden. It is hoped that never again will animals perish and native bush be destroyed by the ravages of fire on Flinders Chase.

The Animal Enclosures.

Within the protected area are the animal enclosures. Fourteen acres of natural bush have been fenced in with 6-ft. wire-netting, and here are 40 tame wallabies and some big kangaroos. The enclosure is near to the ranger's homestead, and the animals are fed every evening in order to get them accustomed to the presence of man. All the animals are now so tame that they can be approached within a few feet; but all are living their natural lives, and the increase from breeding during the past two years has been very remarkable. At the present time the joeys are just beginning to get their hair, and very soon they will be showing their heads out of the pouch. During the last visit to the Chase, the board realized one of its ambitions in safely transporting to their own special enclosure a pair of mallee fowl. These birds were the generous gift of Mr. Frank Downer, and high hopes are entertained that they may become the parents of a race that will one day populate the quiet places of the reserve. Other birds and animals live around the homesteads. There are Cape Barren geese and native bears, and the rat kangaroos live in the enclosure and free on the sandhills further within the borders of the Chase. On the productive flats of the Rocky River Station there has been made a nursery for native plants, and owing to the kindness of Mr. Baller

(Director of the Botanical Garden), the seeds of several species of wattles and eucalyptus have already been planted. The seedlings from this nursery will be planted in chosen sites on the Chase, and before long a visit to Rocky River in wattle time will be a delightful experience. In Flinders Chase the "black boys" may grow to perfection, since they are spared the axe of the all-defacing Maltese gumcutter; the eucalypts may flourish without the threat of the ringbarker, and the wattles may bloom unspoiled.

Important Work Ahead.

Much has been accomplished in Flinders Chase, but the work is still only in its infancy. The system of firebreaks must be extended, and, one day, must embrace the whole of the reserve. Schemes of systematic planting must be carried out on a larger scale, and, now that the threat of fire is done away with on the homestead area, more birds and animals must be liberated. We can never replace the extinct emu, whose bones have been found in the caves on the island; but we can substitute the mainland form in place of that which is lost for ever. We can replace the wombat which used to flourish there, and we can turn down ring-tailed opossums, which at present do not exist in Kangaroo Island. The board has never made a general appeal to the public for support, but it is possible that there are many who would like to assist in the work. Native animals, especially wombats and ring-tailed opossums, as well as wallabies and kangaroos, are needed, and emus, mallee fowls, and other suitable birds are very much desired. In addition to this there is always the need of funds to carry on this work of preserving Australia's natural beauties and her treasury of living things. On every donation to the board the Government gives a pound-for-pound subsidy, and this, save for the money derived from the sale of skins and specimens, is the only source of income that the board possesses. Every donation towards this work therefore reduces the need to snare opossums and wallabies for their pelts, and helps to preserve in its natural beauty one of the most beautiful spots in South Australia.

REG. 30.4.26.

UNIVERSITY THANKSGIVING SERVICE.

To the Editor.

Sir—The Register's leading article on Wednesday last lifted the whole matter of the climax of the "University Rejoicings" the thanksgiving service—into the right atmosphere of reasoning reverence. As a lay member of the Church of England, it is clear to me that your conclusions will be heartily endorsed by 90 per cent. of the laity, who desire some such real gesture toward reunion. Against your position and theirs is the stolid, unimaginative, reactionary majority of the clergy, great and small, in the Adelaide diocese. As Dean Inge tersely says, "No brains whatever are required to be merely a purveyor of spiritual magic," and one cannot help thinking that this is the "ideal" of the powers-that-be and the majority of the rank and file of the Anglican clergy in South Australia. With such pretensions to priestcraft, we cannot wonder at the fear of intolerant exclusions marring anticipations of what should be a truly catholic commemoration thanksgiving service, in which all creeds (but the one that of settled policy always stands proudly aloof from every other branch of the great Christian church) should participate. There is yet time for the Cathedral authorities to take a wider, broader, more statesmanlike attitude, and it is to be hoped that they will not let this opportunity slip away as complacently as they have so many others.—I am, Sir, &c.,
"ARDENT ANGLICAN."

ADV. 31.4.26

The Prime Minister (Mr. Bruce) has consented to deliver the Fisher Lecture at the University of Adelaide in 1927. The Fisher Lecture was founded in 1903 with a view to promoting the study of commerce.

Sir Frank Moulden was a passenger by the express which left for Melbourne yesterday.