

ORGANISED SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH

Scientific research is just as necessary to industrial progress and development as it is to the treatment of disease. In each case the object is to ascertain the true causes underlying diseases of human beings and animals, so that they may be avoided and removed. There is, of course, the field of chemical research which covers other ground, but scientific research, in whatever phase, is the stepping-stone to progress.

Recognising the supreme importance of investigations of that character, the Federal Government has adopted the recommendations of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research regarding the examination of the causes of pests and diseases affecting stock, liquid fuels, and cold storage, and that work will now proceed.

The first step in regard to the pests and diseases of stock will be to learn what investigations of that kind are in progress in various parts of the Commonwealth, how far they have been successful, how far the Council can operate, and what facilities are available for carrying on new lines of research.

Such a survey as that is indispensable to making a right start and avoiding any overlapping in the labors of the scientists engaged. There is a vast field for the operations of the Council, limited only by the amount of funds at its disposal. But considering the overwhelming benefits which must flow from their work no plea of lack of pence should be permitted to restrict or abridge their activities. A single discovery, such as the method of freezing or chilling beef without affecting its quality or appearance, would be worth many millions to the Australian meat trade.

There are other great problems to be solved in preventing waste and improving methods, which the Prime Minister stated would mean an annual saving of millions of money to Australia.

With such an enormous return offering the outlay of many thousands of pounds would be abundantly justified, because this is not a mere treasure-seeking proposition, but the removal of obstacles to the profitable development of the natural industries of Australia and successfully placing them on the markets of the world.

Research is as essential as education. In fact it is the final stage of education: it is the ascertainment of first causes, so that the industrial life of the nation may be conducted to the best advantage. Research is the natural outcome of education, and unless it is utilised in that way education is not permitted to fulfil its true function—to enable man to know. Education without research is a kingdom without its crown.

If only half the problems which the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research were undertaking were solved, said the Prime Minister, it would mean a definite measurable increase in the prosperity of individual Australians and the aggregate effect would be enormous. He added that the cost was trifling measured by the return, and that scientific research was the best investment in the world. That truth cannot be too forcibly emphasised or too strenuously promulgated.

NEW FEDERAL ARBITRATION COURT.

Mr. Deputy President Webb is not the first member of the Federal Arbitration Court Bench whose association with that august tribunal has ended in disappointment and disillusionment. Mr. Webb's complaint is not against the nature of the work, to which he has applied himself zealously and conscientiously, but against the Government, which took advantage of the expiration of the terms of the President and two Deputy Presidents, on June 30 last, to make three new appointments to the reconstituted Court. If Mr. Justice Powers, and Mr. Justice Higgins before him, were to give equally candid expression to their private views, they would probably sympathize with the new Arbitration Judges, rather than congratulate them upon their elevation to posts which are among the most thankless and arduous, as they are among the most important, judicial offices in the Commonwealth. Both gentlemen endured their full share of the rebuffs and criticisms to which Judges who attempt to mediate between the warring factions in industry are exposed. Both had to witness their awards challenged and broken and their authority flouted, and to observe the progress of great strikes in a domain which, by the good offices of the Commonwealth Court, establishing "a new province for law and order," was to have been kept free from industrial turmoil. There has been another side to the matter, of course. If by its very existence the Court has stimulated the manufacture of grievances and aroused a certain amount of industrial unrest, it has also contributed to the peaceful regulation of industry in a sphere in which the State tribunals could not operate. But, from the point of view of the Judges who have been called upon to direct the massive machinery of the Court, there have been more disappointments than triumphs, and more criticism than gratitude; and Sir Edward Mitchell was doubtless expressing the feelings of the former Presidents when, in congratulating Judge Dethridge on his appointment as Chief Judge of the new Court, he remarked that he "regarded the office as one of the most difficult positions to which any man could be appointed." And Judge Dethridge is fortunate if, as he says, he is entering on his new work "with no illusions regarding the possibilities attached to it." Since judicial illusions connected with the Arbitration Court seem destined to be roughly dispelled, it is perhaps just as well to begin without any.

Chief Judge Dethridge, and Judges Lukin and Beeby, will have an important advantage over their predecessors, in that the Court, by amending legislation passed last month, has been invested with judicial power. Moreover the new Judges have been given a life tenure—that being a condition requisite to their exercise of judicial power—which will render them entirely free from any suspicion of political bias in the discharge of their duties. It is not suggested, of course, that earlier occupants of the Arbitration Bench have permitted their awards to be affected by political considerations, as touching their prospects of reappointment at the end of their terms; but life tenure will necessarily give the Judges increased status and independence. They will now have power to interpret and enforce their own awards—an authority the absence of which was frequently lamented by Mr. Justice Powers. The full Bench of the Court will be able to make general decisions on questions such as standard hours and basic wage—decisions which will apply to any of the awards of Judges of the Court. It remains to be seen whether the Arbitration Court in its new incarnation, and armed with greater powers, will be any more successful than formerly in controlling powerful insurgent unions. Scepticism on this point is permissible, in view of past experience, more particularly with the seamen, who have shown themselves indifferent even to the drastic penalty of demeritisation. One hopeful sign is that provision has been made in the new legislation for developing and extending the conciliation jurisdiction of the Court. Hitherto the Commonwealth "Court of Conciliation and Arbitration" has been almost entirely a Court of Arbitration. It has been much less concerned with bringing employer and employed together than with compulsorily regulating industry, usually on the lines of raising wages and improving working conditions generally. By making provision for the appointment of conciliation commissioners, the Government hopes to revive the conciliation function and to promote the settlement of a far greater proportion of differences without resort to the Court.

That Judge Dethridge's thought on industrial arbitration also tends in this direction may be gathered from his reply to addresses of congratulation last week, when he remarked that no Court should attempt to control or rule industry, which must be ruled essentially by the parties to it—"the workers and those who provide the means for the workers to work." The function of the Court was to oil the works, and to assist in avoiding friction between the parties. Judge Dethridge twice emphasized the point that the Arbitration Court was an "experiment." By many employers the experiment has long been pronounced a failure. Even Federal unions are turning their eyes elsewhere. "The A.W.U." declares a referendum manifesto issued by the general secretary of that organization in Sydney, "has won all that it could hope to gain from old-fashioned Federal Arbitration Judges (with one notable exception) working under an old-fashioned Act, and must look to Mr. Piddington for a "new economic outlook." Mr. Lathan doubtless hopes that the Arbitration Act which he has newly fashioned will remedy some of the previous deficiencies, and render the Court more attractive both to employers and trade unions. The wonder is that he was no content to give the new Court with a completely changed personnel and wider authority, a fair trial before seeking vastly greater powers for it at the expense of the States. When the latest "experiment" had clearly failed, it would surely have been time enough to ask for an amendment of the Constitution.

REG. 23.7.26

STATE INDUSTRIAL PRESIDENT.

The President of the Industrial Court (Dr. W. Jetho Brown) has been granted three months' long service leave on account of illness, and is now confined to the Ru Rua Private Hospital at North Adelaide. A representative of The Register enquired on Thursday at the hospital, and was told that Dr. Brown was not well enough to see visitors for a few days. It is known that stress of work has been affecting the President's health for some time, and it is understood that when applying for his leave he felt that his condition would not allow him to carry on his duties, and suggested that he should resign under certain conditions. It is understood that the Government has not accepted that suggestion as a resignation, but it is thought that it apparently started the rumour that the Judge intended to relinquish his position.

REG. 23.7.26
DEATH OF MR. R. G. J. HOOD.
 Late Head Master of Queen's School.

Mr. R. G. Jacob Hood, M.A., head master of Queen's School, Barton terrace, North Adelaide, who had been in poor health for several months, died in a private hospital, North Adelaide, on Thursday. It is significant of the affection and esteem that the deceased gentleman inspired in his school, that all the boys have been filled with sadness ever since they learnt of the fatal nature of Mr. Hood's illness. Mr. Hood was not merely their teacher, but he was a trusted friend. Such an influence

for good has endowed posterity, and many leading citizens of the younger generation acknowledge the splendid impetus given to their careers through the sound and estimable grounding received at Queen's School. Sir Ross and Sir Keith Smith were among the notable "old boys," whose names figured upon the roll.

Mr. Hood was a native of Chudleigh, Devonshire, England, and was a son of John Hood, a civil engineer, in England. The late head master was singularly modest and self-effacing, but he used to declare that his one boast was that he was born just five minutes before our present King! On June 3, 1865, the future owner of Queen's School first saw the light of day. His youth was spent at home, and his studies were distinguished by advancement at Rugby, and at Clare College, Cambridge, where he obtained his degree of Master of Arts. Mr. Hood's health was affected by the English climate, so he decided to visit Australia, and ended by remaining permanently. His first place of residence was at Cumloden, in Victoria, where he taught for three years. Then he came on to Adelaide, and, as Mr. Lindon—who was then owner of Queen's School—was ill, Mr. Hood relieved him of all responsibilities. With the decease of Mr. Lindon, he acquired possession of the school from the widow. For the past 30 years Mr. Hood has watched this work progress, and made many sincere friendships. A classical scholar, an enthusiastic golf player, and a keen follower of the questions of the day, this popular head master who was unmarried, will be greatly mourned.



THE LATE MR. R. G. JACOMB HOOD

REG. 24.7.26

Rev. J. K. F. Bickersteth is expected to return by the Naldora, which leaves England on August 27. Canon Wheeler, of All Saints' Church, Geelong, is also a passenger by the same boat.