

ADELAIDE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1928.

WAITE INSTITUTE.

The laying of the foundation stone of the John Melrose Laboratory at the Waite Institute on Thursday is a memorable event in the history of primary production and scientific research in South Australia. In the presence of a numerous company, Miss L. M. Melrose, daughter of the generous donor, gracefully performed the ceremony, and the Lieutenant-Governor, Sir George Murray, and the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. J. Cowan, fittingly expressed the gratitude of the public and the agricultural and pastoral communities for an exceedingly useful gift. Mr. Melrose's bounty is attributable to the magnificent example set by the late Mr. Peter Waite, and, in turn, it is provoking to emulation other would-be benefactors of the State. Mr. J. A. T. Mortlock is giving £2,000 towards the equipment of the laboratory, and there are several further contributions towards an enterprise which, while affording fascinating and illuminating studies in the mysteries of various natural laws, will aim particularly at augmenting the commercial productions of the soil. The laboratory will facilitate markedly the investigations into plant diseases and the production of improved types of pasture plants by selection and hybridization. It will greatly assist in the discovery of perhaps a limitless number of methods by which the soil of South Australia can be utilized to greater advantage than at present. The policy of the University Council in establishing the Institute, and in engaging the services of Professors Richardson and Prescott, has met with hearty endorsement from all concerned, and the appointment of a highly trained expert to take charge of the Department of Economic Entomology is recognised to be both desirable and necessary. Less than three years ago the Institute began its official career with a staff of six in improvised laboratories in the coach-house, outbuildings, and basement of the Urrbrae homestead, and—as Professor Richardson indicated on Thursday—when the Melrose Laboratory has been erected, a staff of 24 workers will be eagerly waiting to occupy it. The Institution is evidently destined to become an invaluable aid and inspiration to agricultural and pastoral pursuits in the State.

They had received from Mr. John Melrose £10,000 for the erection of a chemical laboratory and £2,000 from Mr. J. P. Mortlock, for equipment. Machinery firms had donated plant to the value of £1,250, and the Superphosphate Association had supplied all the super necessary and had donated £250.

British Government Grant
Through the Empire Marketing Board the British Government had contributed £3,000 toward the cost of a laboratory as well as £1,875 yearly for five years for pastoral research.

The Council for Scientific and Agricultural Research had given £3,000 toward the laboratory, £900 yearly for five years for pastoral research, and £1,600 for the erection of a glasshouse for the study of tomato wilt and other work. They were also paying the whole cost of investigating Murray River soils.

State Parliament had offered for 10 years a grant to the work of the institute. It would be £5,000 for the present financial year, with annual increases until £15,000 had been given in 1937. That generous assistance enabled the institute to develop rapidly. The pressing need hitherto had been permanent and properly equipped laboratories. The John Melrose laboratory would form the south wing of the entire laboratory buildings. He asked Mr. Melrose to accept the thanks of the University for his excellent gift.

Mr. John Melrose, who was received with applause, said that the State should be thankful to Sir George and the Council of the University for the work they were doing. What would further be achieved at the institute would be to the benefit of all pastoralists.

Laying of the Stone
Miss Lily Melrose then laid the foundation stone. "I am proud to be asked to do this duty," she said. "To have a finger in the pie of the masonry of the building and to be associated with the ideas of the late Mr. Peter Waite, is a great honor. In some countries we are told 150 bushels can be obtained to the acre. I have great hopes that with all the experiments to be conducted here that we may approach 150 bushels to the acre, and teach sheep to grow two fleeces every year." (Laughter.)

She declared the stone well and truly laid. The Hon. J. Cowan (Minister of Agriculture) moved a vote of thanks to Miss Melrose, and said that South Australia was fortunate in its public-spirited citizens. Its men, who had achieved success, had opened avenues of opportunity to others. Nothing would help develop natural resources like the Waite Institute. Had soils been analysed on the Murray lands earlier much money would have been saved. Money spent in agricultural research was a sound national investment.

Increased Staff
Prof. Richardson, in seconding the motion, said that when the institute began operations there was a staff of six; at the completion of the building there would be 24 workers on the staff.

Work in the laboratory would be divided into six groups, dealing with agricultural chemistry, plant pathology, new varieties of cereals, pastoral research, and so forth. It was the pioneer institute of its kind in Australia.

The motion was carried with applause. The inscription on the foundation stone read—"This stone was laid by Lily Margaret Melrose, daughter of John Melrose, the donor of this laboratory, January 26, 1928."

Under the stone were laid five jars containing wheat, portion of the soil on the estate, and two newspapers. At the conclusion of the ceremony visitors were guests of Prof. and Mrs. A. E. V. Richardson at morning tea, after which they inspected the plots.

Ware, Phyllis Joyce, H G A; Warrington, Alice Maud, H A M; Warren, Annada, A B S T; Warren, James Fullarton, G; Warren, Alfred Montague, E; H; Warren, Kenneth Colin, A M; Warriner, Jessie Vivian, G S A; T; Watson, Gwendoline Mavis, E A S T; Watson, Kathleen Mavis, E A S T; Watts, Mavis John Joseph, F A M; Wattle, Mavis Olive, S; Wauchop, Charlotte Hilda, F A; Weather, Kenneth Laurance, E L F; Weber, Norman Victor, G; Webster, Joyce Ralston, E F H; Wedd, Arthur Edgar, G D; Wedd, Mavis, Alice Court, E; Wedd, H A G P; Welcome, Edna Susan, L; Wedd, Eva May, S; Wells, Elizabeth Wynne, E L E; H M; Wells, Ronald Frederick, E G A; West, Alfred Lawrence, E A S; West, Bevan Lorraine, F A M; Pe C; Westley, Marjorie Florence, G A G B; West, Minda Ophelia Eileen, F B; Wharton, William Bentley, M B; Whimpress, Ada Blanche, E G G; Whimpress, Thomas James Alexander, E G; M; White, G B; White, Dulema Florence Mary, A; White, Eileen, E F H; Whitehead, Dulcie May, E; H; Wickham, A M; P; Whitford, Edna Amelia, A; Wickham, Colin Francis, E G A; Wiele, Ronald Leonard, A M; M; P; C; Wieser, Robert Geoffrey, H G; C; Wiesner, Gwendolyn Kathleen, G A M; Wigglesworth, Phyllis Jean Bell, L F A M; Wilcox, Leonard Arthur James, E; M; B; Wilkinson, Douglas Chester, F; H A; B; Wilkinson, Douglas Chester, F; H A; B; Williams, Harry, A P; G; Williams, Ruby Jay, A M; B; S; Williams, Adeline, E; F; Williams, Adrian Leonard, F; O; Williams, Frederick Roy, H A; Williams, Gilbert Victor, E; Williams, Jean Campbell, S A; T; Williams, Lorna Claire, E A M; Williams, Robert Graham, E A; M; Wills, Nora Ellen, E F A B; Willson, Percy James, E G A; G; Wilson, Owen Carl, H A; Wilson, Pauline Ennie, E A M; M; G; Wilson, Edgar Norman, E A M; M; G; Wilson, James Herbert, M M; P; C; Wilson, Thomas Robert McLaugh, E P; C; G; Winterbottom, Ruth Alice Charles, E G; Wise, Eric Hazell, E; M; M; P; C; Witcombe, Raymond John, E; M; B; S; Witnals, Harry Hugh, A; Wither, Francis Arnold, A M; M; P; C; Wolsey, Burnice Ruby, S; T; Wood, Cyril Robert, H G; A; B; Wood, Jean Margaret Latta, E F; H; G; B; Wood, Winifred Maud, P; Woodford, George Becket, H A; Woods, Alice Ruby, E A M; Woods, Valmai Doris Marie, E G; G; S; T; Woodward, Margaret Frances, E F H; Woolcock, Pauline Nora, E L F; H; Woolcock, Robert Pearson, G; Woollard, Mervyn John, L F A M; M; P; C; Woolley, William Terence, C; G; Moore, Richard Leicester, E L F; Worthley, Maurice Henry, C; Worthley, Maxwell George, H R; M; Wright, Leslie Turnbull, E; M; G; Wright, Edna Katherine May, E B; S; T; Wright, Nancy Malenoir, E; P; Wright, Thomas Noel, F.

Yelland, Beryl Margaret, E; H; Yelland, Clab Bungey, M; Yelland, Kathleen Norah, F H M; Yelland, Marjorie Annette, H; Yeomans, Geoffrey Heeri, E; F; H; Young, Donald Frank E; B; Young, Maxwell Armstrong, E; H; M; Young, Valaska Joyce, E A B; P; Young, William Henry Keith, A M; M; D; M.

NEWS 26-1-28

MELROSE LABORATORY

FOUNDATION STONE LAID

Research in Agriculture

At Waite Agricultural Research Institute this morning showers marred the ceremony of laying the foundation stone of the John Melrose Laboratory, which is the first permanent building to be erected for the work of the institute.

There was a large and representative attendance.

Sir George Murray (Chancellor of the University), who presided, said that it was his privilege to ask Miss Lily Melrose to lay the foundation stone of the laboratory, which was the gift of her father, Mr. John Melrose. When Mr. Peter Waite made over the estate, comprising house and 300 acres, together with an endowment fund of nearly £60,000 for the advancement of education in agriculture, forestry, and allied subjects, the responsibility fell on the council of the University to give effect to the wishes of the donor. The council decided not to interfere with what was being done at Roseworthy. It resolved, in the first instance, to endeavor to enlarge the stock of knowledge in agriculture and pass it on to those engaged in actual production, so that farmers, gardeners, and pastoralists might benefit.

Favored by Fortune

The result of those deliberations was the establishment of the Waite Institute for Agricultural Research. It was one thing to found an institute, and another to make it succeed. It had been decided to create two professorships—one in agriculture and another in agricultural chemistry. They had been faced with the difficulty of finding the men to fill those positions, but had been in no hurry. At length they had been favored by fortune, and selected Profs. A. E. V. Richardson and J. A. Prescott.

Prof. Richardson was appointed director, and he had an able substitute in Prof. Prescott. Mr. Geoffrey Samuel was appointed plant pathologist, and other posts were held by an enthusiastic body of young workers.

Active work began on March, 1925. During the three years that had elapsed scientific work had been conducted in scattered laboratories. Two existed in the basement of the house, and three others in the former stables. Work had been done to improve varieties of cereals and pastoral plants, soil problems of the Murray River had been handled, and a study of fungus diseases made.

Wade, Harry, H A B; Wadlow, Lancelot Allen, A M; M; P; C; Wake, Reginald Walter, A; Walker, Betty, E G A; Walker, Domestic Thomas, F A M; M; P; Walker, Leonard Frank, F A M; M; P; Wallington, Harvey Mawby, A M; P; Wall, Howard John, D; Wallace, Campbell Alec, E; H; Wallace, Frank Kenneth, L; Wallace, Kays Ruth, E; H; Wallace, Russell Heathcote, F; Wallbridge Leslie Walter, C; G; Wallis, James Joseph, E; H; Wallis Walter Richard, E; Wallis, Lilian Evelyn, E; S; T; Walden, Joyce Mary, E; F; M; M; P; C; Walker, Harold Noel, E; M; M; P; C; Walker, Winifred, E; Waddam, Douglas Oswald, E; A; H; M; Warrington, Phyllis Joyce, E; G; A; Warrington, Mavis Olive, S; Warriner, Jessie Vivian, G S A; T; Watson, Gwendoline Mavis, E A S T; Watson, Kathleen Mavis, E A S T; Watts, Mavis John Joseph, F A M; Wattle, Mavis Olive, S; Wauchop, Charlotte Hilda, F A; Weather, Kenneth Laurance, E L F; Weber, Norman Victor, G; Webster, Joyce Ralston, E F H; Wedd, Arthur Edgar, G D; Wedd, Mavis, Alice Court, E; Wedd, H A G P; Welcome, Edna Susan, L; Wedd, Eva May, S; Wells, Elizabeth Wynne, E L E; H M; Wells, Ronald Frederick, E G A; West, Alfred Lawrence, E A S; West, Bevan Lorraine, F A M; Pe C; Westley, Marjorie Florence, G A G B; West, Minda Ophelia Eileen, F B; Wharton, William Bentley, M B; Whimpress, Ada Blanche, E G G; Whimpress, Thomas James Alexander, E G; M; White, G B; White, Dulema Florence Mary, A; White, Eileen, E F H; Whitehead, Dulcie May, E; H; Wickham, A M; P; Whitford, Edna Amelia, A; Wickham, Colin Francis, E G A; Wiele, Ronald Leonard, A M; M; P; C; Wieser, Robert Geoffrey, H G; C; Wiesner, Gwendolyn Kathleen, G A M; Wigglesworth, Phyllis Jean Bell, L F A M; Wilcox, Leonard Arthur James, E; M; B; Wilkinson, Douglas Chester, F; H A; B; Wilkinson, Douglas Chester, F; H A; B; Williams, Harry, A P; G; Williams, Ruby Jay, A M; B; S; Williams, Adeline, E; F; Williams, Adrian Leonard, F; O; Williams, Frederick Roy, H A; Williams, Gilbert Victor, E; Williams, Jean Campbell, S A; T; Williams, Lorna Claire, E A M; Williams, Robert Graham, E A; M; Wills, Nora Ellen, E F A B; Willson, Percy James, E G A; G; Wilson, Owen Carl, H A; Wilson, Pauline Ennie, E A M; M; G; Wilson, Edgar Norman, E A M; M; G; Wilson, James Herbert, M M; P; C; Wilson, Thomas Robert McLaugh, E P; C; G; Winterbottom, Ruth Alice Charles, E G; Wise, Eric Hazell, E; M; M; P; C; Witcombe, Raymond John, E; M; B; S; Witnals, Harry Hugh, A; Wither, Francis Arnold, A M; M; P; C; Wolsey, Burnice Ruby, S; T; Wood, Cyril Robert, H G; A; B; Wood, Jean Margaret Latta, E F; H; G; B; Wood, Winifred Maud, P; Woodford, George Becket, H A; Woods, Alice Ruby, E A M; Woods, Valmai Doris Marie, E G; G; S; T; Woodward, Margaret Frances, E F H; Woolcock, Pauline Nora, E L F; H; Woolcock, Robert Pearson, G; Woollard, Mervyn John, L F A M; M; P; C; Woolley, William Terence, C; G; Moore, Richard Leicester, E L F; Worthley, Maurice Henry, C; Worthley, Maxwell George, H R; M; Wright, Leslie Turnbull, E; M; G; Wright, Edna Katherine May, E B; S; T; Wright, Nancy Malenoir, E; P; Wright, Thomas Noel, F.

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ADV. 30-1-28

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

The council of the University has granted Mr. H. C. Trumble, M. Ag. Sc., agronomist at the Waite Agricultural Research Institute, leave of absence to proceed to Great Britain for training. He will spend a portion of his time at the University of Wales on pasture research, and the remainder at the Rowett Institute, Aberdeen, on nutrition problems associated with pastures. Mr. Trumble, who has been connected with the Waite Agricultural Research Institute since its inception, will leave by the Narkunda on February 16.

NEWS 27-1-28



MISS LILY MELROSE daughter of Mr. John Melrose, of Ulooleo, who laid the foundation stone yesterday of the John Melrose Laboratory at the Waite Research Institute, Urrbrae.