

# UNKNOWN AUSTRALIA CROSSED

## Survey Party Flies From Birdsville To Alice

### NO WATER ON ROUTE

(Specially written for The Register by Mr. C. T. Madigan, leader of the Central Australian Aerial Survey Party.)

**ALICE SPRINGS, Wednesday.**— We arrived at Alice Springs at 1.35 p.m. from Birdsville, travelling 365 miles in 3 hours 51 minutes in direct line.

This track was over an unknown area and indicated that it is the best place in Australia in which to dispose of old razor blades.

Tomorrow we will investigate the northern portion of the unknown country, between latitude 24 and 25 south, longitude 136.30 east.

I will attempt to send you a message from the air over that area. We lost a portion of the serial today just as I was sending to you. The signals were too weak for Melbourne.

We were delayed two days at Birdsville by an overcast sky. A few drops of rain fell, and the visibility was poor. We made the Marree to Birdsville trip, 300 miles, in 2½ hours on Sunday.

#### WATER IN CREEK

There is absolutely no feed; only sandhills and clay flats, with the silver streak of bore streams every 25 miles, and coolibah along the Cooper and Diamantina.

There is plenty of water in the Diamantina, north of Goyder's Lagoon, but there is no water from Birdsville and Alice Springs. There are no watercourses between the Mulligan in Queensland and from Todd in Central Australia, a distance of 200 miles on our route.

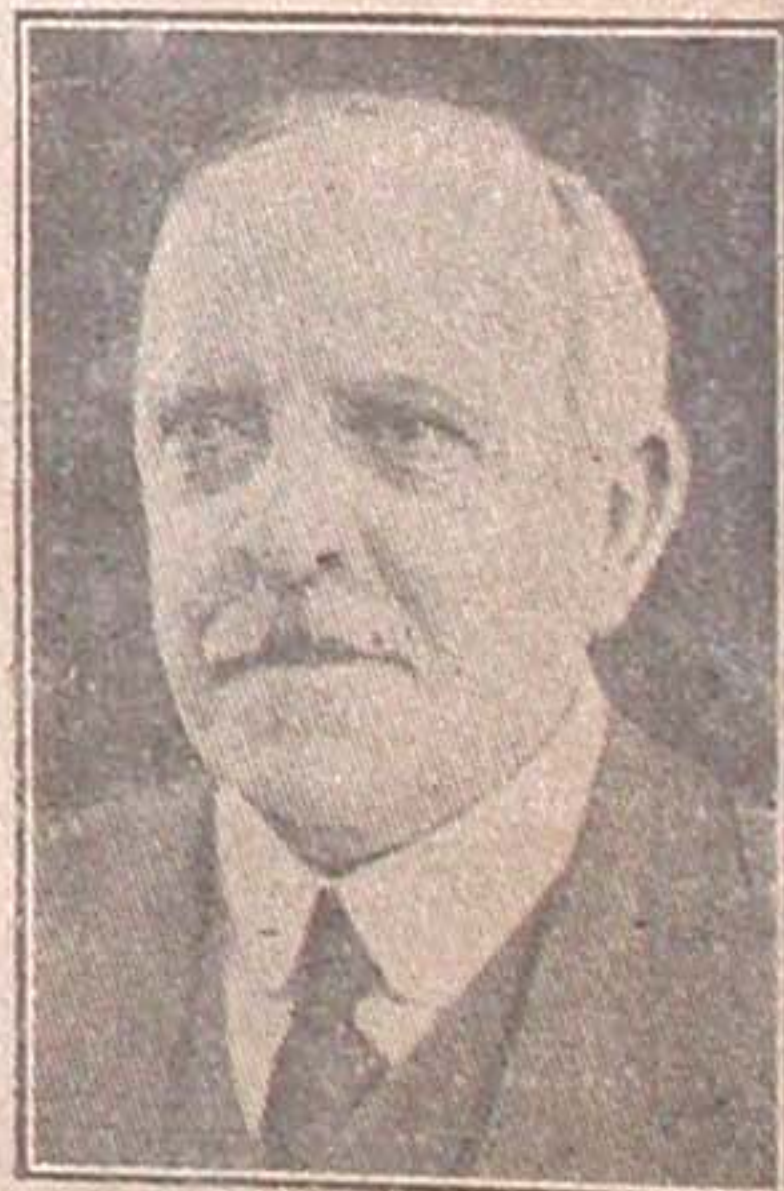
### Message From The Unknown

Mr. A. A. Simpson, President of the S.A. Royal Geographical Society, has received by wireless, through Melbourne, a message from Mr. Madigan: "Greetings from the air over centre of unknown. All going well."

"It is satisfactory to learn," said Mr. Simpson, "that Mr. Madigan, by now, may have definitely ascertained whether the unknown Australia contains any oases suitable for settlement, or is merely a wilderness of sandy hills."

ADK 15-8-29

### PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE



**SENATOR W. A. KINGSMILL**  
Born at Glenelg on April 10, 1864. Senator Walter Kingsmill, the new President of the Senate, was educated at St. Peter's College and the Adelaide University. He graduated in arts in 1883, and in 1888 he settled in Western Australia, where he entered Parliament. He was elected to the Senate in 1922.

REG. 16-8-29

### No New Director Of Education Yet

THE Government will make no early appointment of a successor to the late Mr. W. T. McCoy, as Director of Education. It was said yesterday that Mr. McCoy had left his department in such excellent working order that there was no immediate necessity for the appointment of a new Director, and that as the question of the Government's financial stringency will enter largely into the matter, no development might be expected for at least some weeks. The Minister for Education (Mr. McIntosh) said last night:—"The Government has not yet considered the matter."

# MR. W. T. McCOY

## WELL-KNOWN EDUCATIONIST PASSES

### A Big Loss to the State

The Director of Education (Mr. W. T. McCoy) died in a private hospital in Adelaide last night after a short illness. His death will mean a great loss to the State, as he had performed valuable work in the administration of the Education Department.

Sincere regret was expressed when it became known that he had passed away. His death occurred with almost tragic suddenness, as he was in his office last Thursday, but he had not been feeling in the best of health for some time past. With the courage that characterised all his actions he refused to relax, and continued to carry out the administration of his department. On Thursday night he collapsed at his home, and was taken to a private hospital. At first he appeared to be progressing satisfactorily but on Friday afternoon he relapsed into a state of coma and never regained consciousness.

Mr. McCoy had spent nearly ten years of unremitting toil to perfect the educational system of this State. From the moment he arrived he devoted every effort to improving the edu-



Mr. W. T. McCoy.

...ational system and death comes at a time when he had raised it to a high standard. He had seen the success of many of his schemes, but was engaged in carrying out further reforms when he passed away. Mr. McCoy possessed high scholastic attainments, and his undoubted ability as an organiser, coupled with a broad vision, courage, and tact, made his tenure of office an admitted success.

#### Mr. McCoy's Career

Mr. McCoy was born in Sydney on October 13, 1866, and received his education at the old Fort-street School. He took the degree of bachelor of arts at the Sydney University, and received his professional training as a teacher at the Sydney Training College. He went through the full course, and secured the 1A teachers' certificate of the New South Wales Education Department. He served as a teacher of all grades, from pupil teacher, teacher of small schools, assistant teacher to the head mastership of schools from classes IV. to I. For a period of six years he was an inspector of schools in New South Wales. In 1910 Mr. McCoy was appointed as Director of Education in Tasmania, which position he held until his appointment in South Australia nine years later. During his latter part of office in Tasmania he was a member of the council of the University. The nine years in which he was in charge of the educational system of the island State were characterised by a marked advance in education. He succeeded in bringing about a closer coordination between all branches. When Mr. McCoy received his appointment in Tasmania the situation was rather delicate, but by the exercise of his tact and firmness he soon had the situation well in hand. He introduced a number of educational reforms which carried out at least twice during his tenure. The system of primary

education was reorganised, and kindergarten and Montessori work introduced. The children in the back-blocks came in for special attention. He established a school system embracing secondary, commercial, domestic, and industrial teaching.

#### Work in South Australia

Mr. McCoy received his appointment as Director of Education in South Australia in October, 1919, and immediately set to work with enthusiasm to gain a first-hand knowledge of the State's educational system, the schools, and the conditions under which the teachers worked. An idea of the energy displayed by Mr. McCoy can be gathered from the fact that he visited 120 schools and addressed many meetings of teachers in the various parts of the State in his first year of office. The information gained by him on his travels in those twelve months was of considerable advantage to him in instituting reforms which were subsequently introduced.

The growing importance of education in South Australia during Mr. McCoy's term can be gathered from the fact that when he took charge the State had 954 schools, whereas to-day they number approximately 1,150, and the enrolment of scholars increased from 75,681 to 88,214 in the same period. In 1919 the State possessed 2,365 teachers, and last year the number grew to 2,970, and the expenditure mounted from £458,650 to £1,043,148. The cost per child in average attendance in 1919 was £5 6/9, and to-day it is £9 13/. The cost of secondary education during the same period has risen from £14 9/11 to £21 0/1 a head.

The most important work carried out by Mr. McCoy in his first year in this State was the issuing of a new course of instruction for primary schools and a set of regulations embodying a changed policy of the department in regard to training, examination, and classification of teachers. Other questions that came under review that year were the establishment of a separate infant department and a correspondence school to meet the need of scholars in the isolated portions of South Australia, the substitution of a larger measure of inspection for examination of schools, and the appointment of an officer to supervise secondary education.

#### Facilities for Country Scholars

In 1921 the Director made arrangements for further facilities to be provided for country children to obtain secondary education by the establishment of 16 higher primary schools, and special attention was given to the education of children in rural districts. Under the untiring efforts of Mr. McCoy steady progress was made in 1922. In order to improve the health of the children in the country a travelling dentist was appointed to attend to the teeth of the scholars in outback schools. Several important events occurred in 1923 which marked the year as an unusual one in the history of the department. In March Mr. McCoy left the State on a commission to Great Britain, the Continent, and America, and after a strenuous nine months of research work in many of the world's great educational centres, he returned in December. While abroad he selected 60 young male teachers in England for service in South Australia. With unflagging energy Mr. McCoy continued development work in 1924, and the matters receiving attention included the making of more adequate provision for the teaching of elementary agriculture, woodwork, and domestic science in rural schools by the holding of schools of instruction to enable teachers to obtain the necessary qualification by offering a bonus to those who successfully complied with all the conditions related to the special instruction undertaken by them and by increasing the subsidy paid towards the cost of tools, equipment, &c. In January of 1918 Mr. McCoy was responsible for central schools being established to provide the education and training, modified to some extent for pupils who left school at the age of 15 or 16 years, in order to allow them to enter upon industrial, commercial, or home-making pursuits. The preliminary work connected with the extension of the activities of the medical branch of the department were carried out, and on the advice of Mr. McCoy the Government appointed a psychologist.

#### Overcrowding Dealt With

The Director then tackled the question of providing new schools and the alteration of orders to overcome the overcrowding of public schools, which was giving considerable concern at that time. Provision was made for the systematic erection of new buildings, the abolition of temporary buildings, and the execution of much needed repairs to existing buildings. The efforts made by the Director to popularise the teaching of woodwork, elementary agriculture, and domestic arts in country centres were successfully continued in 1925. The staff of one doctor, one dentist, and a nurse in the medical department was increased by the appointment of five additional doctors, two dentists, and three nurses to enable a larger number of children to be treated. The system of primary

education was reorganised, and kindergarten and Montessori work introduced. The children in the back-blocks came in for special attention. He established a school system embracing secondary, commercial, domestic, and industrial teaching.

In 1927 Mr. McCoy attended the third Imperial Education Conference in London and visited centres in Great Britain and America, with a view to recommending such improvements as might with advantage be introduced into the South Australian system. He gave special attention to the question of agricultural education below the college grade and vocational guidance and placement of children. A report was furnished to the Government by Mr. McCoy on his return to Adelaide.

Mr. McCoy leaves a widow and a son, Dr. H. A. McCoy, and a daughter, Mrs. Guy Beresford.

#### A GREAT LOSS

The Minister of Education (Hon. M. McIntosh) stated last night that Mr. McCoy's death was a loss to the cause of education in Australia. He had a distinctive personality and combined in a unique degree practical efficiency and idealism. On the one hand he labored to make higher education more practical, while in the infant schools his labors and hopes centred on the ideal of making the schools bright and beautiful, and winning the confidence and interest of the child. By his firm and just administration he commanded the respectful admiration of the teaching and administrative staffs, and by his genial robust enthusiasm he won their affectionate co-operation. The spirit of progress and the driving force which he inculcated into the Education Department would carry it along. They would all sadly miss an able administrator and a valued friend. On behalf of the Government, and he was sure of nearly 90,000 children, and personally he desired to express his grateful appreciation of a life consecrated by duty and to convey to Mrs. McCoy and the members of her family, the deepest possible sympathy. Mr. McIntosh concluded, "His passing was typical of the man. He labored faithfully to the end."

#### AN OFFICER OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY

The leader of the Opposition (Hon. L. L. Hill) said the sudden and tragic death of Mr. McCoy would be received by all citizens and educationists with profound regret. The State had lost an officer with outstanding ability and world-wide knowledge, whose position would be difficult to fill. During the three years he was associated with Mr. McCoy as Minister of Education Mr. Hill said he had found him to be most loyal, conscientious, and capable, and he was highly respected by the whole of the Education Department. Mr. Hill added, "I have lost a personal friend." He extended his sincere and deepest sympathy to Mrs. McCoy, his son (Dr. McCoy), and his daughter (Mrs. Beresford).

Mr. P. A. Corry (president of the Public Teachers' Union), on behalf of the union, expressed sorrow at the passing of the Director. He said they felt that the union and teachers had lost the best friend they ever had. He had done more than anyone else for the advancement of education in the State.

REG 13-8-29

### SIR D. MAWSON CARRIES ON

#### Will Lead Geology Party Despite Indisposition

The possibility that the ear-trouble from which Sir Douglas Mawson is suffering might compel him to abandon the leadership of the geological students' expedition to the Flinders Range is now discredited. A telegram received from Carrieton last night stated that Dr. de Crespigny had again examined Sir Douglas's ear, and its condition was satisfactory.

The expedition left Adelaide yesterday morning by cars, and will be away for about a fortnight, during which time geological examinations will be made of interesting features in the country through which it passes.

The party consists of Sir Douglas and Lady Mawson, Misses E. M. Turner and E. S. Wainman, Dr. de Crespigny, and Messrs. A. J. Whitelaw, F. M. Hocking, F. J. Semmens, D. J. Glastonbury, J. C. G. Glastonbury, C. Rooney, R. G. de Crespigny, W. G. Semmens, and D. Lang. It has been arranged in connection with the geological course at Adelaide University.

ADV. 16-8-29

The Senate of the Sydney University, on the recommendation of the University Extension Board, has nominated the Very Rev. Dean Inge as the overseas lecturer in 1930.