

Adv. Bond. 1-8-31

News 1-8-31

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(11) The statement is frequently made in the press that only the specially brilliant child should receive a high school education. The statement is made that the child is not going to use his algebra, Latin, &c., afterwards. No one claims that all or even most children are going to use these subjects themselves when they grow up. It should be easy to point out the cultural value and mental training of a secondary education. The parent who sends his child to a private secondary school to receive a similar education realises that there is something more than a utilitarian purpose in his child's course of study. Most parents of children attending high schools realise the cultural value of such education. The great increase in numbers of students in the metropolitan high schools since the establishment of central schools shows that thousands of parents, after being informed of the opportunities offered by the Education Department in the way of super-primary education, have definitely chosen the cultural course of the high schools.

If the statement that only the specially brilliant child should receive a high school education is based on the argument that the instruction is beyond the grasp of the average student, it can be shown that the course of study has been drawn up by a committee of experienced teachers, and has the authority of the Education Department; that it has stood the test of some twenty years; that schools are regularly inspected; and, in short, the suggestion that the majority of the children are unable to cope with the course is utterly false. The results of our high schools in the public examinations compare very favorably with those of the private secondary schools.

(12) In many districts some ten years ago local subscriptions were connected to help the Government to build the local high school. In other localities gifts of land were made by the community to the Government; to close the high school would seem like a breach of faith on the part of the Government.

(13) Much of the information published in the press is misleading or erroneous, e.g., "in other States fees are charged." Victoria is the only State which charges fees for high schools. The fees there are £6 per year for children above the age of 14 years.

The late Minister's report, available (1929) from Victoria shows that the fees collected are only one-tenth of the total expenditure; that the average fee paid per child is £2; and that, even if the exemption from fees of children under 14 years were taken into account, those above 14 years of age would average less than £4 each, showing that there is a very liberal provision for exemption from fees of such children.

(14) A comparison of the costs of education in various States and of the amount of expenditure on other necessities and luxuries will help to give a truer perspective and show that the pockets of the taxpayer are not being unduly raided to provide education.

1. Cost per head on mean population in S.A. in year ending June 30, 1930:

Primary education	£ s. d.
Secondary education	1 3 8
Technical education	0 3 7
University	0 3 4
Other	0 1 7
	£1 13 7

Authority. Report of Minister of Education for 1930, page 42.

Note 1. The University cost refers only to that part of the Government grant supplied through the Minister of Education.

2. Other, includes expenditure on Observatory, Public Library, and Art Gallery, institutes, associations, &c.

3. Reductions in expenditure have been made for the year ending June 30th, 1931.

2. Government grants to University as cost per head of the population of the State:

Sydney	s. d.
Melbourne	0 8 1/2
Adelaide	0 9
Queensland	1 11
Western Australia	0 7
Tasmania	1 8
Average	1 4

Authority.—Compiled from Commonwealth Official Year Book (1930), pages 316 and 770. University revenue is for the year 1928.

Note 1.—Western Australian University is free.

2.—Queensland, Western Australia, and Tasmania are comparatively young and small universities, as may be shown from the following table, taken from page 316 of the Commonwealth Year Book:—

University	Professors	Lecturers and Demonstrators	Total	Students
Sydney	42	154	203	2,382
Melb.	23	146	174	2,534
Adelaide	19	110	129	1,762
Qld.	30	48	78	588
W.A.	13	32	45	517
Tas.	10	19	29	205
Average	11.3	41.3	52.6	605

Authority.—Statesman's Pocket Year Book (S.A., 1931), page 110.

4. The amount raised per inhabitant by land and income tax is £3 7/2. The cost of collecting this per inhabitant, 1/6.

Authority.—Statesman's Pocket Year Book (S.A., 1931), pages 67 and 68.

5.—Drink bill per inhabitant in South Australia, £4 8/10.

Authority.—Statesman's Pocket Year Book (S.A., 1931), page 109.

6.—Amount spent per inhabitant in South Australia on tobacco, £1 17/.

7.—Amount spent per inhabitant in South Australia on admission to places of amusement (excluding fees, subscriptions to sports' clubs), £1 9/4.

Authority.—Calculated from the Statesman's Pocket Year Book (South Australia, 1931), page 71.

8.—Cost per head of population of State Secondary Schools (maintenance, but exclusive of cost of buildings):—

New South Wales	s. d.
Victoria	4 1
South Australia	3 5
Queensland	3 3
Western Australia	2 11
Tasmania	6 1
Average	1 10

Authority.—Commonwealth Year Book, 1930. The figures given are for 1928, page 313.

Note 1.—The Minister of Education pointed out in the "Advertiser" on July 11 that Queensland had "a different method of allocating expenditure to the various branches of the department, which accounted in no small measure for the apparent low cost of secondary education in that State." In Queensland the provision for secondary education is very liberal.

Note 2.—In spite of the fact that Victoria collects fees, their cost is higher than that obtaining in South Australia.

Note 3.—Western Australia, like South Australia, is sparsely settled, and it is reasonable to expect that the cost of education will be higher there than in the more closely settled States, New South Wales and Victoria.

9.—Cost per head of average attendance of State schools (primary and secondary, but excluding technical schools, and excluding expenditure on buildings):

New South Wales	£ s. d.
Victoria	13 7 4
South Australia	12 1 11
Queensland	10 6 6
Western Australia	12 13 7
Tasmania	12 5 1
Northern Territory	9 17 3
Average	21 4 1
	12 9 9

Authority.—Commonwealth Year Book, 1930. The figures are for 1928, page 313.

10.—Scotland has 8 to 8 1/2 times the population of South Australia and spends 12 times as much on education; 1 in 60 of its total population is a child attending a secondary school (excluding technical); 1 in 100 of our total population is a child attending a secondary school (excluding technical).

Authority.—Official report of Scottish Education Department (1928-9), gives the following figures:—

Estimated population (page 43, table II), 4,893,182. Average number of scholars in post primary departments of intermediate and secondary schools 81,122 (page 47, table I).

Total expenditure (page 7 of the accountant's report), £12,395,399.

11.—Commission received by Government from totalisator for 1930, £41,074. Average received for the last five years, 1926-1930, £66,638.

Authority.—Statesman's Pocket Year Book (S.A., 1931), page 114.

LOWER THAN EUROPE University Degree Standard

"Our standard for degrees is possibly as high as any in the rest of Australia, but it is distinctly lower than in Europe," said Sir William Mitchell (vice-chancellor of Adelaide University) today.

He was referring to the statement of the that "The University is an institution which seems of recent years to have modified its policy of extending the realms of culture as widely as possible in favor of a policy of exclusiveness, and of giving preference to a few exceptionally brilliant honors students."

He said that the University excluded nothing but incompetence.

Sir William pointed out that the standard for degrees at entrance to the University was continuously rising. A higher standard was and must always be the aim of such institutions, but that could not be termed a policy of ex-

VARSITY NOT EXCLUSIVE

Effort of Higher Standard

SHARP REPLY

"WE exclude nothing but incompetence," said Sir William Mitchell (vice-chancellor of the Adelaide University) today.

He was referring to the statement of the South Australian Public Teachers' Union that "The University is an institution which seems of recent years to have modified its policy of extending the realms of culture as widely as possible in favor of a policy of exclusiveness, and of giving preference to a few exceptionally brilliant honors students."

Sir William, when seen today, pointed out that the standard for degrees at entrance to the University was continuously rising. A higher standard was and must always be the aim of such institutions, but that could not be termed a policy of exclusiveness.

Here Sir William made a statement which will come as a surprise to many.

"Our standard is possibly as high as any in the rest of Australia," he said, "but it is distinctly lower than in Europe."

That applied to degrees, he added. For diplomas there was no matriculation. The number of teachers who received free lectures and examinations at the University last year, he said, was 926, and it was natural that with the standard rising many of them would be discontented.

REPORT IN FEW DAYS

A full report by Sir William, analysing the activities of the University and their cost, was sent today to Mr. Wallace Sandford (chairman of the education committee). This was promised some time ago as a supplement to the education committee report. At the same time an answer was forwarded to an appeal by the Teachers' Union for more sympathy between the University and public schools, made early in July.

The report is in the form of a letter to Mr. Sandford, and will be issued in a few days as a pamphlet. The reply to the Teachers' Union points out the difficulties with which small European countries had to contend in the way of university education, and the height to which their standard had been raised. The necessity for raising the standard still higher in this State is emphasised.

MAGNETIC SURVEY OF METEORITE CRATERS

Traverses At Henbury Give Negative Results

"The possibility of a more detailed survey of the Henbury meteorite craters has not been overlooked," said Sir Douglas Mawson yesterday, referring to Sir Edgeworth David's suggestion that a magnetic survey of the area might disclose the existence of a large mass of meteoritic iron.

Sir Douglas Mawson said that Mr. A. R. Alderman, who made the preliminary survey of the area for the Public Library, Museum and Art Gallery Board, had made several magnetic traverses with a prismatic compass without any noticeable results. Unfortunately, he had not been equipped with a "dip" needle, that is, one that would dip from the horizontal if affected by a huge mass of iron in the ground. It was hoped in a few months to take a fully equipped party to the area, and then a detailed investigation would be made, including a thoroughly magnetic survey and drilling to try to locate the meteorite.

Coon Butte Puzzles Scientists

A detailed magnetic survey of the Coon Butte meteorite crater in Arizona had given purely negative results, said Sir Douglas Mawson, and this had puzzled scientists for some time. Eventually, laboratory experiments had shown that while iron ore in a mass exerted an effect on a magnetic needle, the same ore when ground to powder and mixed with earth, had no effect on it. The conclusion had, therefore, been arrived at that the Coon Butte meteorite consisted of small fragments, which neutralised one another in their effect upon a magnetic needle, and not of a single huge mass of meteoritic iron, as had been thought. The investigation at Henbury would seek to determine whether that meteorite resembled that at Coon Butte, or whether it consisted of a single mass.

GREAT INTEREST IN METEORITE CRATERS

Sir E. David Suggests Magnetic Survey

Sydney, August 2. Professor Sir Edgeworth David, referring yesterday to the recently discovered meteorite craters at Henbury Station, Central Australia, said it was clear that there were a large number of small nickel iron meteorites connected with the craters and lying close to the crater rims. Mr. A. R. Alderman, of the geological staff of the University of Adelaide, who had been officially reporting on the craters, brought back with him about half a ton of the nickel iron specimens.

Is There a Huge Meteorite?

A question now to be settled was in the case of the largest of the craters, which was 200 yards in diameter. Was there a large nickel iron meteorite, possibly over 100 ft. in diameter, lying at some depth below the present floor of the crater? The crater was obviously not of a very recent origin from the fact that there were large gum trees growing on its inner slopes. Obviously, therefore, in the time that these gum trees were growing, there had been opportunity for a considerable amount of material to be either blown in by the wind or washed in by rain, so as to make this crater much shallower now than it was originally.

Magnetic Survey Should be Made

It might be suggested that, as nickel iron was strongly magnetic, it would be desirable, before any expense in the way of boring was resorted to, to have a magnetic survey made of the area. This geophysical method was very rapid, and it should be possible by its means to determine whether or not there was any large mass of meteoritic iron at a depth below the crater, and, if so, at what depth it lay and what was its approximate size. If good positive results were obtained by this means, it then would be surely worth while to sink a shaft in order to expose the meteorite to view underground.

If it occurred in a single mass it would be the second largest, possibly actually the largest, of which there was any record in any part of the world. This was on the assumption that the Coon Butte crater was not made by any one single large meteorite, but by a swarm of meteorites travelling close together.

"The scientific world," he added, "will look forward to the result of the researches on the Henbury Station meteorite craters, and it is to be hoped that the result will be available in time for the centennial meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in London early next September."

SCIENCE CONGRESS

S.A. Delegates to Conference Leave Tomorrow

When the Balranald leaves the Outer Harbor tomorrow for England five members of the Australian delegation to the centenary conference of the British Association for the Advancement of Science will be on board. The conference will begin in London on September 23.

Two of the five delegates, Professor E. J. Hartung, professor of chemistry at the Melbourne University, and Mr. Clive Lord, director of the Tasmanian Museum, joined the vessel in Melbourne. The other three, Professors Kerr Grant and R. W. Chapman, of Adelaide University, and Dr. Charles Fenner (Superintendent of Technical Education) are the South Australian delegates, will join the ship here.

The Australian delegation at the conference will be led by Sir Hubert Murray (president-elect of the Australian Association), and, apart from the five delegates travelling by the Balranald, will also include Professors Skeats and Ewart, of the Melbourne University.

Professor Hartung said he thought that because of their isolation scientists in Australia should go abroad at least every two years to keep abreast with developments in science in other countries. The present trip was made possible by the British Society for the Advancement of Science, which in turn had received money from the British Government.

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