

Rotary Club Tribute

The members of the Sydney Rotary Club at their luncheon today stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of the late Sir Edgeworth David, whom the president (Dr. Wade) described as "a great Australian, and a great Rotarian." Later, the large assemblage sang the hymn, "Abide With Me."

"Great Australian," Says Mr. Lyons

MELBOURNE, August 28. Deep regret at the death of Sir Edgeworth David was expressed by the Prime Minister (Mr. Lyons) at Bendigo tonight. "He was a great Australian, whose work as geologist and explorer was famous throughout the world," said Mr. Lyons. "He was a splendid example to the people by his wide scientific knowledge and scholarship, and his estimable personal qualities. By his courage and resource he contributed much to the development of the mining industry of Australia, particularly as he applied his scientific knowledge in practical ways. He will be remembered also for his work in the Antarctic and with the Australian Army in France."

Tribute By Sir Douglas Mawson

"Sir Edgeworth David was a clear and popular exponent of science, and had the power of enthusing not only his own students, but everybody with whom he came in contact," said Sir Douglas Mawson, Professor of Geology at the Adelaide University yesterday. Sir Douglas Mawson accompanied Sir Edgeworth David to the Antarctic 26 years ago on the first Shackleton expedition.

"I was closely associated with Sir Edgeworth David throughout a life time," he said, "and no one could better appreciate his splendid qualities. My geological career was begun as a student under Professor David at the Sydney University about 35 years ago, and I can remember how greatly loved he was by the students. He had a most magnetic personality. He was always deeply absorbed in scientific research, and would put himself to unlimited trouble and discomfort to unravel interesting problems. When in the Antarctic with him 26 years ago I realised not only his wonderful endurance but the extent to which he would martyr himself in order to achieve a desired object.

"His example and inspiring personality were forces in the advance of geological research in Australia during the past four decades."

Known throughout the scientific world, and honored by his own and a number of foreign lands for his researches, Professor Sir Edgeworth David, who died in Sydney yesterday, gave signal service to Australian geology. His work had a practical application, for the credit of the discovery and mapping of the rich Maitland coal seams in New South Wales belonged very largely to him, and during the war he was instrumental in raising a corps of experienced miners, who did excellent work tunnelling on the western front. Apart from his scientific achievements, Sir Edgeworth David was a kindly and lovable personality, who had friends all over the world. Many of them live in South Australia, where he did a great deal of valuable work associated with evidences of former glaciation. It was in the Mount Lofty Ranges, too, that he claimed to have found signs of organic life in rocks which previously had not been thought to be fossiliferous. The announcement created wide interest in the scientific world, although other geologists of repute were not in agreement that the evidences were as conclusive as Sir Edgeworth David estimated them to be.

Professor For 33 Years

Born at St. Fagants, Wales, in 1858, he had a brilliant career at Magdalen School and New College, Oxford. After engaging in geological researches in Glamorganshire and Brecknockshire, he went to New South Wales in 1882, to take up the position of Government geologist. In 1891 he was appointed to the Chair of Geology at the Sydney University. He was then 33, and occupied that position for the next 33 years. His survey of the Maitland coal measures, which saved the immense deposits from being alienated from the Crown, was his first work of note, and in 1897 he attracted world-wide attention as leader of an expedition to Funafuti, in the Ellice Islands in the Pacific Ocean, where valuable discoveries were made concerning the formation of coral atolls.

Ten years later he was selected chief of the scientific staff of Sir Ernest Shackleton's expedition to the Antarctic, and was leader of the party which reached the south magnetic pole early in January, 1909. He was also among the group which made the first ascent of Mount Erebus, and, as a result of his work with the expedition, he produced two important books. One of the stories of the expedition throws a light on the charac-

ter of the scientist. While on the snow slopes of Mount Erebus he called to Sir Douglas Mawson, who was writing in his tent, "Could you spare a moment to come out to me?" Mawson said he was busy, but would come presently. After an interval David said, "I'm awfully sorry to trouble you, but I must ask you, if you don't mind, to make haste. The fact is, I've fallen into a crevasse. I'm hanging on to the edge with my fingers and I shall have to let go if you don't come out and help me."

In France

At the outbreak of the war he took a leading part in the recruiting campaign. In November, 1915, although much over the recruiting age, he offered his services as a geological expert with the Mining Engineers' Corps, was sent to the front with the rank of major, and did much valuable work in tunnelling and other underground operations. He was prominently associated with the famous Messines "blow up," and was promoted to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. Once he fell down a deep shaft and was seriously injured. For conspicuous gallantry and devotion to duty he was awarded the D.S.O. in 1918—the year in which he celebrated his 60th birthday.

Learned societies have availed themselves greatly of Sir Edgeworth David's scholarship. In 1906 he represented Australia at the Geological Congress in Mexico, from 1905 to 1907 he was president of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science. He was the only Australian scientist who was twice president of this association. The second Pan-Pacific conference in Melbourne and Sydney in 1923 owed much to his indefatigable efforts. He was created a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1910, a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order in 1918, and a Knight Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 1920.

He has also received various recognitions of his great work as a scientist, notably the Bigsby Medal, in 1899, the Mueller Medal of the Australasian Society for the Advancement of Science, in 1908, the Wollaston Medal of the Royal Geographical Society of London, and the Conrad Malte-Brun Prize of the Geographical Society of France, in 1915, and the Clarke Memorial Medal of the Royal Society of New South Wales in 1919.

Discoveries In S.A.

After resigning his chair in 1924 he made two remarkable geological discoveries, which were announced in 1928. He stated that radio-active evidence showed that some of the oldest rocks in the world date back 1,600 million years. In the Mount Lofty and Flinders Ranges in South Australia he found rocks containing, he said, perfectly preserved remnants of animal life millions of years older than any hitherto classified by science—a discovery that places the birth of life much earlier than had been supposed. He had been searching for these remains for 30 years, but it was not till May, 1928, that he found, with the aid of a powerful microscope, skeletons of animals something like sandworms or crayfish, but entirely new to science. They were discovered in what were regarded as non-fossiliferous strata.

Sir Edgeworth David knew no hobby but work. His vacations from the University were devoted to further work on the New South Wales coalfields, to researches into evidences of glaciation in South Australia, in which he was assisted by Professor Walter Howchin, and to expeditions to Central Australia to learn of matters of geological interest. He was particularly interested in the glaciation of Inman Valley and Hallett's Cove. His last contribution to the geology of Australia was the preparation of a geological map of the continent with an important book of appendices.

In addition to this large work, and his many contributions to scientific journals, his most important publications were the geological notes of the British Antarctic expedition, 1907-1909, and part of "The Heart of Antarctica."

Adv. 29-8-34

UNIVERSITY PARTY HOME FROM INTERIOR

Adventurous Journey Through Sand Hills

USEFUL DATA GLEANED

By PROFESSOR J. B. CLELAND

The remaining members of the Anthropological Expedition, organised by the Board of Anthropological Research of the University of Adelaide, returned to the city last night, well

satisfied with the work done. It was found impossible, owing to motor disabilities, for the whole party to reach Marree in time to return on Saturday night last, as originally intended. With considerable difficulty, both motor vehicles reached Mirra Mitta, pronounced Myra Mitta, 165 miles from Marree, at 1 p.m. on Thursday, the train leaving Marree at 4.45 a.m. on the following morning. The radiator of the truck was leaking badly, and the water had to be replenished every few miles, water being obtained for this purpose at each bore or waterhole along the route. Some of the stretches were long, but water was usually available at every 20 to 30 miles. Fortunately for the party, the driver thought of detaching a somewhat better radiator from one of the abandoned fleet of cars which are the fruits of the very rough travelling over sand ridges, gibbers, and water channels. This radiator was picked up a few miles before Mirra Mitta was reached, and was successfully installed during the afternoon. This delay made it impossible for the heavily laden truck with precious records on board to accompany the motor car, whose erratic behavior had given rise to much concern to the party.

The time at Mirra Mitta was well spent in carrying out the prearranged programme of measuring and examining the natives gathered there for the particular purpose. The party had originally intended to leave Pandie Pandie, the main camp near the Queensland border, on Sunday to study the natives at Mirra Mitta. The equipment was packed up on Sunday morning, and the party anxiously awaited the arrival of its transport, which, owing to a succession of mishaps, did not turn up until midday on Wednesday. This enforced stay upset the original schedule, but it enabled a great deal of additional work to be done in connection with sociological enquiries, the collection of important data regarding the aboriginal narcotic pituri as well as the utilisation of various local plants for food and other purposes.

When the truck and lorry eventually arrived, packing and loading was completed within an hour and a desperate bid was made to catch the Friday morning train, which meant covering a distance of more than 300 miles across an extremely rough track. The loading, on starting, had reversed the curvature of the already weakened springs, but this did not cause any concern on the part of the efficient drivers, who were accustomed to such condition, and knew what could be done. However, the flood plain adjacent to the camp had only just been traversed when the lorry met with difficulties while attempting to cross the first sandhill, which was soft and rose rapidly to about 20 feet. The vehicle stuck for a time, but after scraping a track, supplementing it with coolibah branches, and calling on all hands to push, the difficulty was overcome; though putting the car into reverse in order to obtain a better run, led to a marked side-slipping, almost ending in disaster against a large tree. Twenty minutes thus lost were made up during a run over a flat. At 12 miles from the starting point a second sandhill presented itself. Fortunately, before this was attempted, it was discovered that the body of the truck had slipped forward, settling on the wheels, injuring the body and tyre and pushing forwards the driver, who ran the risk of being crushed against the steering wheel. Professor Johnston opportunely suggested cutting down the trunks of two trees and placing these transversely underneath the body to take the weight and prevent the body from settling further. A Banninia bean tree and a coolibah were selected for the purpose and fitted in admirably, and a 300 mile journey was accomplished with the stems of these trees projecting about a foot on each side of the body. Had this device not been thought of, the journey could not have been accomplished, as several of the bolts had fractured and others would have become broken very soon. This work necessitated unloading and reloading and caused a delay of a couple of hours.

Shortly afterwards it was decided to abandon for the mail contractor to pick up later a portion of the loading not immediately required. In the dusk of a beautiful evening, with the full moon rising, the party continued, to be harassed soon by a leaking radiator in one car and the escape of oil from the engine of the other. At 10 p.m. the party entered the great flood plain of the Diamantina, a wide expanse 25 miles across, and constituting the geographical Goyder's Lagoon. Here driving was difficult on account of the absence of lights on the truck, the lighting system having failed, and the presence of several short steep channels still holding mud or water in places.

Talk With Cattleman

A distant light turned out to be lignum bushes set on fire to attract attention. It was a very picturesque scene on this wide expanse, when a horseman in overcoat and balaclava loomed up in the moonlight in search of his mail, assuming that we were the mail car. This turned out to be Mr.

David George, whose cattle were camped nearby. The light of the motor car had been seen by the man on cattle watch when some 15 miles away, and he had called up Mr. George. It was midnight when this incident occurred, and the full moon overhead gave an idea of the vastness and flatness of this treeless plain, since no rising ground could be seen in any direction.

Mr. George talked to us while the driver searched through the loose letters which he was carrying. With good wishes on both sides, our visitor then rode off, while the party and the tired-out drivers proceeded on their cold journey, consoling themselves with the hope that the full gamut of possible trouble must surely have been run.

We had hoped to reach Mirra Mitta that night, but as it was still 50 miles distant at 3 a.m. it was wisely decided to camp at the Seven Mile bore, where wood was available. Up again at dawn the vehicles were reloaded, and the journey proceeded with in spite of the difficulties previously mentioned, and Mirra Mitta was eventually reached. We continued our progress at midday on Friday, reaching Mr. G. Alston's homestead at New Well, Mulka, at dusk. Some remarkable effects of mirage were noticed on several occasions during the journey. Grotesque and elongated and blurred masses which fancy might fashion into castles, turrets, and umbrageous trees encircling the shores of mystical lakes gradually resolved into driven cattle or horses or, on one occasion, into a camel buggy. One can quite imagine the brain of Don Quixote on the shimmering plains of Spain fancying that he saw before him palaces and knights in armor, instead of the distorted images of hamlets and of peasants on donkeys.

After experiencing the kindly hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Alston, the party passed on Saturday morning into a blinding sandstorm, the north-east wind blowing the drift across the landscape, filling the ruts so that the road was often lost, and the going extremely heavy, and carrying off the crests of the steep sandhills in a dense horizontal stream suggestive of smoke from a volcanic cone. Grit was everywhere, filling nose and eyes, adulterating the provisions, and finding its way through the clothing.

Trees Suffer 16 Years' Drought

Twelve miles of these Natorani sandhills, with very frequent scooping out of sand and manual shoving, brought us to a dreary, desolate place, the flood plain of the Cooper in the vicinity of the deserted Kopperamanna Mission station. This plain is covered with scattered coolibahs, most of them dead as a result of drought, the presence of borers in the wood, and of mistletoe growing on the trees. It is sixteen years since the Cooper ran, and these enduring trees are now apparently at their last gasp. The pathetic abandoned homesteads, so well described by Mrs. Ernestine Hill, had a very depressing effect. We stopped for lunch at Kanna-waukaninna bore, where the water was so hot that tea was made without boiling the billy. Steam issues in clouds like smoke from a burning bush from many of these bores, whose water is near boiling point. Forty miles from Marree, a motor came out to see if we were in difficulties and to ascertain what had become of the mail, which had stuck somewhere up the track. This well-intentioned assistance was defeated by a breakdown in the arriving car, necessitating its temporary abandonment and the addition of its two occupants to our own truckload. Eight o'clock that evening saw the safe arrival of the party at Marree. The enforced stay over Sunday enabled a visit to be made to the adjacent Willouran Hills, where, at a spot about seven miles south-west of Marree, a number of old native rock carvings were inspected and photographed.

News 30-8-34

PETER BORNSTEIN TO REMAIN IN ENGLAND

Will Leave Next Month

Peter Bornstein, who has for several years been teacher of the violin at the Elder Conservatorium, has decided to live in England permanently. His concert in the Liberal Club tonight will be his farewell appearance in South Australia.

Mr. Bornstein had planned to visit England for the concert season of this year, returning to Adelaide next February to begin a two-year engagement at the Conservatorium, but unforeseen circumstances have now made it impossible for him to return.

He will make his home in London. He will leave Adelaide next month, and give recitals in Perth before he embarks for England.