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PROFESSORS IN POLITICS?

Discussions At Sydney Conference

SYDNEY, August 25.

The conference of Australian Universities, which was opened this morning in the Senate room of the University of Sydney, had before it a question whether professors should be allowed to nominate as candidates for Parliament, and whether the inability on their part to give articulate expression to their political and economic beliefs in the State and Federal Legislatures was a restriction of their liberty as citizens.

Some of the delegates expressed the view that for what were termed existing hard and fast rules a more elastic arrangement ought to be substituted in the Australian universities. No action was taken.

Another subject discussed was that dealing with the matriculation examination in its relation to proposals submitted at the 1930 conference by Sir William Mitchell.

In Training For The University

In submitting his scheme on that occasion for a separate and distinct matriculation examination, Sir William Mitchell spoke of school work being cramped by a syllabus which erroneously presumed that the pupils in practically all cases were proceeding later to a university. His attitude was that the essential questions were what was best for the university and what was best for the coming students. He spoke also of the mental effect of a tendency merely to absorb knowledge.

It was stated officially at the close of the discussion that those who favored Sir William Mitchell's proposals were of the belief that, under them, school students who aimed specifically at going to a university later would thus take such a course of training as would better fit them for their subsequent university work.

It was stated that Adelaide was proposing to put Sir William Mitchell's scheme into effect, in the belief that it would serve primarily to bring out students of a better quality for a university. The outstanding feature, it was argued, was that it would be a separate and distinct examination from the existing school intermediate and leaving examination. Tasmania, it was added, was sympathetic toward the scheme, while Melbourne was looking along similar lines. So far as could be seen, Sydney was not likely to make any change.

British Empire Bureau

The conference decided to support heartily any scheme of assistance by the Australian Universities on behalf of the Universities' Bureau of the British Empire. The bureau has been in existence since 1912.

One of the recipients this year of the travelling grants by the bureau is the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sydney, Dr. Wallace, who will leave for England next month. It was decided to appoint Dr. Wallace and Professor Darnley Naylor—the last named formerly of Melbourne and Adelaide, and now in England—as the representatives of the Australian Universities on the Council of the Bureau. Dr. Wallace in a temporary capacity during his visit, and Professor Naylor in a permanent capacity.

Visiting Lecturers

The question was also discussed of reviving the system of bringing out to Australia distinguished visiting lecturers, and the conference decided to ask Dr. Wallace and Sir William Mitchell, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Adelaide, to make enquiries during their visits abroad in furtherance of the revival of the system.

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Operas by Conservatorium Singers

The story of Orpheus' descent to the underworld to win back his dead wife with its tragic final scene, was told at the Norwood Town Hall last night, when the Elder Conservatorium Opera Class presented Gluck's opera under the direction of Mr. H. Winsloe Hall.

"Orpheus" was a triumph for Rita Watson, whose rich mezzo voice was heard to advantage in the title role. Chorus and ballet work were of high standard. Effective costuming in a simple setting was a feature of the garden scene from "Faust," which preceded "Orpheus." Beryl Kekwick was "Marguerite," Kenneth Ward "Mephistopheles," James Currie "Faust," Violet Sarich "Siebel," and Doris Hare "Martha."

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Conservatorium Pupils Present Operas

Students of the Elder Conservatorium presented the third act of "Faust" and the whole of the opera "Orpheus" at the Norwood Town Hall last night. The performances were given under the direction of Mr. H. Winsloe Hall, and produced by Mr. James Anderson. Mr. Winsloe Hall also conducted the orchestra.

Principal parts in the garden scene of "Faust" were taken by Miss Beryl Kekwick as Marguerite, Miss Violet Sarich as Siebel, Miss Doris Hare as Martha, Mr. James Currie as Faust, and Mr. Kenneth Ward as Mephistopheles.

The principal players in "Orpheus" were Miss Rita Wilson as Orpheus, Miss Florence Seager as Eurydice, and Miss Kathleen Ashton as Love.

Fairies and blessed spirits were:—Misses Phyllis Leitch, Peggy Leitch, Ethel Scullyer, Amy Anthony, Cynthia Warne, Constance Ure, and Lorraine Ellis.

The two operas will be repeated tonight, with a complete change in the cast of performers.

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GRADUATES FOR THE PUBLIC SERVICES

Universities Suggest Special Examination

SYDNEY, August 26.

At the University conference today, the question of the admission of graduates to the Public Services, which had been before previous conferences, was again discussed, on the basis of more concrete schemes than those previously formulated. It was suggested that admission of graduates should be by some special examination which would be about the equivalent of the final honor examination in arts, or that, as an alternative, nominations of graduates who had received that standard should be made through the process of a selection committee.

There was still a feeling, it was stated, that the Public Services would be strengthened if an arrangement could be made for the annual admission to them of even a small number of persons who had had the best education that the universities could provide and who were the best quality candidates who could be selected.

The Public Services, it was observed in an official statement, got too many of the third or fourth rate quality of mind, under existing conditions. It was pointed out, as an illustration of the existing position, that a boy who entered the Public Service at 15 or 16 years of age, had an advantage over another of the same age who had elected to stay at school a year or two longer and go on to a university, where, possibly, his career was one of outstanding promise.

The conference decided to seek a remission of the special imposts on literature, in their application at least to university libraries.

Training Of Nurses

Sir James Barrett raised the question of the establishment of a scheme of combining with the training of nurses special courses for them in the Australian universities. He suggested, as one method, a five years' course, partly at the university and partly by way of practical training with a degree in nursing.

Details of the schemes outlined by Sir James Barrett are to be distributed among the authorities of the Australian universities.

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FIFTY YEARS AGO

From "The Advertiser," August 27, 1882

FORMED three years ago, the South Australian branch of the British Medical Association now has 47 members. It must be gratifying to them to receive from London the congratulations of the parent society on the continuing and increasing success of the local branch.

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Homing Professors

FROM the three eastern States and the Northern Territory, among which their varied scientific and sporting vacation time engagements divided them there will be an influx this week-end of professors, lecturers, and students of Adelaide University returning for the beginning of the third term on Monday.



Mr. F. W. Eardley

Seldom has the University been so deserted as in this vacation, with many members of the staff at the Science Congress or with the Central Australian anthropological expedition, and students visiting New South Wales, Victoria, and Queensland for inter-university sporting and debating contests. This has not meant a holiday for the registrar (Mr. F. W. Eardley) and his staff. "In vacation we are able to catch up with routine work which it is not possible to do when the place is filled with students and all their wants are being attended to," said Mr. Eardley. "But we have not been as busy as we are in the long vacation, which is made strenuous by work on the examination results and annual reports."

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RHODES SCHOLAR RETURNS

Temporarily In Charge Of St. Mark's College

After having studied at Oxford for three years, Mr. John Reynolds, South Australian Rhodes Scholar, who returned by the Oronsay on Saturday, thinks that it is necessary to reproduce English college life in order to develop a cultural background in Australia. "We have to develop our own art and literature. We have not much history, but we have to make it," added Mr. Reynolds.

Mr. Reynolds, who has been studying at Balliol College, will take over the control of St. Mark's College while Dr. Grenfell Price is absent for 12 months on Rockefeller Fellowship work. While at Oxford he secured his B.A. degree in the honors school of modern history.

Rhodes scholars, he said, were now accepted as part of Oxford, whereas at first they were regarded as curiosities. Although they had learnt much from Oxford, they had also broadened it out, and one prominent Oxford teacher had stated that the young men from overseas had made a higher standard necessary in the examinations at Oxford. The Rhodes men might not be particularly brilliant, but they had a reputation for hard work. Mr. Reynolds rowed for the Balliol College eight.

Artist Fiancee

Miss Magdelene Dorsch, of Adelaide, Mr. Reynolds' fiancee, also returned on the Oronsay. Miss Dorsch has been absent since 1929 studying art in England and the Continent, and teaching art in English schools. She was studying in England at the Heatherley school of fine art, which is conducted on the lines of the Paris art school, where pupils are given plenty of scope.

Miss Dorsch was a student at the Adelaide University, where she secured her B.A. degree, and at the Adelaide School of Arts and Crafts. She met Mr. Reynolds at the Adelaide University, where they were co-editors of the "Varsity" magazine. Miss Dorsch executed several good paintings while absent, and one canvas, a landscape, secured first prize in an exhibition of the work of students of art schools in London.

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Students' Examination Fees. — The Minister of Education (Mr. Hill) told Mr. Nleass (A.L.P.) that the Education Department was aware of the difficulty many high school students had in paying entrance fees for University examinations. Because of the efforts of the department the University authorities had remitted and postponed payment of examination fees in cases where such action was desirable. In November the University Council decided that it would not be possible to make future reductions or grant exemptions in the payment of public examination fees in special cases, and recommended that high school councils and school committees should arrange to meet the expense by raising funds on behalf of candidates whom they knew to be competent and deserving.

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Professor Explains Cosmic Rays

THE mysterious cosmic rays that bombard the earth from some outside source, which were examined by Prof. Piccard, in his record balloon ascent, were explained by Prof. Kerr Grant at the Adelaide University on his return to duty today.

Prof. Grant delivered a paper on the rays at the Science Congress in Sydney. "Special apparatus to ascertain if the rays increased in intensity as a magnetic pole of the earth was approached, was constructed in our physics department at Adelaide University for the Mawson expedition to the Antarctic.

"With this instrument almost daily measurements were made between Hobart and the Far South. The important result was that it was revealed that no marked variation in the intensity of the rays occurred, as might have been expected if the rays were fast moving electrons, he said.

"There has been a lot of controversy about the nature of penetrating radiation—or cosmic rays," said Prof. Kerr Grant. "Scientists disagreed on whether they were wave-like or corpuscular.

"The rays come into the earth's atmosphere from some unknown source. They come at all times and are found in all places in a manner which far surpasses the powers of penetration through matter of radiations from radium.

"Observations made in the northern polar regions by prominent German and American scientists agreed with those made on the Mawson expedition," said the professor.

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CONCERT CLASH

S.A. Orchestra And Szigeti

Dr. E. Harold Davies, chairman of the executive of the South Australian Orchestra, stated yesterday it was due to the friends and patrons of the orchestra that he should make an explanation of the confusing announcements relating to Saturday night's concert. "Mr. Hugo Larsen, manager for Szigeti, approached me at the end of last week," said Dr. Davies, "strongly urging that we should combine forces next Saturday evening instead of giving separate concerts. There were many difficulties to be overcome, but we were eventually able to meet his request, and the matter was, as I thought, firmly concluded. To my great surprise he wired me yesterday from Melbourne that the arrangement must be cancelled because of 'unforeseen difficulties'. The South Australian Orchestra will therefore give its fifth concert as usual in the Town Hall on Saturday night, and we sincerely hope our loyal supporters will not only be present, but that they will also absolve the executive from all blame in the matter."

Szigeti's Regrets

Szigeti said last night that the concert had been arranged at short notice, without his being consulted, and that the difficulties were purely contractual. He very much regretted that he was not able to have the pleasure of playing with the orchestra this time, but yet hoped that there might be another opportunity.