

# BLUNDERS IN DEVELOPMENT

## Sir Douglas Mawson Critical

### ADELAIDE AND SYDNEY MISPLACED

Disregard in many instances of geographical conditions in the development of Australia, including the founding of Adelaide and Sydney, was criticised by the president of the Royal Geographical Society (Sir Douglas Mawson), at the annual meeting of the society in the Institute, North terrace, yesterday.

He suggested that members of Parliament should be qualified in geography before being elected.

Sir Douglas Mawson, who was delivering his presidential address, urged that wider public appreciation be given to the modern science of geography. He said he visualised before the society a long period of useful and constructive work.

The time had arrived when increasing attention should be given to geographical analysis of our own State, and to the vast adjoining region of Central and Northern Australia, with a view to the formation of constructive plans for more efficient occupation and development, based on the inexorable laws of economics, he said.

Many of the financial maladies from which Australia was suffering today would be greatly modified or non-existent if in the past greater attention had been paid to broader fundamental considerations and geographic economics. The story of Australia was replete with outstanding examples of insufficient regard being paid to geography. Development had thus been misdirected.

#### Railway Blunders

One instance was the variation in the gauge of railways. Communities had lived in their own little entitles, with the result that it was estimated that now it would cost Australia between £50,000,000 and £100,000,000 to adopt a uniform gauge.

That was but one example of mismanagement. Another was the building of the railway from Adelaide to Melbourne over the highest part of the Mount Lofty Range, a thoroughly ridiculous scheme. A light railway could have been provided for pleasure resorts.

The modern geographer, continued Sir Douglas Mawson, would say that the site for Adelaide as the biggest town in the State was at the mouth of the biggest river. Local reason and influence at the time were responsible for the choice made. That reason would soon pass away, and the whole future affected.

#### Sydney In Wrong Position

In spite of the attraction of its beautiful harbor, Sydney was also established in the wrong place, and the site was now a great handicap. A better site would have been near the mouth of the Hunter River, in the region of good agricultural country and coalfields. From there railways could have been taken into the interior of the State, and to Adelaide and Perth without the need to cross the high mountain range.

#### Society's Work

Dealing with the work of the society during the year, Sir Douglas Mawson said the total membership was now 200. The cataloguing of books had been continued, and it was hoped during the coming year to merge the G and York Gate libraries into one collection.

The question of a memorial to John McDouall Stuart had again been brought forward. There was now about £400 in the fund, and the Historical and Memorials Committee was dealing with the question of a site. A suggestion had been made that obelisks be erected at Stuart and Darwin.

Suggestions had been made to the Government regarding the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the State.

#### Dr. Pulleine New President

Sir Douglas Mawson, who said he would be absent in England for several months, did not seek re-election as president. The following officers were appointed:—President, Dr. R. H. Pulleine; vice-president, Mr. F. L. Parker; joint secretaries, Messrs. F. C. Martin and K. M. Cornish; secretary memorials committee, Rev. J. C. Jennison. The following were appointed to vacancies on the council:—Sir William Bowden, Rev. J. C. Jennison, Dr. C. E. Wilson, Messrs. L. Lewis, G. Dodwell and Seymour Hicks.

# WORLD ADOPTING NEW STANDARD

## Sir Walter Young's Review

### BRITAIN'S UNITED EFFORT

#### Her Markets Are Vital

Outstanding impressions with which Sir Walter Young has returned from abroad, are that the world is gradually adjusting itself to the new standard of normality, and that recovery will come through the operation of natural economic laws, rather than by Government intervention.

Great Britain has been enabled to lead the world, he says, largely because the formation of a National Government and the suspension of ordinary party wrangling have enabled all sections to put forward a united effort.

Ottawa's greatest result, he averred, would be through the conviction that the prosperity of Australia was dependent upon Great Britain's purchasing power being maintained.

#### False Standards Passing

Sir Walter Young (managing director of Elder, Smith & Co), who returned from abroad on Friday, was interviewed at his home at Mt. Pleasant yesterday. Questioned as to the general world outlook, he said it would be very unwise to prophesy at present, but one could perhaps gain something by looking back over the past few years. There was no doubt the world was surviving a great strain, and while the outlook for the future was obscure, there was hope of a definite nature that conditions were beginning to show improvement not so much by constructive efforts by Governments, but by the influence of natural economic laws.

"There has been a big personal adjustment on the part of people individually to the altered conditions that have gradually unfolded themselves since the war," he went on. "The same adjustment as among individuals applies to separate nations and to groups of nations. False standards and false prices are passing by, and the innate sense of people in facing adjustments is achieving results gradually and continuously, and perhaps much greater than is generally realised. A new standard of normality is being reached, and, however undesirable adversity may be, the lessons which it teaches are helping to reconstruct the world."

#### World Beginning To Face Facts

Asked how that end was being attained, Sir Walter said perhaps one of the first and surest signs that the bottom of the depression had been reached, was the cheapness of money. Cheap money had been caused by stagnation of trade and loss of confidence generally.

"While people expected miracles to restore world trade," he went on, "each successive period of hope melted away. Now that all countries are showing signs of facing facts in a co-operative spirit, there is some reason for feeling that a turn of the tide has a chance to become operative. In at least two directions will cheap money begin to move towards establishing better prices for commodities. Present low prices will induce the employment of cheap money, and any improvement will tend to have a cumulative effect. In the same way, as depression created a cumulative descent in values, so will the turn of the tide have a similar effect upwards. This cannot apply, of course, to commodities obviously in over-supply, but over-supply in turn will have to conform to the requirements of equilibrium of demand."

"Speaking personally," he said, when Britain's position was mentioned, "nothing has impressed me more during the last 12 months than the great part played by Great Britain in striving to lead the world back to recovery. Aided by her calmness and integrity, she has gained the admiration of all the world, and all sections of the community have shared in the great efforts made. Perhaps the chief feature was the support by the people of the National Government when the call was made. Fortunately there were great men in the different parties ready to lead the country, putting aside political differences and personal interests in order to concentrate on the one paramount issue of saving the country. Notwithstanding the recent re-

signations from the National Government in Great Britain on the fiscal question, the underlying determination to save the country remains very strongly embedded in the hearts of the people."

#### Achievements At Ottawa

The conference at Ottawa in an economic sense is, in Sir Walter's view, the most important Imperial Conference that has been held, especially as real facts had to be looked in the face. More than ever before it was realised how the primary producing portions of the Empire were dependent upon the markets of Great Britain and that Britain in turn was dependent upon orders from the Dominions for British manufactured goods. The lesson at the moment for Australia to learn was the immense importance of the market in Great Britain, and particularly for butter, meat, fruits, wine, &c. These commodities had practically no other market in Europe or America. In other words, any loss of prosperity in Great Britain was a direct loss to Australia in the sale of her export products, and this was irrespective of the great benefits received now and in the past in the form of naval defence and British loan money.

"Our secondary industries cannot succeed," he declared, "unless our primary industries are flourishing; and, indeed, every section of the community gains or loses from the prosperity or otherwise flowing from primary industries. At this, it has to be realised that Australia cannot be independent of events happening in other parts of the world, and disabilities cannot be removed by simply passing Acts of Parliament which, of course, have no control over world conditions."

The purpose of the conference was centred in creating a basis of mutual trade benefits, he explained, and it could be asserted that the conference as a whole achieved a substantial measure of success. Of course, there were divergencies of opinion in many directions, but it would be a bold man who, in a party spirit or for a sectional interest, would go further than helpful criticism in dealing with the agreement which was reached at Ottawa.

#### Maintenance Of Credit Vital

"Looking back on the position that existed in Australia two years ago," Sir Walter concluded, "one can only marvel at how much has been achieved in restoring the good name of Australia. Following the best traditions of the British race, honesty prevailed, and the evil elements in the community have been displaced."

"Anyone who wishes to see the standard of living in Australia maintained must realise, even if they failed to do so before, that the credit of Australia is paramount in creating and maintaining the welfare of everyone in the community. Australia has survived a most critical time, and will continue to do so as long as the people are true to themselves and provided a state of complacency does not relapse into less determined effort. We are not out of the wood yet, and world conditions do not permit anyone to rest on effortless complacency. There appears to be a desire in many quarters to divide results from the great Australian reformation of the last year or so before the foundations are solid. Therefore, the maintenance of the credit of Australia should be the watchword for everyone. The successful conversion loan in Australia two years ago, and the very favorable conversion in London recently of the New South Wales matured loans provide a remarkable tribute to the character of the Australian electors in the action taken by them to restore the country's credit."

News 10-11-32

## WILL PUZZLES 'VARSITY

### "Half Fees for Man's Descendants"

#### £5,000 BEQUEST

MELBOURNE, Thursday. BY his will, an aged Melbourne man plans to leave £5,000 to the Melbourne University, payable at some unknown time in the future, on condition that his descendants receive tuition at the university at half fees.

But how many descendants there will be nobody can say. University councils have dealt with many unusual wills, but professors and judges alike were unable to form an unanimous opinion about this one. "The university will undoubtedly gain in the long run, but there may be a considerable time to wait," said the registrar (Mr. J. P. Bainbridge) today. "The

council has referred the matter to the finance committee, for it does not want to reach a decision which will embarrass a council of another generation."

Grants to the university have shown no sign of falling off. On Monday the Trustees, Executors and Agency Co. informed the university of a benefaction from the W. J. Earle estate, valued at £16,000, and about £2,000 will probably be received from the estate of the late Dr. A. V. M. Anderson.

Yesterday Mr. Bainbridge's correspondence contained notice of another will made out in the university's favor by a woman benefactor.

#### MONEY LEFT UNEXPECTEDLY

This grant, Mr. Bainbridge said, was unexpected, and the estate consisted of a number of properties which might realise a substantial amount. There were several relatives who would also benefit. All these grants were to come to the university after having been vested in a life interest.

"Usually money is left to us without condition or for a special purpose, and generally it comes unexpectedly," Mr. Bainbridge said. "Occasionally solicitors ring me on the telephone to inform me that they are making wills from which the university is to benefit."

"The benefactor usually remains anonymous, and I have to ask the solicitor to pass on the university's thanks. A number of wills—I know of at least two of a substantial amount—provided for bequests to the university, and later the university has been cut out, because of depreciation in the value of the estate."

"For years I kept a list to compare our bequests with those of Sydney, and we were doing better both in the value and the number of the benefactions. But we have had nothing to compare with the £500,000 McCaughey grant or the Challis and Russel grants to the Sydney University. Our highest bequest is £50,000."

"Many of our grants come to us a number of years after they are assigned, but the university is fortunate in being able to wait. There are a number of such grants that will come to the university in some years' time, and we have no reason to fear for the future."

"The Aitchison scholarship valued at £13,862 was entirely forgotten by the university while it was held in trust for a descendant. By chance I came upon some old correspondence and I hunted up a London solicitor's name in the public library. I wrote to him, and 20 years after the benefactor's death we received the donation."

Adv. 9-11-32

PERTH, November 8.

#### Graduates' Employment

The University is very actively concerning itself with the problem of finding employment for its graduates. A vigorous committee, appointed by convocation, is at work, and a questionnaire on the lines laid down in Professor Copland's book, "Education for Business," is being circulated among the business community, enquiring whether the recipients are willing to employ graduates, and whether they prefer a specialised University training, or, as in England and the United States, one of the nature of a higher general education.

Very heated was the debate in convocation on the committee's recommendations so far as they affected the legal fraternity. The proposals that holders of law degrees should be let off with one year's articles, that they should be permitted to be paid when employers were willing, and allowed to earn in their spare time, shocked certain lawyers. The University is very anxious that the clerical branch of the civil service should be thrown open to graduates by the raising of the age entrance to 26, and that 25 per cent. of the vacancies should be reserved for graduates.

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#### UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATION

The annual University commemoration will be held on Wednesday, December 14, at 3 p.m., in the Elder Hall, when degrees and diplomas will be conferred. On that day luncheon to the new graduates will be given in the University Refectory by the Graduates' Union Committee. Mr. J. F. Ward will preside.

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Mr. C. Ingham Cox, B.Sc., A.I.C., who has been engaged in post-graduate research work in the department of physiology and biochemistry at the University, has been appointed to a post in the laboratories of Imperial Chemical Industries of Australia and New Zealand, Deer Park, Melbourne. He will leave for Melbourne towards the end of the month.