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Vol. 10.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2, 1940.

No. 4.

BALLOT ON INTER-VARSITIES

The Late F. W. Reid

The tragically sudden death of Mr. F. W. Reid, late Principal of the School of Mines—he collapsed and died from heart failure while sitting on the dais at the opening ceremony of the new Bonython Jubilee Building—deprives the educational world of South Australia of one of its most arduous workers, and the School of Mines of a director whose devotion to duty, enthusiasm for the cause of technical education, and capability and tact as an administrator, would be hard to equal. These words are not written merely in the spirit of "nil nisi bonum." They only moderately express the estimate of Mr. Reid's character and ability held by all, who, like the writer, had the privilege of knowing the man intimately and of watching his work as chief executive officer of the School of Mines.

Those who had not this privilege might easily, on slight acquaintance, underrate his ability and his service—for Mr. Reid was as modest and unassuming as he was capable. Yet he could hold his own well in a debate and even, on occasion, indulge a propensity for gentle irony.

Discussing with the writer once the question of establishing classes of instruction for wireless operators—since successfully inaugurated—he reverted in response to an expression of opinion that the school might, perhaps, be well advised to limit itself to this manual training and leave the education of professional radio engineers in the hands of the university: "That's right. We take the skim milk and you take the cream." (To which, perhaps, the right reply would have been: "Yes, but don't forget there's a gallon of milk to every pint of cream.")

Mr. Reid's personal gifts of unfailing geniality, fair-mindedness, and trustworthiness will ensure for him a long and kindly remembrance in the hearts of all who knew him; his great services to technical education and to the South Australian School of Mines and Industries well warrant some more tangible form of memorial.

—K.G.

Coming Events

- Tuesday, April 2.**
 University Swimming Carnival in the Unley Crystal Pool at 8 p.m.
 Violin recital by Lloyd Davies in the Elder Hall, 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, April 3.**
 S.C.M. Freshers' Social in the Lady Symon Hall at 7.45 p.m.
 Law Society A.G.M. in the Refectory at 8 p.m.
- Thursday, April 4.**
 Women's debate in Lady Symon Hall at 1.10 p.m. Subject, "That Chamberlain has betrayed us."
 A.G.M. of Adelaide University Union in the George Murray Hall at 7.45 p.m.
- Friday, April 5.**
 Commencement Ball in the Refectory.

Sports' Association Goes to Work

The annual general meeting of the Sports Association was held last Thursday. The attendance was disappointing, seeing that the question of cancelling inter-Varsity contests was on the agenda. It is surprising that of the 490-odd members of the association only about forty were present. The minutes of the last A.G.M., of a special meeting, and the annual report were read with all due formality.

ON THE ROCKS.

A report of the activities of individual clubs showed a year full of activity and moderate success. Due to the foresight of last year's committee, we were not subjected to listening to the separate reports, which can be obtained at the secretary's office. However, the Association is having financial difficulty. The General Committee, on the recommendation of the Finance Committee, was forced to cut each club's requests for new equipment to what were considered the absolute essentials, and after that make a drastic percentage cut, and still budget for a loss. The year ended with a deficit of £99 0/8 and the new committee is faced with even a greater problem, since two of the main money-raising fixtures of the Association—the Varsity ball and the students' revue—are liable to lapse for the duration of the war. Already the committee has taken drastic steps in cancelling all grants for inter-Varsity contests. The balance sheet appeared to balance but few dared to doubt such a forbidding-looking document. From the question of one curious we learnt that the horse is an oval plant. Verco, that staunch maintainer of golfers' rights, queried the advantages given by the Association to golfers. His question seemed a little difficult to answer. His election as a sub-treasurer was greeted with loud acclamation.

ODDS AND ENDS.

The Varsity ball, which is run chiefly by the Sports Association, made a profit of £40 0/8. Yet it is considered that the profits do not justify the time and work necessary for organizing it and so it goes. Our respected President seemed a little sore that the Union had not been consulted on the matter.

The Association expressed its appreciation of the work done by our late Student Adviser, Mr. Barbour. His advice and help on matters concerning the Association were always invaluable.

ELECTION RACKET.

The Sports Association certainly knows how to run elections. Mr. Norman Todd was elected President and took over his duties at once. The meeting moved on rapidly under his business-like control. People were nominated and elected almost in the

same breath. Officers for 1940 are: Norman Todd, President; Mr. W. D. Verco, Deputy President; Mr. E. H. Burgess, Treasurer; E. G. Robinson, Assistant Secretary; L. T. Eweus and M. L. Reed, Hon. Auditors.

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE"

The question of inter-Varsity contests was raised by E. G. Robinson in the following resolution, "This meeting recommends to the Australian Universities' Sports Association that the decision as to whether inter-Varsity contests should be held during the war is a matter for it to decide and not individual clubs, and that the Australian body should give a definite ruling on this matter after testing the opinion of the other Australian universities."

The above-mentioned Robinson, usually a most reticent man, blossomed forth into fluency and maintained most positively that he considered the question to be one which should not be left in the hands of the individual clubs, because if this were the case those which could carry on would increase their membership at the expense of the others, and that the question was one which should be thoroughly reviewed by the Australian University Sports Association.

Esple seconded the motion, which, after a slight amendment, was carried unanimously.

It was then proposed that while a meeting was being held a vote should be taken on the actual question of the abandonment or continuance of inter-Varsity contests. However, it was decided that the meeting was not representative enough, and a suggestion was put forward that a vote should be taken from all current members of 1939, plus life members. The voting is to commence on April 1 and continue for a fortnight.

The motion was only passed after much discussion, as many students felt that one vote from each club would be more satisfactory than one from each individual. For instance, if the individual vote is taken, a large club, such as the baseball club, would swamp a smaller one, such as the tennis club.

A resolution was then passed that four alternatives should be advanced upon which to vote. They were: (1) That inter-Varsity contests should be continued; (2) that inter-Varsity con-

Union Committee Meeting

MR. AND MRS. GOODALL TO RECEIVE BONUS.

In the report of the meeting of the Finance Committee, the suggestion was made that a bonus should be given to the Refectory managers, Mr. and Mrs. Goodall, in recognition of the faithful and untiring service they have always given to the Union.

The suggestion was carried gladly and unanimously by the Union Committee.

FIGHTING FORCES' COMFORTS FUND.

A suggestion came from the Women's Union that a University Union Comforts Fund Unit should be formed.

Objections were raised in great quantities. The most important one was that contained in a resolution passed at the recent N.U.A.U.S. Conference, viz., that the governing student body of any university should not sponsor any organization for war work. This, however, is a resolution and not binding, but several members of the committee were convinced that such a step would be contrary to the wording of the constitution. It was their view that the Union Committee, an impartial administrative organ, should not sponsor any organization for charitable work, but that also it would not restrict any persons or any other student body from running such an organization if they so wished.

The Women's Union representatives objected to this on the grounds that such an organization, having no official status, would be far less effective.

By vote it was decided to interpret clause (d) of section 2 of the constitution as covering this particular form of work, which was not so much a work of charity as an obligation.

It was decided that a Liaison committee should be formed to co-ordinate the various branches of the Union in the running of a University Union Comforts Fund Unit. The nucleus of the committee was formed of members of the Union Committee—Misses Irwin and Jacobs, and Messrs. J. M. McPhie, A. F. Pilgrim, and B. A. Magarey (subject to his approval).

tests should be abolished; (3) that inter-Varsity contests should be modified and carried on without official status and without the award of blues; (4) that the question of the continuance or abandonment of inter-Varsity contests should be decided by the individual clubs.

A final motion was passed that men and women should vote separately in case an opinion of each body is required, but that for the purpose of a general direction the votes be combined.

So vote now.

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On the Trail

By The Watchdog.

Disturbed by the lack of front-page news during the past fortnight, the reptile press obviously bribed certain sections of the N.S.W. Easter Labour Conference to come out with something really fruity over the week-end. And they did. They passed a resolution which, whatever was the idea behind it, was so worded that it has provided political ammunition for all anti-Labour parties for some time to come. The resolution said in effect that the Allies should not attack any country with which they are not now at war, especially Holy Russia. One might safely assume that the reference to Russia represents a hangover from the period when any Left resolution made an automatic verbal genuflection in the direction of the workers' paradise. For surely it is not suggested that we should allow the U.S.S.R. to slip back into the old paths of nationalistic, bellicose imperialism without attempting to purge her (in the Russian sense). Moreover, Russia is Germany's ally; so that if it became clear that Germany cannot be defeated unless Russia is knocked out, would the Allies not be right to attempt the K.O.? And what about that alleged German submarine base near Vladivostok?

At all events the Easter resolution has been a great discomfort to all Parliamentary Labour Parties throughout the Commonwealth. None of the leaders of these parties has a good word to say for it in public. In private their language must be shocking. The Federal Government, on the other hand, will scarcely be so foolish as to close down such a valuable source of anti-Communist feeling as the Australian Communist Party; for while the Communists remain vocal they are steadily making new rents in the already damaged fabric of Labour unity.

The Federal Government has announced that the financing of this war is going to entail severe sacrifices and heavy taxation. We should have been having more of this kind of language all along. Obviously, if the government is to meet war expenditure it can do so in only three ways, through taxation, borrowing, and credit expansion. All three methods will have to be used in order to direct all available resources towards financing the war. Money which might be used to purchase non-essentials—such as cosmetics or beer—must be taxed or compulsorily borrowed back to the Treasury and used for the production of war materials. We must refrain from consuming non-essentials; we must lend all we save; and we must pay our taxes with a grim smile. Only thus can Australia get through this war in fair financial trim.

EASTER EXCERPT.

In a poll taken up and down and round about the State during the week-end, a large number of citizens answered the question, "Should Australians support Xenophobia?" as follows:

108 per cent. said, She will win the Great Eastern.

5.8 per cent. said, Not unless she guarantees New Guinea.

72 per cent. said, It is a sport alien to the British tradition.

2 per cent. said, He is preferable to Menzies.

58 per cent. said, I know nothing about music.

21 per cent. said, No, the birth rate is too low already.

281 per cent. said, Always provided it's sold in quart bottles.

1 per cent. said, What is Russia doing?

35 per cent. were unintelligible.

305 per cent. said, To the last man and the last shilling.

12 per cent. said, Australians are Nature's gentlemen.

40 per cent. said, The A.B.C. should encourage local talent.

8 per cent. said, That's difficult to say.

"ON DIT" STAFF, 1940.

Editors:

P. M. Viner Smith, S. J. Jacobs.

Business Manager:

J. E. Jenkins.

Sports Editors:

J. M. McPhie, N. Osman.

Editorial Staff:

C. A. Price, G. W. Irwin, E. Teesdale Smith, K. Sanderson, E. F. Johnston.

Annual General Meetings

If you belong to an association and find that you have neither the time nor the inclination to follow its activities, then the annual general meeting of that association will hold no interest for you—you probably won't go to it.

There were approximately forty people present at the Sports Association meeting last Thursday night. It was an excellent meeting—the arguments and motions were well thought out and constructive, the President's report was illuminating to put it mildly, and, under the capable hands of Mr. Todd, the meeting went well. It is a great pity that more people could not have found it possible to attend: it is a great pity that all clubs could not have been as well represented as, for example, the rugby, rowing, and, of course, the golf.

The women members of the Sports Association do not seem to realize that they have a vote, that their vote is as good as anyone else's, and that it ought to be used.

Next Thursday night is the Union A.G.M. Let us hope that the privilege of expressing one's opinions publicly will be treated as well as it was at the sports meeting. If the standard can be kept as high, valuable work should be done. We leave it to you.

Debating Begins

MINISTRY OF INFORMATION DISAPPROVED.

The first debate for the year was held in the George Murray Hall last Wednesday at lunch time, when two teams, comprised largely of freshers, debated the matter, "That the Ministry of Information should be abolished." The debate was of a much higher standard than is usual for opening meetings.

MR. RUDALL moved the motion; he defined the scope of the debate well but apparently not to the satisfaction of the remainder of his team, who went outside it. He claimed that the department was undemocratic, the prototype of a Fascist organ, that it was absurdly expensive, and that its functions could better be performed by other agencies. It was a pity that Mr. Rudall read the greater part of his speech, more especially as he gave the impression that the reliance on his notes was largely unnecessary. It is also preferable to address the audience rather than the debating table.

MISS CARTER (con) set her conscience at rest by declaring that she was debating on a high moral plane—that of the Australian democracy at war. She presented a closely-knit argument, claiming that the Ministry sought to break down the ignorance, apathy, and shifting of responsibility which cripple democracy; that propaganda is not necessarily bad, its original meaning being merely "things requiring to be spread"—which she asserted to be a good description of the news supplied by the department.

MISS STOKES (pro) was hampered by a cold and also by facing the other side instead of the house. She argued the most difficult point of the day, that the work of the Ministry could better be carried out by other departments and non-political organizations. Her main difficulty (which the con side failed to take) was that experienced Cabinet Ministers and heads of government departments are, presumably, more competent to decide questions of organization than university students who have scarcely seen the inside of a department. Miss Stokes, however,

presented her case with considerable vigour, the force of which was frequently marred by her continuous tapping on the table with a pencil.

MR. FISHER (con) arose to display an exceedingly pleasant voice and a good argument. He maintained that the war was being fought on two fields—the psychological and the military. To neglect the former is to nullify our efforts in the later. Mr. Fisher asserted that the pro-side fears of Fascist-like propaganda arose from a failure to place any trust in the democratically elected government. The effects of the Ministry would be to stabilize public opinion by preventing hysteria resulting from wild remarks, either of good or ill.

MR. PRICE (pro) started off in usual racy style, wiping away half his opponents' arguments as "snippets" and frequently and somewhat unnecessarily requesting his listeners to "look here." His argument was the best of the debate. He maintained that democracy works by a division and that it is completely foreign to democratic theory that a ministry of state, a government department controlled by Cabinet, should be responsible for the censorship and supply of news. "The question," said Mr. Price, "is not whether the department is being misused, but whether it can be misused."

MISS MURRAY (con) attacked from the outset. She succeeded in bringing into her rebuttal a re-affirmation and development of her side's arguments on the subject of propaganda and the proper trust which ought to exist between the government and the governed. Miss Murray's stance and gestures were the best of the debate.

Miss Carter and Mr. Price summed up, after which Messrs. Johnston, Gent, and Dibden spoke from the floor of the house.

On the motion being put, it was lost in the debate and carried on the merits.

We hope to hear further speeches in the near future from all the freshers who took part and from several more who were in the audience.

Front Office News

LEAGUE OF NATIONS PRIZE.

Entries for the 1940 League of Nations Prize will close on May 18. The subject is "An Estimate of the Work and Possibilities of the International Labour Office."

LLOYD DAVIES RECITAL

Professor E. Harold Davies, Mus. Doc., F.R.C.M., invites the presence of all music lovers in the Elder Hall, on Tuesday evening, April 2, at the inaugural violin recital by Mr. Lloyd Davies, in association with George Pearce, Linda Wald, Jessica Dix and Harold Parsons.

Admission is free.

THE LATE PROFESSOR BAGSTER.

Professor Bagster, of the University of Queensland, began his career as a cadet in the chemistry department of the Adelaide University. Under Professor Bennie, he graduated in Honours Chemistry and was appointed Lecturer in Industrial Chemistry in Queensland.

Here he worked under Professor D. B. Steele, one of the most distinguished of Australian chemists, upon the death of whom he became Professor of Chemistry, which position he held until his recent death.

N.U.A.U.S.

The Vice-Chancellor has expressed his dissatisfaction with the view that the Adelaide Union or any other union should be bound in any way by resolution of the National Union. It is his opinion that we should be in no way bound by any decisions they should make. He considers that it would be greatly preferable if this body were like the Vice-Chancellor's Committee, which is held twice every year. It has no constitution, its costs are equally divided and its resolutions are in no way binding upon its members. The sole purpose is that each vice-chancellor may be able to advise his council of the views and practices of the other universities. The British University Vice-Chancellors meet four times every year under these same conditions.

This system would be of far more use. The N.U.A.U.S. should have no power at all over each and every university, especially in the case of Adelaide, where the Union is directly responsible to the Council. The Union, then, cannot be guided by two different powers.

DON'T FORGET
the
Commencement
Social
NEXT
Friday

Remember, there is no 'Varsity
Ball—so make this show
move!

Pharmaceutical Students

The Pharmaceutical Students' Association held its first general meeting for 1940 at the refectory on Wednesday, March 27. The constitution was read and a new committee, consisting of the following members, elected: President, W. R. Randle; vice-president, H. A. Makin; secretary, J. H. Justin; assistant secretary, J. C. Freeman; treasurer, J. C. Measday.

The most entertaining portion of the meeting, consisting of a novel initiation ceremony, staged for the newcomers to Pharmacy, was, like most good things, left until last. The meeting was concluded with supper at 10.15 p.m.

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Union A.G.M. Next Thursday

This being the first part of the first term, the round of annual general meetings is once more on its way and reaches its climax next Thursday night, when the Union meets to review the past and consider the future. We are pleased to report that at the time of going to press there are no proposed amendments to our own constitution, so that legal technicalities should not unduly hamper the meeting. The main business of the evening will concern the report of the National Union Conference, held at Hobart in January, and as there are some vitally interesting topics in that report, the meeting should attract a representative gathering. It is important, too, that freshers should thus early get some idea of the work of the Union, and we urge them to come along.

The three delegates to conference were Miss Edith Irwin, R. G. Wilmoughby, and F. A. Dibden. Most of Miss Irwin's work concerned "Women's Interests," and has been dealt with at the right place, but she will in addition move the adoption of a new National Union constitution, which was framed at Hobart and which largely revises the qualifications for membership. This affects Adelaide to a large extent, because in the past our financial obligation to the National Union has been reckoned only on the basis of the Union membership, irrespective of the number of students outside the Union. Now, however, all students are to enjoy the privilege of membership of the National Union, and some more equitable arrangement has to be made. It has been suggested that for the purpose of assessing our financial obligations, each local union member should count as one, and each student not a member of the local union should be a half. When we have decided which half we like, the scheme seems very

fair. The matter will be thrashed out on Thursday night, and should give a valuable decision.

As indicated elsewhere, in this issue a move has come from the Women's Union for the establishment of a Fighting Forces' Comforts Fund at the university. The pros and cons need not be reprinted here, but as a point of interest we print a resolution of the Hobart Conference, which is not, however, binding on us: "It is not a function of the student governing body to raise funds for war work, but such work may be properly carried on by student societies, provided that the ordinary activities of any student society are not, by official control, curtailed or impaired in order to further the promotion of such activities."

In addition, of course, there will be the usual minutes, reports, and financial statement; and if anyone has anything to say, any grudge to air in accordance with the constitution, there will be "any other business" to complete the agenda.

Ways to Peace

(This is the first of a series of articles by various members of the Union on the war and the problems it creates for the future.)

These ideas may seem very negative and mazed, yet we must remember to distinguish between what we want, what we can get, and what change of outlook we may experience before the end of the war. Yet people favouring the war suggest many solutions—the majority of which deal with the prevention of such trouble recurring—i.e., with the destruction of the causes producing this struggle.

Broadly speaking, these fall into two main classes. Some condemn the Treaty of Versailles as the inevitable cause of the pan-Germanic spirit and the present crisis. But this view is as absurd as it is unhistorical. Men, unless clairvoyants or mystics out of touch with practical events, cannot foresee new trends—their outlook is determined largely by the existing conditions and the events leading up to them. As the post-war solution of an economic-nationalist struggle the economic-nationalist Treaty of Versailles could not have been very different. But conditions have changed to such an extent that a return to its solution is quite impossible. Those condemning Versailles are as out of date as those advocating a return to its solution. They think of what we should have done then and wish to do it now. That is quite beside the point. We must think of what we should do now in a world where Versailles conditions can never return.

Others blame Germany alone and there is a growing tendency to over-emphasize Prussian history and the perverted nature of her barbarous people. There is a suggestion afoot at present to split Germany up and keep her thus by force. "Prussia delenda est." But this again is an unhistorical and futile attempt to return and maintain Germany at conditions previous to 1860. The truth is that Germany and Italy have simply found their nationalism four hundred years after England and France and are now going through stages very similar to those we have already experienced. Russia, China, and India have yet to find their nationalism—yet few consider a peace which will allow for this new and ominous factor. It is useless to attempt to retrograde Germany by splitting her up or treating her as abnormal. Like Napoleonic France after the fall of an imperialist house, she has found her national spirit. The new peace must allow for that.

There is only one permanent solution which historical trends, as far as can be seen, will allow. The world consists of unequal national groups in divers stages of development. Centuries ago, on a smaller scale, feudal England faced a similar problem and only progressed to a stable national state with the hard use of a single centralized power. The historical inference is obvious. No permanent peace will come until the nations of the world have surrendered much of their sovereignty to a central world body whose power is not called from the constituent members, be they willing, but lies in its own ready hand. The balance of power is the out-of-date expression of a world recovering from the fall of mediaeval Christendom. History passes on and we must pass with it. The British Commonwealth of Nations and the proposal for a union of democracies are comprehensive steps in this direction. But in a world centralization alone lies the future hope for peace. If such a system appears the problem of Poland and Czecho-Slovakia will present but minor difficulties—if not, they will be almost impassable barriers to a solution.

Two points remain to be stressed. The chances are that we can't get what we want. To forecast peace in such circumstances is useless and explains the generality of the above paragraph.

Finally, and most important, is that this analysis depends upon present trends. Authorities in England are preparing for a war lasting over twenty years. The possibility of our ideas changing with the appearance of quite unforeseen factors is almost a dead certainty. We cannot forecast. We can only hope—for to crystallize views of peace when future conditions are certain to render them out of date and touch, is the act of foolish and unpractical people.

Learn a New Word Every Day

1.
If you haven't room for "and,"
You may use an ampersand;
And a caret comes in handy
If you've missed the "h" in Ghandi.

2.
At a mere accolade
You might drink lemonade,
But at anything aulic
Insist upon Horlick.

3.
If you really want your spelling to be true,
Don't spell a costard apple with a "u"

4.
There's nothing very mystic
About this little distich.

5.
At the Ball.
Females and frillery;
Partners ancillary;
Lotions capillary;
Odours axillary.

6.
Experienced motoring men
Dislike sitting down on a clutch,
And yet, an experienced hen
Enjoys nothing else quite so much.

7.
If Hitler wins, in spite of all our odium,
The door of fair Australia might be locked on us;
And, should we claim that this is our allodium,
He'll say: "You're telling me that you're autochthonous."

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Physical Education Course

The inaugural lecture of the new Physical Education Diploma, held in the Philosophy Lecture Room on Mar. 19, was open to everyone, young and old, student and non-student, and the fact that the lecture room was crowded, showed the interest in this new course was by no means small. The Vice-Chancellor, Sir William Mitchell, presided, and in his speech from the chair provided all the information that was necessary for those contemplating the course. The idea is to direct the course into three channels—one for those wishing to qualify for the diploma, another for those who wish to qualify for certificates only, and a third for those who do not wish to take any examination in the course. Thus all matriculated students of the university may attend these lectures free of cost if they are interested in this side of education.

This is the idea that Professor Goldby stressed in the inaugural lecture. He maintained that if the aim of education were to develop all the faculties possessed by man, then physical education should not be divorced from intellectual education, but should combine to produce a "harmonious growth of the whole man." That is the aim of the Physical Education course, which provides an incentive to us all to equip ourselves with knowledge from every possible aspect.

If you are interested in this point of view, and in the syllabus set down for the course, don't wait to be asked. Speak to the Director, "Dr. Mitchell, who, for all his shyness, will be only too pleased to help you."

ANSWER TO CORRESPONDENT.

E.W.B.: We shall print your letter next week if you will get in touch with us first. We are anxious to follow up your suggestion, but we must have your name.

MISSING FRIENDS.

WANTED: Editors of "On Dit" like to meet F. N. Odium, view to looking him over. Apply Box "On Dit," this office.

Correspondence

REGIMENT AGAIN.

The Editor,
"On Dit."

Sir,

The following statement, attributed to Dr. A. Grenfell Price, appears in your last issue:

"... the recent refusal to form a militia company for home defence has given the students a bad name with the general public and less fortunate people ask why they should fight when the students of the university lack the guts to do anything for their country."

I am amazed that Dr. Price, whose nightly utterances are awaited open-mouthed by thousands of radio fans should not only give credence to, but also publish such an inaccurate and unfair interpretation of the decision of the students on the question of the proposed university regiment, not company, as Dr. Price states.

I assure Dr. Price that the proposal was not turned down because of "lack of guts" on the part of the students, but, firstly, on the ground of what appeared to be insuperable difficulties caused mainly by the smallness of their number, and, secondly, because the students felt that they were better able to serve their country by being distributed among the already existing units.—Yours faithfully,

E. W. MILLS.

OUR FIGHT.

University,
March 19, 1940.

To the Editors.

Dear Sirs,

"We're not doing as well as we hoped, and it's about time Australians snapped out of their trance and began to realize it" ("On Dit," March 19, 1940). What is this "trance"? Several millions of Australia's precious few, without a doubt, have a sorry outlook upon affairs to-day, an outlook which is responsible for their apathy, and which I suppose may be termed a "trance." In any case, it is time it was "snapped out of."

This outlook may be summed up in the terrible statement that the men going away in the Second A.I.F. are fools to join up—I have heard this voiced more than once. Australians have not realized that this is their fight, and it they don't fight back they'll take the rap. Their very existence in the future depends upon whether the Allies win this war. If we lose, we're done for. The British Empire is done for. Not in two or three years, but easily inside 20, and who amongst us does not look forward to at least 40 years of life? Those in the A.I.F. are prepared to look ahead for one year more—such is their courage. And these amongst us say, "The mugs! I'm safe here." It will take more than a "snap" to bring all Australians up to scratch before it is too late. This outlook will lose us the war. What are we going to do about it?

J.S.E.H.

WE WANT THE BARREL.

The Editor.

Dear Sir,

I have just read the last issue of "On Dit," and was struck by several of the advertisements. I refer, of course, to those for Nathan and West End Beers and also to the little bit about the Hotel Richmond for all celebration. Why should not Varsity celebrations (if any) be held on Varsity grounds. The establishment of a bar at the University and permission to have liquor on the grounds is long overdue. Much time is wasted popping into town for the traditional "quick one," which usually turns out to be a "long one." This subject, I know, has been dug up before, and I suppose will be dug up again and again until the authorities begin to realize that it is not throwing temptation in the way of the student, but merely having for the Union's own use profits now gained by the Richmond, Oriental, Nap Lounge.

By the way, congratulations on article "Cloistered Life," which proved quite light and interesting. Let's have more of it.—I am, etc.,

D. T. MARTIN.

ADELAIDE WINS TENNIS INTER-VARSITY

Niall Cup for First Time

For the first time since the Niall Cup came into existence in 1906, Adelaide has won an inter-Varsity tennis contest.

After defeating Tasmania twenty-one rubbers to nil in the first round, Polly Moran and the boys overcame strong Melbourne opposition in the final, to win eleven rubbers to nine.

Despite the absence of Masters, our team was a strong one, and every man pulled his weight. We heartily congratulate them.

The draw for the series was Sydney v. Melbourne and Adelaide v. Tasmania with the winners to play off in the final.

Melbourne comfortably defeated Sydney, while Adelaide did not lose a set against Tasmania.

Melbourne, however, was a different matter. After we had established a comfortable lead (five rubbers to three) on the first day (Easter Saturday), the visitors had evened at seven all by lunch on Monday. However, the Adelaide team finally shook off Harry H. and went on to win 11-9. There seems some doubt as to what happened next.

In the other match Sydney easily defeated Tasmania to finish third in the contest.

Ranking of players announced at the completion of the contest was:

1. Guzzard (S.)
2. Lock (A.)
3. Diggle (M.)
4. Moran (A.)
5. Sleeman (M.)
6. Goldsmith (S.)
7. Rolland (A.)
8. Walkom (S.)
9. Thompson (A.)

Lock was unable to play for the combined team in which Moran and Rolland were included. This team was defeated by a State team consisting

of Warhurst, Lean, Clements, Mayfield, Cock and Martin.

Lock did not lose a single during the series, while Moran lost only one. This pair was once defeated in the doubles, and then only when the match was beyond doubt.

In all Lock won 9/10 matches, Moran and Rolland 8/10, and Thompson 7/9.

Polly is very proud of a four-minute rally (involving 157 shots) with Sleeman, though Thompson says his mother could have done better, and she doesn't play tennis. This, no doubt, is a slight exaggeration.

Members of the Adelaide team are notably reticent about the non-tennis activities of the inter-Varsity, which, in itself, excites suspicion.

They bashfully admit, however, that at the picture evening organized on Good Friday the visitors took control of their women.

A party was organized for the Maison, Glenelg, on Easter Saturday, and the success of this may be judged by the fact that they brought four dozen back with them.

Sunday was spent quietly at Moana, while a dinner was held at the Southern Cross Hotel on Easter Monday. This, according to Bunny Masters, was one of the quietest in the history of the game, despite valiant attempts by Thompson to the contrary.

Winter Sports this Week

The summer sporting season, being now almost gone, we have the usual whirl of winter sport commencing. Success has not come frequently to either our tennis or cricket teams during the last season, and the Pennant B tennis team was the only one included in a final. This team lost its semi-final on Saturday by five rubbers to one.

The women's A tennis had moderate success, finishing fifth.

The A cricket team has been hovering about low down on the premiership list all the season and with Colts two for 25 in answer to the Varsity total of 106 in the last match, they may hover even lower.

Freshers interested in any particular sport should watch for the first practice and attend. They will be welcomed and should not hesitate to go out.

The annual swimming carnival will be held at the Unley Crystal Pool to-night at 7.45 p.m. Come along and have a look. The programme is varied and should prove entertaining to both swimmers and spectators.

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RUGBY

First Practice this Afternoon

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Lacrosse

Lacross practice commenced last Wednesday and will continue each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until about the end of August, when, having won the A, B and C grade premierships (we have no D grade team), there will be no need for further practice until next season.

All members of the club are urged to start training as soon as possible, as there will be a practice match against North Adelaide in a fortnight. Freshers are especially exhorted to start early, as it takes a while to learn to handle one's stick and to learn the rudiments of the game.

In regard to sticks, members and intending members are advised that all the leading sports shops have a number of sticks on hand, but, as these are probably the last consignments for the duration of the war, they are in great demand. Get yours early. New players are advised to decide in what position they intend to play before making any purchases of sticks, but decide early and buy your sticks as soon as possible.

One final appeal is made to first-year students—play lacrosse, whatever else you do. Start practice this week on Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday, and you are assured of a most enjoyable winter.

SWIMMING SPORTS

To-night

Unley Crystal Pool

Women's Pennant Tennis

March 15, University A v. Kensington Gardens A.

First Double: University won 6-5, 6-4.

Second Double: University won 6-1, 6-3.

First Single: Barbara Welbourn defeated Gwen Dawkins 3-6, 6-2, 6-2.

Second Single: Elizabeth Teesdale Smith lost to Joan Loan, 1-6, 1-6.

Third Single: Joan Chamberlain defeated Mrs. Chaseling, 6-3, 6-4.

Fourth Single: Helen Chamberlain defeated Marie Davidson, 6-0, 6-4.

University, five rubbers, ten sets; Kensington Gardens, one rubber, three sets.

March 20, University A v. North Adelaide A.

First Double: Won by University, 6-5, 6-1.

Second Double: University lost.

First Single: Barbara Welbourn defeated Mrs. Drew, 6-4, 6-1.

Second Single: Elizabeth Teesdale Smith defeated Mrs. Phillis, 6-2, 6-1.

Third Single: Helen Chamberlain lost to Miss Lewis, 1-6, 1-6.

Fourth Single: Joan Chamberlain defeated Miss Smith, 2-6, 6-5, 6-5.

Resulting in a win for University, four rubbers, nine sets, to North Adelaide's two rubbers, five sets.

Hockey Practice To-morrow

Sticks and advice provided for beginners

Free refreshments, 5.15 p.m.

Swing Club

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3

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Rugby

The annual general meeting of the A.U.R.U.F.C. was held on Thursday, March 28, 1940. Our president, Professor G. V. Portus, coach, Mr. Stan Cooper, and about twenty members were present. Professor Portus was re-elected president for this year. T. G. Edwards was elected captain; R. W. Richardson, vice-captain; D. M. Anderson, secretary; committee, H. Smith, G. U. Neuenkirchen, F. Hamilton and F. F. Espie.

It was decided that the first practice should be held on the Jubilee Oval on Tuesday, April 2, and that the club should have three practice matches before the season commences on May 4.

We hope to see many new players at our first practice, and promise intensive coaching. Practices are held on Tuesday and Thursday each week.

Mr. Hamilton, Senr., has generously offered to give us a dinner at the end of the year if we win the competition. We will do our best to win it, Mr. Hamilton.

Hockey Club

At the A.G.M. of the University Hockey Club, held on March 20, the following officers were elected: President, Dr. Motteram; secretary, P. C. Yates; treasurer, P. R. James; practice captain, J. M. Elphie.

The first practice was held on March 27, but to-morrow (April 3) is our big day. Refreshments (for both do's and dont's) will be provided free at 5.15 p.m. Practice will be held first.

It has been decided to make a special effort to get everyone out on Wednesday nights this season, with Tuesdays and Thursdays as auxiliary practices.

All those interested in the game should roll up to-morrow. Sticks and advice provided for beginners.

Golf

Verco, having kept in touch on the beaches all the summer, has returned to the golf courses. He has been doing a lot of yachting and we all know the definition of a yacht).

Stokes, whose summer recreation (in addition to boozing, which he does all the year round) has been motoring, still finds the steering wheel in the way and is longing for the wide open spaces, too.

If all the chickies Jay has on his mind turn into birdies he will be a record-breaker this season.

Gurner, who has been having a very "jolly" time lately, hopes that he might find time for a little golf soon.

Despite pressing engagements, Graham Andrew will also probably be about, as will Bill Ackland-Horman.

Thornton and Dawson are seriously considering doing a little work, and are curtailing operations somewhat in consequence. However, they have considered this before.

Football

At the A.G.M. on Wednesday night Bill Betts was elected captain; Brian Magarey, vice-captain; John W. Hill, secretary; and Coe Steele, assistant secretary.

With this young and enthusiastic committee we will endeavour to re-establish ourselves at the top of the premiership table, and so firmly maintain football as "King of Winter Sports."

Those freshers who still wisely play the national game are advised that the first practice will be on Tuesday afternoon and practices then regularly on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

All players are requested to turn out to meet our new coach, Mr. Page, who has promised to instil into us the keenness that was so sadly lacking last year.

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