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but a genuine report being given, he was firmly of the opinion that the Professor's remarks about the white population of the Territory were prompted by a feeling of disappointment that the negotiations had fallen through. He considered that the remarks about the Europeans were utterly undeserved, and could name several persons in the room who had acted as true pioneers of the Territory for many years past, whose names would be remembered with respect by all old residents of the Territory. He was sure that many of these men had made and spent small fortunes in the development of its resources, and that the business people of the Territory were to be admired for the manner in which they had backed up the enterprise of the working miner; in fact, that they had done more proportionately for the advancement of the settlement than the paternal Government which is blessed with the Professor's valuable services. He did not wish to show any of the class of feeling displayed by the Professor, and if he spoke warmly on the subject he spoke as he felt. The remarks made by Professor Tate might appear to many too trivial to warrant such a public demonstration, and they were perhaps dignifying the Professor by taking notice of what would probably be regarded by most right-thinking Englishmen as a very small and petty expression of feeling from a very small mind. At the same time, in justice to themselves, it was only right that they should boldly protest against such a sweeping assertion as that made by the Professor, so as to put themselves right in the eyes of those innocent few who, not knowing the Professor, might give his opinions

undue weight. He had now said nearly enough on the subject of the Professor, but he was also surprised to find that the Ministerial party should quietly sit by and listen to such remarks as the Professor had given vent to without one word of protest, more especially after the frequent well-oiled complimentary speeches they had treated the residents of the Territory to during their visit. They had been entertained—as far as the power of the people allowed—like princes, and it was unmanly for them to quietly hear and so acquiesce in the Professor's remarks upon the people whose hospitality they had so lately partaken of. He then moved—"That in the opinion of this meeting Professor Tate's speech, made at the Semaphore on April 13, was grossly unfair to the people of the Territory and the resources of our colony, and was not so much prompted by the result of scientific research as it was by the spiteful feelings of a disappointed speculator."

Mr. H. ADCOCK seconded the motion, agreeing with the remarks made by the previous speakers, and was able to speak confidently as to the negotiations referred to by Mr. Solomon.

The motion was then put to the meeting, and carried without a dissentient. The meeting then terminated.

From the Register June 14<sup>th</sup> 1882  
H of assembly debate June 13<sup>th</sup> 1882

#### PROFESSOR TATE IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY.

Mr. COLES asked the Minister of Education—"Whether his attention had been called to the report of a meeting at Palmerston where Professor Tate's name was mentioned, and whether the Government intended to take any steps in the matter?" He understood that during the time the Professor was in the Territory he was paid by the Government.

The MINISTER of EDUCATION (Hon. J. L. PARSONS) said his attention had not been officially called to the matter in any way, and it was not the intention of the Government to take any action unless their attention was called to it. He might add that the telegraphic report of the meeting appeared in the Adelaide papers some time since, and that an emphatic contradiction of the statements was given by Professor Tate at that time (Hear, hear.)

Professor  
Tate's  
1<sup>st</sup> Lecture  
in series  
on NT.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

On Tuesday evening Professor Tate, F.G.S., delivered, in the library of the University of Adelaide, the first of a series of lectures on "The Northern Territory of South Australia: its physical geography and natural history." There was a large attendance, and the Professor, before entering upon his subject, said he felt much encouraged by the large attendance, and hoped the University authorities would be equally encouraged to the extent of furnishing a lecture hall, for the room in which he then was had no recommendation in that direction, being ill-adapted for the purpose. He then referred to the recent renewal of the interest in the Northern Territory and the reasons which led to the Ministerial expedition, and the motives which induced the University to select him to accompany the expedition in order that a report upon the natural and physical and other characteristics of the country might be furnished in the cause of science. In his lectures he proposed to examine into the scientific aspects of the country that might occupy the attention of the Legislature. He alluded to the previous contributions to knowledge of the natural history and physical features of North Australia by scientific men, notably the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods, whose work he spoke of in high terms. He then gave a comprehensive sketch of the early history of North Australia, or Arnheim's Land, from the visits of the Dutch down to the latest exploring expedition, and mentioned that considerable confusion was created by the topographical nomenclature, which wanted revising sadly. For instance, there were two rivers named Wickham, also a Murchison Range in the Territory, with another of the same name in West Australia. Old names had been replaced and considerable confusion created by the confounding of names. In a comprehensive and practical manner the lecturer dealt with the chief events connected with North Australian history, mentioning the coast explorations of Flinders, the French expeditions, the visits of subsequent navigators; Captain King's discovery of the Liverpool and South Alligator Rivers, his contributions to natural history and science; the early settlements upon Melville Island and at Port Essington, and their abandonment; Captain Barker's services, humane treatment of the natives, and sad fate in South Australia; the visit of Captain Wickham to Arnheim's Land; the discovery of the Adelaide River by the Beagle exploring expedition in 1836, accompanied by Dr. Darwin, afterwards Professor Darwin, after whom Port Darwin was named; and many other matters of interesting history connected therewith. He here expatiated upon the late Professor Darwin's imperishable contributions to science, and read some elegant tributes to his genius, and went on to describe the peculiar geological characteristics of the country in the neighbourhood of the Victoria River, which stream was obstructed by shoals for many miles, and then passed through a singular gorge, which contracted it from three or four miles to about half a mile. In speaking of the various expeditions to North Australia, the Professor spoke of the natural history and geological contributions in some cases in terms of regret, and in others in words of praise, according as the scientific men failed to furnish or furnished reliable information. In some instances he pointed out that the observation of natural objects, physical or geological conditions, were but superficial, and therefore of little value. He mentioned the exploration of Coburg's Peninsula by Lieutenant Stuart, and the experiments made in the cultivation of plants. The journey of 3,000 miles of the ill-fated Dr. Leichardt, when he struck Port Essington, was dealt with, and the lecturer said the doctor's accounts of and description of the tropical vegetation, &c., were the fullest and best. The mention of A. C. Gregory's expedition in 1855, when Dr., now Baron, von Mueller went as naturalist to the party, furnished an opportunity for describing the great sandstone tableland, and the peculiarities of the Macadam Range, covered with small stones, which suggested the idea of road metal. A sketch was exhibited showing the peculiar limestone and other formations of the tableland, and the lecturer promised

to deal more fully with the geological portion of his subject in a future lecture. In his travels Gregory came upon the great sandy desert, the northern limit of which was in latitude 20°. The tableland of sandstone, it was mentioned, rose abruptly from a low level, and attained an elevation of 700 feet, increasing southward till the elevation was 1,500. The upper stratum had admitted of a ready denudation, and it was thus that the gorge through which the Victoria passed was formed—by aqueous denudation. Stuart's journeys were next touched upon, and also Major Warburton's expedition, which further extended the knowledge of the area of the great desert. Stuart's expedition, he said, proved that the country could be traversed in any season. The preliminaries to the settlement in the Northern Territory, the exploratory expeditions of Mr. Finnis, the opinions in favour of the Adelaide River, Cadell's and Mr. Goyder's subsequent surveys, and the final selection of Palmerston were spoken of, and quotations from works on the Northern Territory read to assist. Then came an allusion to Mr. A. Forrest's successful trip in 1879, and the addition