

Register, June 1/1911

Register, June 6/11

# A CANADIAN PROFESSOR.

## VISITING AUSTRALIA.

Professor John Cox, M.A., LL.D., who for 19 years was associated as Professor of Physics and Director of Physical Laboratory, with the McGill University, Montreal, Canada, and has been living in retirement in London for two years, is visiting Western Australia to deliver a series of lectures on university work. After his engagements in the western State have been completed, Professor Cox intends to visit Adelaide, Melbourne, Sydney, and Tasmania, and will return to England by way of America. Speaking to a representative of The West Australian last week, the visitor said:—"In the course of my journey I propose to visit nearly all the universities in the British Empire. This will be of more than passing interest in view of the great conference of universities to be held in England in 1912, a most important event both from an educational and an Imperial standpoint. Questions of the greatest interest will be raised at the conference, such as the establishment of a common entrance examination and the interchange of students and teachers. Already Germany and the United States exchange professors annually, and the sending of the Rhodes scholars to Oxford enables undergraduates from all parts of the Empire to widen their views and learn to know one another in common residence at Oxford. It is not yet realized what an important part universities play in national life. It is wonderful in a young man's life to be a member of some great public body during his most impressionable years. If this were realized universities would be more liberally endowed by private individuals and Governments. The McGill University, in which I spent 19 years in Canada, is the creation of far-sighted private individuals. About 100 years ago a Scotch merchant left the endowment on which it was founded, and since a succession of benefactors, mostly Scotch, have maintained and developed it. Three hundred miles away is the great rival University of Toronto, established by the province. The Provincial Government has set aside a definite fraction of the death duties of the province for the future endowment of the latter institution. This means that as the community grows the resources of the university will grow with it. Universities can only succeed by constantly growing, hence it is an admirable arrangement when automatic provision is made for the increase of revenues with the increasing growth of universities. One question to be discussed at the conference is that of pension funds. Education is not a money-making profession. At most universities are unable to make provision for those of their staffs who have served them faithfully. In this respect Mr. Andrew Carnegie has given a lesson to the world. Years ago he gave £2,000,000 to provide pensions for professors in all the universities in the United States and Canada, except those founded on a theological basis or by State or provincial Governments. With these latter he did not feel inclined to interfere, but when after the lapse of two years the States failed to establish pension funds he gave an additional £1,000,000 to bring State universities within his scheme. These funds he offered as a free gift to what he called an underpaid profession which rendered the greatest service to the State, and thus has lifted the burden of anxiety from many men of eminence and ability who, on the narrow salaries usually offered, were unable to make provision for the future." Referring to some of the lectures he will give, Professor Cox remarked:—"I am to take up some of the interesting and exciting discoveries of the last 10 years. It is singular that the beginning and the end of the nineteenth century were both marked by a great outburst of fundamental discoveries in natural science. Eight or 10 first-rate discoveries were made within a year or two of 1800, and the century was occupied in working out their results. Similarly, about 1900, and for the decade which followed, a great advance was made in physical discoveries. The X-rays, radium, and radioactivity have upset the old notion regarding the atom, which used to be thought the smallest thing in existence. Connected with these discoveries are others regarding the electro-magnetic nature of light, showing that it consists of waves precisely like those used in wireless telegraphy, except that they are shorter. It has been discovered that light exerts pressure. This has been applied to explain the mysterious

behaviour of comets' tails and other phenomena which have puzzled astronomers. These new discoveries have not been without practical application. Already radium is used in medicine, and it is hoped that superficial cancer may be cured by it. Other applications of modern discoveries have been made in the protection of buildings from lightning. Certain flashes are not conveyed away by the ordinary conductor, but Sir Oliver Lodge, who discovered this fact, has also invented means of protection. Some of the leading discoveries and their practical application will form the subject matter of the lectures to be given in Perth."

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### DR. MAWSON'S EXPEDITION.

Mr. A. W. Piper, K.C., as Chairman of the Adelaide committee of the proposed Australasian antarctic expedition, has received £100 from Mr. C. H. Angas, and £50 from Mr. T. R. Scarfe, as contributions to the expedition fund. Further subscriptions, large or small, are earnestly requested by the committee, and may be sent to any of its members.

Register, June 27/11

### MAWSON EXPEDITION.

RAISING THE £12,000.

LONDON, June 1.

The fund opened by The Daily Mail at the behest of Sir Ernest Shackleton, for the raising of £12,000 to aid Dr. Douglas Mawson's expedition to the antarctic, has reached £11,700.

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The Registrar of the Adelaide University (Mr. C. R. Hodge) has been granted six months leave of absence, and will leave for England by the R.M.S. Malwa to-day. On Wednesday morning the University staff met to bid him farewell. On their behalf Professor Stirling presented the registrar with a purse of sovereigns. He referred to the consistently equable temperament of Mr. Hodge, and assured him that he had gained and retained the personal friendship and respect of every member of the staff. He also spoke in laudable terms of the services rendered by the registrar to individual members, often under trying conditions. Mr. Hodge, in reply, said that whatever the packet presented to him contained, he would hold of greater value the sentiments expressed through Professor Stirling. While in England Mr. Hodge will act as one of the delegates representing the Adelaide University at the first Universal Races Congress to be held in London at the end of July. He has also been appointed to represent the South Australian Congregational Union at the meetings of the Congregational Union of England and Wales.

### THE AUSTRALIAN UNIVERSITY MAN.

Mr. Gordon Inglis thus concludes an article, in the Royal Colonial Institute Journal, United Empire for May, on "The Universities of Australia":—"There is just time to add a few words about the Australian university man. A fine type of manhood he is. The university is a great democracy, for the fees are not high, and there is also ample encouragement to the diligent poor in the shape of scholarships or bursaries. At the most impressionable period of life, therefore, the young Australian rubs shoulders with his fellows of different ages, sizes, and positions. It has been said, with some degree of justice, that the true university spirit cannot be inculcated when the student lives at home and not at college. For a variety of reasons it has been found impossible to reproduce on Australian soil a replica of Oxford or Cambridge. Our universities have had to create their own records, to win their own prestige, and proceed on more modest lines. Despite the smaller influence of college life as compared with England, there is no lack of university feeling. The competition of the classroom and the camaraderie of the playing fields weld the men together. How well I remember the many good fellows I met at Sydney University. Their garb was unconventional and, as academic costume was not strictly enforced by the professors, the trencher was invariably omitted (except by the girls, or in the harsh official diction 'women students,' who simply loved the headgear), the student compromising by wearing a gown with his ordinary hat. The effect was cheerfully incongruous. Only at garden parties, official dinners, and formal receptions was the undergraduate seen in his full uniform of solemn black. The spare time between lectures was spent in smoking or chatting—some diligent ones would seek the library and pore over their books—while any leisure hours in the afternoon would be assigned to sports. The university teams were rare favourites with the crowds, no mean judges of pluck and skill. Perhaps the undergraduate was a boisterous person. He was inclined to nickname the great, and 'Andy,' as Professor T. P. Anderson Stuart (who has been Dean of Medicine since the medical school started) was playfully dubbed, was but a mild term of familiarity. Moreover, the undergraduate let his exuberance go on commemoration days—never, however, in a fashion as boisterous as some Scottish celebrations I have read of in the last 12 months. But his faults were few, his virtues many. As the ingenuous and noisy 'fresher' grew to second estate he toned down considerably; his wit became more pungent, his lungs were less in use. They were and are a fine lot of manly comrades, these university men of ours, and they will make the Australian history of the future a bright one indeed. The universities of Australia have already a fine record, but it is less on past records that their success should be gauged than on their present activity and future promise."