

Register 19.9.18.

EDUCATION OF FALLEN SOLDIERS' SONS.

From G. K. GREGGSON, 30 Currie street:—A recent article from the pen of Professor Osborne, "The Need of a Renaissance," should attract more than passing interest. He raises the curious point that France built out of the chaos of the Revolution a fine educational organization, and that in Germany much the same happened in 1800 in almost similar circumstances. One is tempted to ask what is being done in this country to meet the situation arising out of the war, so far as the higher education of our people is concerned. It should be realized that after the war Australia will be faced with many problems, one of which will be increased competition from overseas, largely based on scientific research in the older countries. We should be in a position to take care of ourselves in that respect, any every recruit gained to the ranks of those possessing scientific and technical knowledge will count. Probably many boys have lost their chance in life because their soldier fathers have made the supreme sacrifice, and it seems fitting that others who have remained in Australia should endeavour to make good to those boys some of their lost prospects. I have been privileged to see something of the hope and light which has been let into one or two homes, darkened by the death of a father at the front, by means of a boy being taken in hand and sent to a good school, with the promise of a technical or university education ultimately. Lately we have heard much of the relation of science and industry, and I feel sure that many of our leading business men would gladly afford these boys the necessary chance. Local clergymen are generally in touch with suitable cases, and though the matter is one primarily for the individual, its ultimate success could be taken for granted if the proposal were backed by bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce and Chamber of Manufactures. Something in a small way has already been done, but the movement needs to be Australia wide.

Register 19.9.18.

LATE SGT. SANDFORD R. DELBRIDGE.

The late Sgt. S. R. Delbridge, 27th Battalion, son of Mr. Pearce Delbridge, of Glenelg, enlisted on June 3, 1915, and left Adelaide on September 14 of the same year. After a short sojourn in Egypt he was with the first Australian army to arrive in France. After continuous service there for nearly two years, in which time he took part in most of the notable engagements that made Australian soldiers famous, he was transferred to England on instructional duty for some time, and returned to France only about a month or six weeks ago. The deceased soldier was educated at Prince Alfred College, and was in his last year as a law student at the University when he joined the colours. He was articled to Mr. T. C. Holland (Holland & Lathlean), and gave promise of a fine career. Little did the assembly, which included the young soldier's father, at the unrolling of the honour roll at the Supreme Court on September 7, realize that another of the heroes should even then have appeared on the tablet of those who had fallen.

Register 20.9.18.

THE UNIVERSITY AND ACTIVE SERVICE.

From "A SOLDIER STUDENT'S FATHER":—

Never having before noticed so many University brobands as lately being worn in the streets of Adelaide led me to enquire into the number of students now taking the various courses, and I was astounded with the figures supplied. I am not unmindful of the many gallant students who have thrown aside their individual prospects to fight for their country, some with remarkable distinction, and it is really on their behalf and in their interests that I am bringing this matter before the public. It does not seem fairplay to me that those who have enlisted and given up for the time being their University courses should be sacrificed to those undergraduates who stick to their studies and finally establish themselves in their various professions well ahead of and at the expense of those who answered the call, and who are really making it possible for those at home to complete their courses. The figures obtained, although not guaranteed as accurate, may approximate to the actual number, very few of whom are under 18. I am informed there are in the medical school about 100 (mostly beginners), law 50, arts 60, science and engineering 100, and education 80, a grand total almost large enough to make up the "Butler 500," and it seems unjust to our soldier students that these should be permitted to commence or complete courses and thus get well ahead of those at the front, who on their return will still have in most cases to resume their studies, while the slackers are then filling all available positions. I would therefore suggest that until the end of the war all Uni-

versity courses be closed to present and future applicants unless (1) a female, (2) a returned soldier, or (3) a reject. This would place on the same footing those who have enlisted or are doing so, and those who have failed to respond. Lessening the number of students in this manner would free some of the lecturers, among whom I understand there are a few eligibles. I trust some prominent citizen will see the justice of my contention, and bring the matter promptly before the University Council. [The Registrar of the University (Mr. C. R. Hodge) comments thus:—"I apply the following figures, according to our books, but they give no record of the number who have offered and been rejected, nor of smaller classes such as schoolmasters, married men, men over 40, and men back from the front. Faculty of Arts.—Of the 164 undergraduates attending lectures 111 are women, and of the 53 men 29 are in the service of the Education Department (15 of them under 19, two are returned men, and seven have offered). Faculty of Science.—The number of undergraduates in engineering is 34, and of these 22 are under 19. The other men in the faculty number 28, many of whom are schoolmasters. Faculty of Law.—The number of men students is 46, of whom 17 are under 19. Faculty of Medicine.—The number of men students is 84, of whom 54 are in the fourth or fifth year. It was not till a few months ago that medical students were accepted for the ranks, and still it is only 2% they are in the first three years of their course. All the students of the fourth and fifth years have enlisted except one who

has been on service. These men are required to complete their studies, and then to join as medical officers. The number of first-year students at Adelaide is 27. The reason why it is so small compared with the entrants at Melbourne and Sydney is that here the course is a year longer, and that a first-year student with us ranks as a second-year student there. Several men of the first three years have enlisted, the first being Carl Emil Doroch, a student of the third year, who would not have been accepted for the ranks if he had been at Melbourne or Sydney. Other classes of student at the University hardly come into the question. The number of undergraduates who have enlisted is 183. With the help of the military authorities a scheme is being developed whereby they may be able to carry on their studies in England before returning. I know that a considerable number of men are waiting till after the annual examinations so that they may have credit for their year's work. I may add that, adding graduates to undergraduates, we have been represented at the front by at least 422 men, of whom 48 have been killed."—Ed.]

Daily Herald 20.9.18

SCIENCE BUREAU

SECOND YEAR'S WORK.

NATIONAL LABORATORIES.

The second and, if the Bill constituting the institute which is to be introduced into Parliament this session becomes law, the last report of the Advisory Council of Science and Industry has been received. It indicates that the council has traversed an exceptionally wide field. The function of the advisory council was, first, to prepare the ground for the proposed permanent institute, and secondarily, to carry out actual investigational work pending the creation of the more permanent institution. The first task has now been completed, while a lot of useful work has been done by way of actual researches, and these are ready to be handed over to the permanent body so that there may be no interruption.

For the purpose of carrying out the research work of the institute, the advisory council expresses the opinion that existing laboratories should be utilised as far as suitable and available. In view, however, of the experiences gained in the course of the work of the temporary organisation, the council has formed the opinion that it will be impracticable for the research work of the institute to be carried out efficiently and economically solely at existing laboratories. Government laboratories are devoted largely to work of a routine nature, while the staffs of university laboratories are ordinarily occupied too much with instructional and other duties to give the continuous and prolonged attention which is necessary for the successful and speedy solution of industrial scientific problems. Moreover, existing laboratories are not ordinarily equipped with apparatus for conducting the "large scale" experiments which are often necessary as an intermediate step between the solution of a problem in the laboratory and the profitable application to the laboratory results on a commercial basis. Further, the accommodation available in, and the staff and equipment of, existing laboratories in Australia are insufficient for the carrying out of the fundamental work which must be done before many pressing problems can be solved.

The whole situation is at the outset necessarily too complex to enable any logical scheme to be put forward indicating the extent to which the researches should be carried out at national laboratories, on the one hand, and at existing institutions, on the other.

The advisory council is, however, of the opinion that, in order to provide full facilities for the research work which is necessary before effect can be given to the scheme outlined by the Prime Minister, national laboratories should be established for investigations in the following branches of science and technology, viz:—

1. Plant industry (especially in relation to cultivation in arid or semi-arid regions, and to the control of weed pests).

2. Animal industry (especially in connection with the control of pests and diseases).

3. Industrial chemistry and metallurgy (technological research).

4. Industrial standards (scientific instruments, electrical apparatus, and materials used in industry).

5. Forest products (especially preservation and seasoning of timbers, utilisation of waste wood).

At the outset it will not be desirable, even if possible, to erect complete laboratories and equip them fully, but sufficient provision should be made as soon as possible for the more pressing work in each of the above departments, with arrangements for extension later on.

Register 21.9.18

THE UNIVERSITY AND ACTIVE SERVICE.

From "VERB SAP"—The letter of "A Soldier Student's Father" shows shortsightedness. What is to become of higher education and the professions (especially science) in a young country like this if we drain our colleges and universities of all the more promising students? They are adopting a wiser policy in the United States, as the following extract from an American paper will show:—"You serve your country by going to college in the theme and warning of an announcement recently published by the Bureau of Education. But to make the young collegians' restraint more tolerable the War Department has decided to introduce army training units into the colleges. Under this plan, the college student 'will be liable for service at a moment's notice,' but, continues the department 'because you are worth more to the nation with your college training than without it, you will be expected to stay in college until you are called by the Government.' In accordance with this plan, military instruction will be provided in all colleges enrolling at least 100 students under the age of 18. The military equipment will be furnished by the Government, and while enlistment will be purely voluntary, all students will be encouraged to fit themselves for military duty. Furthermore, it will be the policy of the Government not to call these young men until they have reached the age of 21." This seems a more sensible procedure than that advocated by the writer of the letter. I very much question whether the University Council has the power to adopt the course suggested without consulting the Government, which supplies a large part of the funds and provides bursaries for many of the students.

Register 25.9.18.

THE UNIVERSITY AND ACTIVE SERVICE.

From "A SOLDIER STUDENT'S FATHER":—I have to thank Mr. C. R. Hodge for the correct figures of students of the various faculties, but he has, probably unintentionally, clouded the main issue by quoting the number over the age of 19, whereas the military authorities have selected the ages as between 18 and 45. It was at the age of 18 my only son enlisted; nor did I know "schoolmasters, married men, men over 40," as mentioned by the Registrar, were exempt. Would it therefore be troubling Mr. Hodge too much to quote the proper figures between the military ages, at the same time adding the number of students not yet entered on the medical course, but who are doing their qualifying subjects? I am given to understand there are nearly 40 of these, making the number qualifying for or doing the medical course 221. Of this number at least 90 have started since the outbreak of hostilities, although I am not suggesting that this large number is the result of the old unfair military order exempting such from active service. As I previously stated, I am not unmindful of the number of graduates and students who have enlisted, and I am proud of their achievements; but I emphasize my contention that the glorious deeds at the front of those students who did respond to the call do not excuse or mitigate the selfishness of those staying behind to benefit themselves at the expense of their more loyal colleagues. The justice of this contention is not touched upon in any way by Mr. C. R. Hodge, who gets away from the point at issue in his statement, and it seems to me a satire on our British patriotism when the one instance of enlistment specially mentioned by him is that of Carl Emil Doersch, to whom I extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes. I therefore reiterate my hope that the University Council will take this matter up at once, and prohibit any male student during war time from proceeding with or commencing courses unless he present a soldier's discharge, a military reject certificate, or be in the last year of medicine. (The Registrar comments:—"Referring to the enclosed letter from 'A Soldier Student's Father,' I am willing to give information, but not to become involved in controversy, more especially as your correspondent appears merely anxious to justify himself. If he wishes action to be taken about his proposal, I shall be glad to receive it from him and submit it to the council. In regard to the students about whom he is mainly concerned (those who hope to qualify for entrance to the medical course next year), we have no knowledge of them on our books. As a rule, they come up from the schools in November for the higher public examination, though some are sent here for subjects which the schools do not teach. How your correspondent has got his figure of 40 I do not know, but I should be surprised if there are 10 such students. We have, however, no information on our books regarding students who are not members of a faculty.")

Register 25.9.18.

FOR BRAVERY.

Honours for Australians.

LONDON, September 24.

The following honours for Australians and New Zealanders are gazetted to-day:—

BAR TO THE D.S.O.

Lieut.-Col. William Brazener, D.S.O., Australian Infantry.

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE ORDER.

Major N. C. Harris, Australian Engineers; Major A. S. Darnell, and Major A. E. Reed, Australian Infantry; Capt. L. W. Elliott, R. Glasgow, G. Marper; and Lieuts. C. R. Cornish and G. L. Cronie, Australian Infantry.

Lieut. J. P. Croughan, Australian Artillery.

SECOND BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.

Capt. W. J. Lynas, Australian Infantry.

—After personal reconnaissances and preparations he displayed conspicuous gallantry and fine courage in the leadership of a raid in which 50 of the enemy were killed and four machine guns and several depots were destroyed.

BAR TO MILITARY CROSS.

Capt. J. L. Fletcher, M.C., G. Meysey Hammond, M.C., and Lieut. F. O. Gann, M.C., T. G. Knauer, M.C., N. S. Madden, M.C., and R. E. Taylor, M.C., Australian Infantry.

Lieut. C. E. Oliver, M.C., Australian Engineers.

THE MILITARY CROSS.

Infantry.—Capt. W. R. M. Beaumont (14th Battn.), W. R. Berensford (36th Battn.), J. E. W. Bushell (36th Battn.), N. S. Cams (34th Battn.), R. W. Harburn (51st Battn.), P. W. Hay (4th Battn.), W. S. Keighley, G. F. Lother, R. A. McKillop (13th Battn.), S. J. Nichol (21st Battn.), V. B. Porton, A. M. Robinson (29th Battn.), D. S. Smith, E. M. Young (59th Battn.).

Lieut. P. J. Abercrombie, N. C. Alderidge (14th Battn.), A. S. Allen (46th Battn.), T. P. Arnold, W. H. Blake, G. G. Bonython, T. H. Britton, H. B. Brown, W. B. Carr, J. C. Christian, G. J. Clayton (18th Battn.), M. C. Crocker (52nd Battn.), E. W. Dark, H. H. Davis (1st Battn.), D. R. Desbois, F. J. Devere, J. Fisher, J. H. Fraser (69th Battn.), H. N. Garton (21st Battn.), R. B. Goode (60th Battn.), C. S. Gow (15th Battn.), J. P. Greene (22nd Battn.), W. J. Hall (52nd Battn.), N. G. Hatton, C. W. Hatton, W. F. Jones (18th Battn.), R. C. King (33rd Battn.), H. Hitching, H. N. Knowles (9th Battn.), F. N. Lipscomb (19th Battn.), T. E. Lowe (24th Battn.), N. J. Madden, N. S. Maddox, M. B. McDowell, H. R. McLeod (34th Battn.), F. J. Mead (16th Battn., S.A.), W. A. Money, A. J. Muriel, D. T. Neville, T. B. Norman, P. E. Nuttall, G. V. O'Connor (47th Battn.), E. E. Paterson (22nd Battn.), C. E. Pizzev (60th Battn.), C. G. Prescott (3rd Battn.), J. A. Purcell, J. M. Rae (15th Battn.), T. Ridley, E. Robinson (47th Battn.), S. L. Robinson, C. J. Sams, H. J. Schutze, J. G. Senior (16th Battn.), G. Small (17th Battn.), S. G. Stebbins, L. R. Stephens (16th Battn., S.A.), R. S. Swinbourne (13th Battn.), G. S. Teller, W. C. Tookin, H. M. Wall (22nd Battn.), A. A. Walls, U. K. Walsh, E. K. White (4th Battn.), J. A. Wiltshire.

Artillery.—Lieut. H. Booth, C. J. Brookes, W. H. Bryant, H. H. Downey, V. Mulrony, A. G. Selms, C. M. Stodart, F. S. Talei, L. Trinerry.

Engineers.—Lieut. A. J. Buckler, J. Climpson, E. H. Davies, G. H. Engel, L. V. Smith, M. S. Stanley, A. J. Sweetman.

Pioneers.—Lieut. V. G. Barndon.

Machine Gun.—Capt. D. S. Martin, Lieut. W. J. Clasper, T. E. Cowley, J. E. Hopper.

Light Horse.—Lieut. C. A. Bennetto, E. K. Kidman (3rd L.H. Regt., S.A.), J. Pearce, Sgt.-Major T. L. Keen.

Camel Corps.—Lieut. J. F. Holland, J. R. Love, A. A. Mackenzie, R. E. Tree.

Flying Corps.—Capt. J. R. Drigan and E. J. Jones.

Army Medical Corps.—Capt. G. P. Arnold, E. N. Docker, F. W. Fay, E. G. Thomson.

Veterinary Corps.—Capt. J. M. Davidson, Chaplain D. B. Blackwood.

—New Zealanders.—

Rifle Brigade.—Capt. R. J. Grant and H. W. Kennedy, Lieut. M. Macdonald, H. T. Marshall, J. A. Ray, M. A. Stedman.

Infantry.—Capt. J. R. Leys, Lieut. N. H. Harper.

Mounted Rifles.—Lieut. E. R. Black, P. G. Doherty, and A. S. Herbert.

Camel Corps.—Lieut. A. G. Crawford.

Machine Gun.—Lieut. C. Harris.

Chaplains M. Mullineux and O. B. Seton.

Rejected 30.9.18

FLINDERS CHASE.

From SAMUEL DIXON:—I ask for space to make clear what your report (good in many respects), has by curtailment obscured in my argument. 1. I pointed out that the origin of the present trouble arose from the neglect by the Government of the day of the Royal Society's urgent request that only a trained scientist should be appointed over the Forestry Department, and that the report referred to by the Minister contain the strongest corroboration of that action reported by you at the time. 2. This report had led to the loss to the State of over 50,000 acres of land suitable for tree planting, especially pine. 3. The same costly result had followed the neglect of the scientists' request, as the profits from Flinders Chase—if our advice of 13 years ago had been granted—would by now be some thousands of pounds annually. 4. Our request was not for the immediate freeing in, but for the allocation of the 22,000 annually, more or less, wasted in the distribution of trees. The Minister referred, strangely enough, to a report many years' old. Why is not the report of the Government Forestry Adviser of last year published? We are all entitled to know its contents. It was referred to in your columns over a year ago, and must be of the first importance in the discussion, and to gain public appreciation for our patriotic attempt to trade large revenue out of unused land. Personally, I condemn the present administration of the Woods and Forest Department as both wasteful and extravagant. The public may judge if I am correct in the latter count. As far as the reports show, the cost of tree planting is often 40 per acre. Now in Victoria, at Oranook, a wretched piece of 7,000 acres of abandoned Saggings was planted scientifically for 65/- an acre, and 12 years afterwards they sold the growth at from 250/- to 320/- per acre. With this illustration of the profit which should and ought to arise from judicious scientific tree planting, the taxpayers of South Australia must wonder to the verge of the pointlessness of our State.