

Reg. 17-1-20

# EDUCATION DEPARTMENT.

## JUNIOR EXHIBITIONS.

The Minister of Education has awarded junior exhibitions to the following candidates:—

(1) Children attending country secondary schools—Mara, Margarita A. F. (tenable at Gawler High School); Roberts, John (Gawler High School); Forster, Howard H. (Gladstone High School).

(2) Children whose homes are in the country.—Reilly, Patrick J. (Sacred Heart College); Campbell, Jean (Unley High School); Graham, George F. (Adelaide High School); Slattery, Mary (Loretto Ladies' College); Chapman, Hedley T. (Prince Alfred College).

(3) Children attending City and Suburban Secondary Schools.—Dorsch, Magdalene H. (Torre House); Barwell, Mary G. (Girton House); Barfield, Arthur (Norwood High School); Cullshaw, George V. (Christian Brothers College).

Ad. 17-1-20

## AUSTRALIAN TIMBER RESOURCES.

Mr. L. H. Boas, formerly of the Adelaide University, and a son of the ex-Rabbi of the Hebrew congregation in this city, has reached Melbourne after a tour of nine months in Europe and America, in which he enquired on behalf of the Commonwealth into the timber resources and manufactures in the places visited. Mr. Boas was lecturer in charge of the chemistry department in the Perth Technical School, and has been suggested as the director of the forest products and research laboratory which the Federal Government propose to establish in Western Australia. The laboratory at Perth will investigate the utilisation of the millions of tons of annual wood waste, the production of power alcohol for motor engines, the best utilisation of Australian tanning materials, and of minor forest products, such as gums, resins, and fibres, the seasoning and poyellising of timber, and kindred questions, the investigation of which other countries have proved to be worth many millions of pounds a year. At McGill University, Montreal, he saw highly successful results of experiments in the utilisation of wood pulp for paper. Mr. Boas points out that the development of Australia's natural resources for the tanning industry is at a very low ebb, when it is necessary for the home of the wattle to import thousands of tons of wattle-bark from South Africa. One object of the proposed laboratory would be to find out all the materials necessary to the tanning industry which Australia possesses. From investigation in Norway, Mr. Boas is convinced that Australian timber would be suitable for the production of certain classes of paper which have never been produced here.

Tasmanian Daily paper 23-1-20

## THE UNIVERSITY.

### THE RESIGNATION OF DR. GLASSON

#### A FAREWELL.

A number of members of the Council of the University of Tasmania met at the Imperial on Friday, January 23 ult., to bid farewell to Dr. J. L. Glasson, M.A., D.Sc., Lecturer in Physics who has resigned his position to pursue research work in England. There were present the Chancellor (Hon. Tetley Grant, C.M.G.), the Vice-Chancellor (Mr. W. J. T. Stops, LL.B.), Major the Hon. Arthur Morrisby, Hon. G. Crosby Gilmore, B.A., Professor D. G. McDougall, M.A., B.C.L., LL.D., Professor Alan Egan, M.Sc., B.E., Messrs. F. Lodge, B.A., J. A. Johnson, M.A., D. B. Copland, M.A., F. M. Young, B.A., L. F. Giblin, B.A., and H. H. Cummins, F.I.C.A., and the Registrar (Mr. M. M. Ansell, M.A.). Apologies for unavoidable absence were received from a number of members of the Council and teaching staff. After afternoon tea had been served, the Chancellor expressed the regret of the University and the public at the departure of Dr. Glasson, and wished him every success in his future career, and happiness to himself, Mrs. Glasson, and his family. Major Morrisby and Mr. Lodge also spoke on behalf of the Council. Professor McDougall on behalf of the teaching staff, and the Registrar on behalf of the administrative staff.

The departure of Dr. Glasson is a severe loss both to the University and to the State. Prior to 1913 the subject of physics had been taught in the University mainly from the mathematic aspect. The importance of the subject, especially in view of the establishment of hydro-electric industries, led the Council of the University to seek from Parliament a grant for the establishment of a professorship in physics and the equipment of a laboratory. The former was obtained in 1912. It was arranged that for the time being the building then used

for a chemical laboratory should be utilised for the housing of the new department, and that the University should obtain the use of the chemical laboratory at the Technical School. Owing to the outbreak of war, the Government was unable until 1918 to see its way to grant the money for the erection of a proper physical laboratory. Circumstances prevented the University from proceeding with the building, and in 1919 the vote was increased to enable the University to construct, in addition, an electrical engineering department. Large purchases of equipment have already been made, and it is a matter of regret that Dr. Glasson will not be the first to take charge of the new laboratory.

Dr. Glasson is a brilliant Adelaide graduate, who had held a research scholarship at Cambridge, where he worked under the famous physicist, J. J. Thomson. He was quite a young man, but in every way justified his appointment. With his thorough knowledge of his subject, and his capacity for research, he possessed the rare capacity of imparting knowledge to all classes of students. He also showed himself an excellent examiner, in respect of which (especially of the public examinations) he won the esteem of the sternest critics. He was a conscientious and economical administrator, and took an active part in general University affairs. He it was who first moved for the establishment of the Committee of Public Examinations, a committee destined to bring the University into harmonious co-operation with all persons engaged in secondary education in Tasmania, and to reorganise in a thorough manner the whole secondary school curriculum of Tasmania.

The establishment of industries dependent upon the hydro-electric installations for the supply of power afforded Dr. Glasson an opportunity of displaying technological talent (though his training had not been in that direction), and thereby of evidencing the originality of his intellect. He became research physicist to the Electrolytic Zinc Company of Australasia Pty. Ltd., and performed work of a valuable nature for that company. He also experimented successfully for the Hydro-Electric Power and Metallurgical Company Ltd. His work in this respect was of national importance.

Dr. Glasson is a man of pleasing personality, and was uniformly popular with those with whom he came into contact, both in official and private life. He married a sister of Mrs. A. E. Solomon, widow of the late Premier.

Reg. 26-1-20

## UNIVERSITY COUNCIL.

A meeting of the University Council was held on Friday. Present:—The Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Mr. G. Brookman, Sir Joseph Verco, Professor Perkins, Mr. F. Chapple, Dr. Poulton, and Messrs. W. J. Ibbister, K.C., and Mr. Talbot Smith. It was resolved that an expression of sympathy be conveyed to Messrs. W. J. Ibbister, K.C., Mr. Talbot Smith, and the Hon. F. S. Wallis in their recent bereavements. The council appointed Dr. F. S. Hone lecturer of public health and preventive medicine in the medical course, and Dr. W. T. Shanasy lecturer on dental materia medica and therapeutics in the course for the degree of Bachelor of Dental Surgery. The council also resolved to invite applications for lecturers in the law of wrongs, evidence and procedure, constitutional law, and private international law. The report of the Public Examinations Board recommending awards of the Angus Engineering Exhibition, the Hartley Studentship, John Creswell Scholarships, and Tennyson Medals, was adopted. The annual report and balance sheet for 1919 were approved. A communication was received from the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851 offering a research scholarship for 1920. Messrs. J. Edwin Thomas and Mr. A. Y. Harvey were re-appointed University auditors for 1920.

Ad. 27-1-20

## OXFORD UNIVERSITY.

### EXPENSES OF RHODES SCHOLARS.

LONDON, January 22. The trustees of the Cecil Rhodes bequest announce that owing to the increase in the cost of living £300 a year is no longer sufficient to cover the expenses of holders of scholarships at Oxford University, and they must be prepared to contribute £50 annually.

### AN ADELAIDE OARSMAN.

Mr. L. E. Lindon, an Adelaide student, is being tried for the Oxford boat crew.

Ad. 31-1-20

## LITERATURE.

### RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

"Home Letters of a Student." By John Gilbert Jacob. Adelaide: G. Hassell & Son.

Mr. Jacob, who was a soldier of the 50th Battalion, was killed in action on July 7, 1918, at Hamel, near Villers Bretonneux. He was a student of the Adelaide High School, where he received a Government bursary, in the terms of which he went to the Adelaide University. He had passed several of the examinations of the arts course when he enlisted. He was then only about 19 years of age. The letters are contained in two attractive volumes which are adorned by three portraits of the gallant young soldier, one taken when he was quite a child. They begin with a description of the voyage to England by the transport Aeneas, in April, 1916, and they are all written in a light and happy vein. The soldiers were invariably splendid in their correspondence, especially to mother or sister. There was never any gloom in their letters, and they saw, or at least, described, the bright side of everything. They did their best to make war appear a romantic adventure, and much of the cheerfulness of Australia during the campaign was due to their wonderful optimism. "Hurray for merry England and her bright blue summer sky" is the first reference to the Motherland, and in successive letters Mr. Jacob is often eloquent concerning its beauties in city and country, in landscape and cathedral, the fields, the fallow, and the growing corn, meadows, forests, gardens, mansions, and moors. There is a deeply religious tone in the letters, and repeatedly there is apparent a warm love for South Australia and an abiding pride in his old school. He has something pleasant to say of everything he saw and experienced. There are continual references to the books he is reading, and he brings the mind of a student to bear on his environment invariably. The letters are extremely interesting, and they are full of attractive information and inspiring reflections. There is no effort in them, and yet they have a distinctly literary flavor always. Some of the letters are written from a hospital, but that fact does not abate their cheerfulness. In Scotland the young soldier saw much to stimulate him, and in France he is equally observant and philosophic. In one of his letters comes a pretty Australian touch. "Now I am in the Royal Surrey Hospital, with a lovely lady playing sweet music on an instrument, and afternoon tea with cake. Heaven may be more beautiful if gum trees grow wild." Among the more serious matter in the book is a stirring description of the battle of Noreuil, in the course of which there is a touching tribute to the courage and devotion of Captain Armitage, who fell at the head of his men. The last letter, written less than a week before his death, closes with these significant words:—"When the danger of being beaten, mother, is gone, what then will be the fear of peril or the sword or anything else that can harm the body?" The brave youth fell just on the eve of that Great Push, which carried the Australians right across France, smashed the Hindenburg line, and brought victory. It was well to keep such letters in an enduring form.

"The Mail" 31-1-20

## BREACH OF FAITH

### REPREHENSIBLE TACTICS.

### VALUED SERVANT LOST TO STATE.

For many years South Australia has cultivated an unfortunate habit of losing many of its best and most brilliant civil servants. The main trouble has been the niggardly treatment accorded them, for they have been monetarily starved out of the service. Our loss has been the gain of other States, which have seen in these men an outstanding value never fully recognised by our own Government.

Another flagrant instance of the loss of an unquestionably able and promising young State servant has just been investigated by the "Mail." At the end of last year a circular was issued among the Government departments calling for applications for the position of chief assistant to the Government Astronomer at a salary of £300 a year. Mr. Alick L. Kennedy, B.E., son of Mr. J. A. Kennedy, head master of the Norwood High School and a

brother of the talented Miss Daisy Kennedy, was one of very few applicants, and he was strongly recommended for the post by Professor Chapman, of the Adelaide University, and Mr. G. F. Dodwell, B.A., Government Astronomer.

In due course Mr. Kennedy was informed that he had been chosen for the position, and was given to understand that he would commence his duties on January 1. Mr. Kennedy, who was then a draughtsman in the Railways Department, virtually resigned his position by asking for a transfer to the now branch of the service. On the same day as he was informed he was to get the Observatory position Mr. Kennedy received an offer from the Broken Hill South Mine at a salary of £7 7/ a week, which he refused in view of the local promise.

### ASTONISHING ACTION.

A little later he was told that there had been a hitch in his new Government appointment, and on making enquiries Mr. Kennedy learned that it was the Government's intention not to give a civil servant such a rise in salary as would be entailed by his transfer from his old position to the new duties at the Observatory. Mr. Kennedy was then verbally offered the vacancy at £250, but so surprised was he at this unexpected development that he declined to accept the new terms. Mr. Kennedy has since accepted an important position with the Junction North Mining Company, and is spending a month in its Melbourne office before assuming his duties at Broken Hill.

The whole affair is made the more amazing by the intimation of the Government this week that Mr. J. B. O. Hosking, B.Sc., B.C.E., has been appointed to the position at the Observatory. No announcement has been made of the salary, but from enquiries made it was ascertained to be £300, the sum which the Government refused to pay to the local successful applicant.

### NIGGARDLY TREATMENT.

On Friday the "Mail" man waited on the Public Service Commissioner (Col. Price Weir), who was invited to make a statement on the subject. Col. Weir is always courteous, but all he would say was, "I decline to discuss the matter."

The pressman then waited on the Hon. W. H. Harvey, the Minister under whose supervision the Adelaide Observatory is placed. (The circumstances of the case gathered by the journalist were narrated to Mr. Harvey, who admitted that Mr. Kennedy had been recommended by the Public Service Commissioner for the position.

"Why was he not accepted?" the Minister was asked.

"I understand," Mr. Harvey explained, "that Mr. Kennedy was getting £210 in the railways, and the Government considered that a £90 rise was rather much, and that it would try to get a man at £250."

"But the salary stated in the circular was £300, and does it not suggest a breach of contract to offer less after an applicant has been recommended at the circularised sum?"

Mr. Harvey did not seem disposed to go into details, but said the Government had offered Mr. Hosking, of Melbourne, £300 a year.

### "A MONSTROUS INIQUITY."

On the face of it there are features about this case that demand Ministerial explanation. As an influential public man of South Australia remarked on Friday, it is "a monstrous iniquity." The imported applicant from Victoria may be a man of unquestioned ability, but that is apart from the issue.

The plain truth is that the Public Service Commissioner, whose duty it is to thoroughly investigate and examine the merits of applicants, recommended Mr. Kennedy for the position on the ground that he possessed the necessary qualifications for an office worth at least £300 a year. Indeed, in the reclassification scheme just presented the position is set down in the professional division, third class, with a range of salary from £336 to £384. The Government, however, next takes a hand, and in a Machiavellian spirit of compromise offers Mr. Kennedy £250 and then finishes by giving Mr. Hosking £300.

### BRILLIANT RECORD.

Arising out of this matter the Government might well be asked is it fair that an industrious and competent man who had been trained at the School of Mines and the University, with the degrees of Bachelor of Engineering and a mining engineer, should be rejected in favour of a stranger from another State in circumstances in which it has been done? Unless Mr. Kennedy were qualified for the work he would not have been so highly recommended by trustworthy and distinguished gentlemen.