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upon the legal aspect of the question. He congratulated them, not only as representatives of the University, but also of the law faculty. They had given an excellent interpretation of a very difficult question. The economic and moral aspects had not been so capably introduced. The weakest element in the whole debate had been the team work. A special tribute was paid to Mr. Adams's opening speech, which was characterized as magnificent. The results were announced—Adelaide, 948 points; Sydney, 811 points. Mr. Louat (Sydney) and Mr. McCabe (Adelaide) briefly responded.

Chairman's Tribute to the Debaters.
The Chairman paid a tribute to the six young men who had so ably conducted the rival debates, and which had resulted in victory to the Adelaide team. Speaking from eight years' practical experience of politics, Mr. Hawker remarked that the success of a State depended not only upon good seasons, but also upon good Government. The six speakers that night compare more than favourably with many of the members of Parliament in Australia, and he was proud of them. (Applause.)

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GEORGE THOMPSON BURSARY.

FOUNDED BY THE CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY.

The Adelaide Co-operative Society, Limited, has paid to the University of Adelaide the sum of £150 to found a bursary in memory of Mr. George Thompson, the first secretary and manager of the society. The holder will be nominated by the Adelaide Co-operative Society. The bursary shall be exempted from payment of all fees in the course for the diploma in commerce, including that payable on taking the diploma. He will not, unless by special permission of the council, retain the bursary for a longer period than five years. The society may at any time, with the permission of the council, substitute another student for the then holder of the bursary, and the privileges of the then holder will thereupon be at an end. The bursary is available for members, or children (over 16) of members of not less than three years standing. In making a selection, general capacity and examination record of candidates should be considered, and preference should be given to those who, by passing University Public, or Commercial Examinations, have shown themselves able to take advantage of this opportunity. Examinations have the following order of importance:—Leaving honors, leaving commercial, leaving, intermediate commercial, intermediate, primary. At the end of each year, the bursar will be required to inform the directors of his examination record. If the record is unsatisfactory, the lecturers in subjects taken will be asked to report on his fitness for further work, and if the reports are bad, the bursary will be withdrawn and another bursar nominated. The commercial course is five years.

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THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS PRIZES FOR ESSAYS.

The sum of £100 has been paid to the University of Adelaide by Mr. T. E. Barr Smith for the purpose of founding a prize for the best essay on a topic connected with the work undertaken by the League of Nations or by any similar union. The conditions are that a prize to the value of not less than £5 shall be awarded annually provided the essay is of sufficient merit. Students of the University or of a class in the control of the University are eligible to compete, provided they are not graduates. The prize shall not be awarded to the same person more than once. Each essay must be accompanied by the name of the author in full, and be delivered at the office of the Registrar of the University not later than May 18. The prize shall be received by the successful candidate on July 1 following. The subject for 1924 is:—"The Political and Administrative Work of the League of Nations." The essay should contain 4,000 words and should not exceed 10,000 words.

"AUSTRALIA."

Thoughtful Speech by Professor Chapman.

At the annual dinner of the South Australian Commercial Travellers' and Warehousemen's Association, held at the Club-house, North terrace, last Saturday, Professor Chapman, M.A., C.B.E., Professor of Engineering at the University of Adelaide, was entrusted with the toast of the evening, that of "Australia." He delivered a most thoughtful and erudite address. He said:—"A few years before the war I was in America and, in the course of conversation with an engineer who spoke with a very pronounced American intonation, he asked me where I came from. I told him I came from Australia. 'Australia,' he said. 'Where's that?' I explained to him that Australia was a rather important part of the British Dominions. 'Wal, you know,' he said, 'I thought you were a Britisher by that peculiar twang you've got.' (Laughter.) Today Australia is better known, for all the world has at least heard of the Australian soldiers. (Applause.) Their deeds rank among the proudest achievements of the allied armies, and their reputation as the finest storming troops in the Great War was not easily won. Fighting as they did, shoulder to shoulder to final victory alongside Canadians, French, Britishers from all parts of the Empire, and with the



PROFESSOR R. W. CHAPMAN.

soldiers of the United States, they made the name of Australia an honourable one among the nations, and they gave us at home a sense of nationality such as we had never had before. (Applause.) We realized that Australia is something more than the name of a great and sparsely populated continent; it represents also a young and virile nation, just beginning to understand something of its own strength and promise, proud that it was able to lend a helping hand to the grand old mother country in time of need, and I am proud indeed to have the honour of proposing the toast of Australia at such a gathering as this. (Applause.)

Our Sparse Population.

"As a result of the enterprise, the spirit of adventure, and the courage of the British race from which we sprang, we as part of the Australian nation, have inherited the privilege of developing Australia the continent. It is a great task, for its size compared to our numbers is prodigious. We could tuck the British Isles, France, Germany, Spain, and Italy comfortably into our largest State, Western Australia, and still have well over 100,000 square miles to spare. Our own State is more than double the entire area of Japan. It is a country with wonderful natural resources. We have deposits of iron, silver, lead, zinc, copper, gold, and coal that will favourably compare with anything in the world. We have large areas of magnificent soil, and in this favoured land it is our responsibility to lay the foundation of what will eventually be one of the great nations of the earth, a nation we hope imbued with those traditions of freedom, liberty, and justice that have been the glory of the British race. (Applause.) The task confronting the handful of people at present inhabiting our continent is not an easy one. We have deliberately decided to make this a white man's country, to be

peopled by folk of British stock if we can get them, but if not, by the best races of Europe. It is a great ideal, and yet more than one-third, 38 per cent, of Australia, over 1,000,000 square miles, lies within the tropics and the total population of this area is not much more than 100,000—less than one person to 10 square miles. Yet a little way to the north lies the comparatively small island of Java, not much more than half the size of Victoria, carrying a population of 35,000,000, or 689 to the square mile. A little way further lies Japan, with a vigorous and progressive people, a population of 77,000,000, and crowded to the extent of 383 people to the square mile. Their population increases at the rate of 1,000,000 in something between two and three years, and it took Australia over 10 years to gain its last million. Quite clearly such a state of affairs cannot continue indefinitely. (Hear, hear.) As the nations become more crowded we cannot hope to retain this country either by force of arms or by reason of an appeal to international justice, unless we make reasonable efforts both to people and develop it. That is a problem that must be tackled resolutely, and soon. (Applause.) Again the most disheartening feature of the meteorological maps is the large area of the Australian continent that has an annual average rainfall of less than 10 inches. More than one-third of Australia, and roughly half of the area outside the tropics has less than 10 inches of rainfall, and more than half of Australia receives less than 15 inches. If we compare ourselves with the United States we find that only one-tenth of that country has less than 10 inches of rainfall. Even without prohibition we are drier than the United States. (Applause and laughter.) Obviously the problem of water conservation is another fundamental one, at the very root of our prosperity.

Problems in Applied Science.

"Now I want to emphasise the fact that these, two of the biggest of the many problems ahead of us and typical of many others, are distinctly problems in applied science. They are to be solved not by political slogans or eloquent speeches, or emotional appeals, but by calm, dispassionate, and exhaustive study, followed by determined action. Only after a thorough inquiry into the whole conditions can we be able to determine the best way of setting about the settlement of our northern country, and without full and complete knowledge we may easily waste hundreds of thousands of pounds. This may seem so obvious that it does not require stating, and yet quite commonly our failures are due to the neglect of this very precaution. Indeed, more than one great undertaking has been foredoomed to failure because it has been pushed on for so-called political reasons, in direct opposition to the deductions of science. In all these problems we need to apply what we call the scientific method, allowing dispassionate reason to curb emotion and guide impulsive action. It was this that enabled the Americans to conquer Panama, and we must use it if we would surmount the problems confronting us in the development of Australia. (Applause.) At the time of the severe drought in 1914 the Adelaide water supply ran short, and we had insufficient for our needs. The services of the Geological Department were invoked, with the result that a skilful detailed geological survey of the hydraulic gradients of the underground flow of water on the Adelaide Plains enabled the Government Geologist to locate the sites of six bores, in such positions that water could be pumped direct into the Adelaide mains, and the supply was such that during the months of shortage 28 per cent. of the water used in Adelaide was obtained from those bores. (Applause.) This was no haphazard selection of site, but was the result of systematic study of the problem. Again in 1918, when the wheat stacks throughout Australia were attacked by weevil, the Department of Chemistry in Adelaide undertook an investigation to try to combat the pest. Many other experimenters attempted the same problem, but, as the result of most careful and systematic work on true scientific lines, the Department was enabled to propose remedial measures that were adopted by Victoria, Western Australia, and South Australia, and that resulted in a saving to the Commonwealth estimated as at least a million and a half. (Applause.) These are both excellent illustrations of the way in which difficulties may be overcome by the use of science. The gentlemen at the heads of

these departments both conferred great benefits upon the community at a time when the work was badly needed, but it was done in the ordinary way of business, and few noticed it. Had one made a century in test cricket, and the other kicked six goals for Norwood, there would have been columns in the papers about the glorious deeds, and their photographs would have appeared taken in various appropriate attitudes. (Applause and laughter.) I do not decrying sport, but we certainly do need to foster in a young nation, just as it is necessary in the training of young men, an appreciation of the value of knowledge and scientific research. (Applause.)

Valuable Australian Timbers.

"Some time ago a gentleman occupying a very important position in the Government of the State visited my laboratory at a time when we were making tests on the strength of some of our South Australian grown timbers. Incidentally I may say that we have in the native timbers of Australia the finest hardwoods in the world, the value of which we are only now beginning to appreciate. Even the far-famed British oak takes second place to several of our hardwoods in strength and durability. In addition our trees provide a wonderful variety of oils and chemical products, and the proper care and development of our forests, which ought to be a source of wealth to the nation, is another problem that must be resolutely faced. We had thought it worth while to investigate the comparative strength of the various timbers so that we might know the most valuable for different purposes. At the time our visitor came I was engaged with several students in testing a large beam. We brought the load down upon it gradually, and measured deflection as we proceeded, seeking to get all possible information out of the test, and at the end of about a quarter of an hour the beam broke in the middle. Then our visitor seemed to breathe more freely. 'Well,' he said, 'you took a lot of trouble to do that. Why on earth didn't you saw it in two?' (Loud laughter.) He evidently did not see any value in that kind of enquiry. But it is patient research, whether we recognise it or not, that lies at the root of progress, and we have got to encourage it in the nation in every conceivable direction if we are to take our place among the progressive nations of the earth and if we are to make proper use of the wonderful natural advantages we possess. (Applause.) We have inherited this land as the result of the strong right arm and courage of our forefathers. If we would hold it and conquer it we, too, must have courage, and we must use our heads. We have the opportunity to develop a wonderful country. The difficulties it presents should only stir us on to overcome them. But we cannot succeed if we neglect to cultivate the one great source of human progress. We take part in the building up of a nation that we trust will remain of dominantly British blood, a nation that, if we build wisely, shall be as great among the nations of the future as the grand old mother has been among the nations of the past." (Applause.)

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THE CANCER SCOURGE.

Registered Increasing Mortality.

Hints to Local Bodies.

LONDON, August 28.

The Ministry of Health has, for the guidance of local authorities, issued a memorandum summarising the present state of medical knowledge on the cancer scourge, and the steps which local authorities can usefully take to minimise its incidence.

The memorandum says that the recorded mortality from cancer has trebled in two generations. The most rapid increase in the death rate has occurred in old age. Hereditary predisposition to cancer has not yet proved of practical importance; and it cannot be asserted with scientific authority that the habitual use of any particular article of food either increases or prevents liability to cancer. No known drug or preparations, it is added, will prevent or cure the disease. No danger of contracting the malady has been proved from inhabiting houses or districts in which cancer has been prevalent.

It is further set out that there is no proof that cancer is either infectious or contagious. The essential point for the patient is that he shall seek early medical advice, and shall not waste time in trying quack remedies. Local authorities, it is suggested, might improve the facilities available:—1. For clinical consultations and pathological examinations. 2. For cancer treatment in hospitals, and for X-ray and radium apparatus. 3. For the transport of patients. 4. They might arrange post-graduate lectures for local medical men. Anything that might tend to cause chronic irritation should be removed, such as a long-continued irritation of the mouth by a clay pipe; irritation of the tongue by a jagged tooth or badly fitting toothplate. It is prudent also to remove any cause of irritation of special parts of the body, and to thus diminish the risk of contracting the disease.