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Methodist.

Mr. Heath, who is one of the younger generation of Methodist ministers, is a native of South Australia. He was formerly employed as a clerk and telegraphist in the railway service at Wallaroo. In 1912 he began his ministerial studies, under private tuition. During his probationary period he was stationed at Streaky Bay, Renmark, Alberton, and Thebarton. At the end of 1916 he offered his services to the military authorities, and acted as honorary chaplain on a troopship. He was ordained at Wesley



REV. H. F. T. HEATH, who intends leaving for England after next Conference.

Chapel, City road, London, in 1917. Returning to Australia, he went on active service with the A.I.F. in 1918, as a regular chaplain. At the close of the war he was engaged at the A.I.F. headquarters, Horseferry road, London. On being released from military duty he undertook a course of study at Oxford. While there he played in a match with the A.I.F. cricket team. While at home he married Miss Irene Bain, who was then a medical student at Aberdeen University. He came back to South Australia in 1920, and received a temporary appointment in the Renmark circuit. For the past two years he has been minister at Rose Park Church, and the various organizations there have received a decided stimulus under his ministry. He is an evangelical preacher and a diligent pastor. The young folk have received much encouragement in the matter of sport at his hands, and many of them have been received into church membership. He is at present taking arts subjects at the Adelaide University, in conjunction with his religious work. Mr. Heath proposes leaving for England after next conference, for an indefinite period.

SCIENCE CONGRESS.

TO BE OPENED TO-DAY.
AMERICA SENDS 20 DELEGATES.

Melbourne, August 12. At the Assembly Hall on Monday evening the Governor-General (Lord Forster) will officially open one of the most important scientific conferences ever held in Melbourne. The questions which the visitors will discuss with Australian scientists include many problems of vital importance to the participating countries.

They will be dealt with by separate sections, the meetings of which will be attended by the leading scientists of each country. The problems to be discussed by the various sections range from those of agriculture, botany, entomology, forestry, and geography to radiology, hygiene, veterinary science, and zoology.

From Great Britain 12 well-known scientists have been sent to the conference. The largest contingent is from America, which is represented by 20 delegates. Canada has sent three representatives, New Zealand 13, Japan and Formosa 10, the Philippines nine, Netherlands and Dutch East Indies six, British Malaya two, and Tahiti, Papua, New Guinea, Fiji, and Hongkong one each.

About 20 of the delegates arrived in Melbourne on Saturday afternoon. They included the Japanese and Philippines representatives, and part of the American party. The conference in Melbourne will conclude on August 22, but will be continued in Sydney for a further period of 10 days.

Professor Sir Douglas Mawson, Mr. E. R. Waite (Director of the Museum), Mr. L. Keith Ward (Government Geologist), and Professor A. J. Perkins (Director of Agriculture) left by the Melbourne express on Saturday to attend the meeting of the Pan-Pacific Congress, which will be opened in Melbourne to-day. After ten days sitting in Melbourne, the congress will adjourn to Sydney, and will conclude on September 3.

Three distinguished scientists passed through Adelaide on Monday on their way to the Pan-Pacific Congress in Melbourne. They were Dr. A. C. Haddon, professor of anthropology at Cambridge; Dr. Perry, lecturer in ethnology at University College, London; and Dr. Pritchford, of Johannesburg, who is chairman of the Miners' Health Board and an authority on miners' diseases. Dr. Haddon was in Australia in 1914 as leader of the Torres Straits expedition. The party arrived by the Moldavia on Monday and left by the express for Melbourne in the afternoon.

UNIVERSITY EXAMINATIONS.

From "EDUCATED GRANDFATHER":—In the interests of the young students of our schools and colleges I protest against the bad judgment of the ignorant psychologists of the Adelaide University who have made "The Tale of Two Cities," chapter on legacies, a subject for examination. Is it any wonder that my granddaughter, a child of 14, and highly sensitive, who passed in all subjects, had her night's rest disturbed by disquieting dreams? Surely there are other gems of literature equally valuable for the purpose.

THE BALD STATE

Treeless South Australia

EDUCATION CURE FOR NATIONAL DISGRACE

General interest has been stimulated by the attention drawn in "The Mail" last week to the direct connection between the increasing baldness of the State lands and their liability to floods and washaways through the absence of trees to hold the soil and provide a natural sponge for rain soakage and conservation. Mr. H. H. Corbin (lecturer on forestry at the University), Mr. Walter Gill (Conservator of Forests), and Sir William Sowden (president of the S.A. Branch of the Australian Forest League) made important comments on the article.

"I endorse everything that 'The Mail' he said," was the concise comment of Mr. H. H. Corbin, lecturer on forestry at the University. "Baldness is creeping over the country. The hills from Aldinga to Sellick's Hill are now absolutely denuded; they are bald as a bladder of lard. Excessive grazing and the rabbit pest are the causes of it, as well as the fact that every tree has been smashed down, and it is nobody's business to replace any of them. All over the state settlers have derided out native timbers, and we are now paying the penalty. Red gum, which in the hands of London cabinetmakers would be tremendously thought of, is still being used for fencing posts. Our stringybark yields splendid furniture wood. Even the dead heart of the State—the Oodnadatta mulga—supplies a timber beautifully decorative under polish, yet people say that South Australia is a bad timber country and can't grow the woods it needs. It is all tommyrot.

"The trouble has been that because trees take a certain length of time to grow farmers have cut them out and deprived themselves of a line which, properly worked, would yield a better return than anything else. Millions of acres of naturally good forest land have been turned into what is neither a good farming or a decent grazing proposition, nor the forest country it ought

to be. Every year the tree population is being further reduced, and sheep and rabbits see to it that none of its progeny is given the chance to survive the year of infancy. Sellick's Hill, close home, is an instance of the terrible pass that hill country can be brought to as a result of merciless grazing. All young tree growth and everything else green is destroyed. The sheep make pads that wear the grass away, the rains scour them out into gullies, and the wastage of soil and encouragement of flood are yearly aggravated.

WASHOUTS IN MIDDLE NORTH.

In the best farming country it is just as bad. Look at the washouts on the farms of the Middle North country. The water carves into the richest and most magnificent soil, each year more of the paddocks is torn away, and banks fall in and add to the mess. Apart from the cash debit represented by loss of workable land the farmer suffers from the difficulty of netting the channels against rabbits and other vermin.

The aggregate acreage of washout country in the Middle North if totalled up would be found to be considerable. Tree life along the natural water-courses would have saved all that. A lot of the lost land could be reclaimed by throwing branches into the washouts, so causing the soil to silt and the land to build itself up again, but in most instances it would be a puzzle to find the branch.

Education is the sure cure for what is nothing less than a national disgrace. This we are doing by training skilled foresters and getting men to act as missionaries of timber conservation and planting in their own localities. Schoolboys camping in the State forest at Kuitpo are learning that a tree is not a thing to be slashed about or burned or cut down.

Certain facts should be hammered into the public's attention. Wherever the rainfall is 20 inches and upwards forest trees flourish. In South Australia 8,860,000 acres have such a fall

Altogether 1,000,000 acres of forest are needed to allow of 25,000 acres of standing timber being cut each year to meet the State's requirements. South Australia imports over half a million's worth of timber each year. Each year she becomes balder and balder, the value of her timber import increases, yet actually South Australia, though now conspicuous for her timber barrenness, is thoroughly good forest country.

EXTENDING FOREST RESERVES

The Conservator of Forests (Mr. Walter Gill) who approached on the topic indicated that, small as the effort might appear in comparison with the State's increasing baldness and need of timber, the State forests made a positive contribution towards development as against denudation, and in themselves presented an example and an incentive to timber preservation and planting. The forest reserves of the State, he pointed out, now total 199,474 acres, of which 25,080 acres are enclosed and netted as plantations. The Bundaleer forests extends over 7,276 acres, Mount Burr over 4,506 acres, Kuitpo 1,486 acres, and Penola 1,268 acres. Last year 748,033 additional trees were planted over the various forest areas, and to 1,898 applicants in different parts of the State trees to the number of 250,084 were distributed for planting in their own localities.

The Conservator produced records to show that the Forestry Department during the last 40 years had given away 10,687,199 trees by way of encouragement of timber replenishment through-

out the State. During the same period Government expenditure on forest reserves and plantations had increased roughly from £6,000 to £36,000. Grave as is the increasing menace of floodwaters rushing down barren gullies and wearing away unprotected soils, the devastation caused by sand drift, resulting from excessive clearing in some localities, is becoming an equal menace. Mr. Gill showed pictures of the travelling of light soil in the Goyder district forming immense drifts owing to removal of root holding tree barriers and in some places actually overwhelming and submerging the few trees that remained.

FOREST LEAGUE'S ATTITUDE.

Sir William Sowden is devoting himself with enthusiasm to the advocacy of practical afforestation. "As president of the South Australian branch of the Australian Forest League," he said, "I can assure you that the members of that body are grateful to 'THE MAIL' for the able and graphic article published in its issue of August 4 under the heading of 'Baldness of South Australia.' The writer of that article indicates concisely and clearly conditions which the League is pledged to alter, so far as the task may be possible, after so many years of neglect, indifference, and wilful destruction. Regarding the past it is sufficient, by way of suggesting a lesson from experience, to point to the bald and bleak foothills which skirt the City of Adelaide, as well as many other parts of the State, and to reflect upon the vastly impressive contrast which would be presented to the view if, as in the early days, the beautiful trees which then adorned these areas had not been cut down so ruthlessly, or if—assuming that their destruction was inevitable—there had been in force the rule now observed in several countries that anyone who cuts down a tree shall plant at least two to replace it.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING UNION.

BRANCH TO BE FORMED IN ADELAIDE.

Mrs. de Castro, representative of the English Speaking Union, a body whose object it is to draw together in the bond of comradeship the English-speaking peoples of the world, is paying another visit to Adelaide.

This is to be achieved by various methods, the chief of which are:—To make the English-speaking peoples better known to each other by an interchange of representative speakers; by correspondence; the printed word; interchange of University professors and students; correlating ideals and methods of education; promoting trade and commerce; sporting contests; and by any other means calculated to remove misunderstanding.

Branches are being established throughout the British Empire, and already the movement is making headway in Melbourne and Sydney. Mrs. de Castro hopes soon to inaugurate a branch in Adelaide. One interesting proposal of the union is to celebrate jointly such national festivals as Washington's birthday, Shakespeare's birthday, Empire Day, American Decoration Day, Magna Charta Day, American Independence Day, Armistice Day, and American Thanksgiving