

# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

REVIEW BY DR. HEATON

## Better Meat Grading Urged

By better quality and grading, especially in the meat industry, better packing and sales propaganda, and possibly lower prices rather than by preference is how Dr. H. Heaton would have Australians compete in the overseas markets. Grants of preference, he says, may help in a small way, but on a broad view they are likely to be what Mr. Clynes called "a pill to cure an earthquake." This is one of the contentions which Dr. Heaton advanced in his lecture entitled "The Australian Economic Outlook," at the wind-up session of the University tutorial class in Australian economics last night.

Our outlook, Dr. Heaton says, is determined by two factors—the condition of

the money received at the customs house obviously comes out of the pocket of the man working for export. It therefore increases his cost of producing the export article, and may thus render it impossible for him to compete in world markets. Hence some of the customs revenue should be used in subsidising the export trade, and the amount paid in subsidies should have a proportionate relation to the customs receipts.

Australian manufacturers have grown steadily since the 'sixties, and today about 400,000 persons are employed in secondary industries. Our factories are growing larger as well as more numerous; they are increasing their plant and equipment, and some industries now virtually supply the whole local market. But this industrial growth has accentuated the labor problem, which is far from solved; it has made us more and more a nation of town-dwellers, and denuded the countryside of much of its population and it has raised the problem of industrial efficiency. The Interstate Commission, during its inquiry concerning the revision of the tariff noted that many plants were badly planned, equipped with obsolete machinery, and lacking in application of up-to-date methods. Industries carried on under such conditions do not deserve to survive. Where manufacturers are seeking to enter foreign markets, high costs of material and production are impediments, and here again the revenue from the tariff should be used to assist the export of manufactured goods.

### INFLUENCE OF TRUSTS.

Other general factors influence Australia's future. One is what might be called broadly the trust movement. Most Australian industries and services are controlled by honorable understandings or even closer alliances. Insofar as these arrangements help to ensure a fair rate of profit for efficient service they are completely justified; but where combination is using its power to wring monopoly profits

out of other industries and the community, our progress is seriously impeded and our standard of life assailed. Further, during the past 40 years we have built up an imposing edifice of State interference regulation, and have embarked on daring experiments of many kinds. All these steps were taken with some definite purpose, to achieve some specific object. Therefore it is very necessary that we should carefully investigate and watch the results of our experiments, and if we find the results unsatisfactory scrap or amend our plans. This means research, rather than discussion on the basis of party. In such research the universities of the continent should be equipped so that they could play their part. Australia has been called a social laboratory; let us see that we watch carefully the experiments in that laboratory, and thus, by moving carefully in the light of thorough test and careful observation, point out to the world the firm path of social progress.

### A PRESENTATION.

At the close of the lecture Mr. G. A. Ward (secretary of the Australian History and Economics Class) presented Dr. Heaton with a rug, with handles attached. He said he hoped that Dr. Heaton, who is leaving for Great Britain shortly on a year's vacation, would have an enjoyable trip, and a pleasant sojourn in the old country. His remarks were endorsed by Mr. Hugh Gilmore.

### THE UNIVERSITY OF ADELAIDE.

A meeting of the council of the University of Adelaide was held on Friday. There were present the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor, Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir George Broozman, Dr. E. H. Rennie, Professor Chapman, Mr. W. J. Isbister, Professor Perkins, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, Mr. Talbot Smith, Dr. W. T. Hayward, Dr. Helen Mayo, and Dr. F. S. Hone. The question of the retirement of five members of the council, in accordance with the Act of Incorporation, was considered. Sir Langdon Bonython, Sir George Broozman, Mr. Justice Angus Parsons, and Professor Rennie retired by effluxion of time. Of the remaining members, Mr. F. Chapple, Mr. W. G. T. Goodman, Dr. F. S. Hone, and Mr. W. T. McCoy had been next longest in office. On a ballot being taken, Mr. McCoy was declared to be the retiring member. The council re-elected Mr. W. J. Isbister, K.C., and Professor G. C. Henderson, to represent the University on the Board of Governors of the Public Library, Museum, and Art Gallery.

The following are the dates fixed for University terms in 1924:—First term begins on March 11, ends on May 16; second term, June 2 to August 15; third term, September 1 to December 9.

The council received a report from Mr. Geoffrey Samuel, lecturer on plant pathology.

# EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION

## Annual Break Up

### DR. HEATON HONORED

Students of the Workers' Educational Association, at their annual break-up on Saturday night, said "au-revoir" to Dr. H. Heaton, who intends shortly to visit England. They presented Dr. Heaton with a camera and a roll of bank notes.

A large and enthusiastic assembly crowded the Stow Lecture Hall. Mr. S. R. Whitford, M.P. (president), occupied the chair.

Mr. Whitford referred to the storm of criticism that at first assailed Dr. Heaton's efforts, and explained how his enquiries and experience had finally overcome his own prejudices. He stated that the first class was started on April 17, 1917, to study economics. During the year two classes in economics, one in English literature, one in psychology, and one on the modern state were launched. In 1918 four classes were continued at the University, while others were started at Norwood, Port Adelaide, Victor Harbor, and Mount Gambier. The enrolment in city classes was 210 in 1918, 249 in 1919, 315 in 1920, 338 in 1921, 542 in 1922, and 550 in 1923.

The income of the Workers' Educational Association had increased from a little more than £600 in 1917 to more than £900 in 1923. Mr. Whitford, continuing, said that the tutors of the Workers' Educational Association in many ways guided and shaped public opinion, and the influence of its teaching was widespread.

### DEMAND FOR LEARNING.

Professor McKellar Stewart spoke on "The Foundation of the University in Relation to the General Public." He said that the first and essential function of a university was the task of discovery of enquiry, and the advancement of knowledge in its broadest sense. Every university tutor desired to awaken the adventurous spirit of research. Wisely guided, the results of researches of experts might be conveyed to the people. Gradually as the standard of education was raised and the hours of labor shortened a demand arose from working men in England for the learning of the university to be placed at the disposal of men who did not intend to take up a regular course. So came into being the Workers' Educational Association to meet that demand. The first university to respond was Oxford. What these men requested the university to give them was simply knowledge with no ulterior end in view. There was no desire for material gain. Professor Stewart, continuing, stated that at first in Australia there was something else behind it. Men looked for economic knowledge for propaganda purposes. Universities in Britain and Australia were beginning to recognise that their essential function was the propagation of truth, and could not refuse men who came with open minds.

Mr. A. L. G. Mackay said that Dr. Heaton's projected trip would be temporary, but eventually would prove a gain.

### LIKE INTERESTS.

Professor Mitchell congratulated the association on its work. To bring together like minds, ideas, and interests to work out their ideals was a fine achievement. The University was willing to assist the association, and claimed a share in the work. He referred to the inadequate accommodation provided for the association.

Mr. McRitchie (general secretary) said that Dr. Heaton was always ready to help men in search of education.

Mr. Read (secretary of the association's club) paid a tribute to Dr. Heaton's kindness and ability, and wished him the greatest happiness on his trip.

Professor Darnley Naylor (president of the joint committee, in making the presentation, said that Dr. Heaton had been convicted of two offences—namely, of being eminently successful and of having won the esteem and affection of his students. The penalty was the gifts just made. Dr. Heaton benefited the citizens of Australia. He admired the courageous way in which the doctor had striven to impart truth. (Applause.)

Dr. Heaton replied that he had fought an uphill struggle against prejudice

from both sides. He had been labelled a Quaker, a Roman Catholic, and a Bolshevik. Epithets had been hurled at him. He believed that he had outlived them all, and the value of his work was being recognised gradually.

He had the loyal support of the University on the one hand and of the students on the other, and with such help he could not fail to triumph. He was visiting England to enquire and observe.

*Registered*

30-10-23

## PLANT PATHOLOGY.

### LECTURER'S INFORMATIVE TOUR.

Mr. Geoffrey Samuel (lecturer in plant pathology at the University of Adelaide under the aWite bequest), has reported to the University authorities on his activities during the eight months' leave granted him to visit Europe prior to taking up his duties. The report (slightly abbreviated) states:—"I arrived in London at end of January, and went to Manchester direct, where I worked two months in the Laboratory of Cryptogamic Botany, under Professor W. H. Lang, F.R.S., one of the foremost research men in this subject in England to-day. I took over a definite piece of work, but the value of the time I spent in this laboratory is to be measured not so much by the work done, as by the mental stimulus resulting from association with so keen and penetrating a research worker as Professor Lang. At beginning of April I worked for some weeks at the Imperial Bureau of Mycology, London, established and directed by Dr. E. J. Butler, C.I.E., (formerly Chief Plant Pathologist to the Government of India). Its aim is to provide a central bureau to render available to plant pathologists in the British dominions literature, specimens, and identifications of fungi and plant diseases difficult to obtain in the colonies on account of insufficient library, excessive expenditure, or other reasons. In addition to the benefit derived from working in the library and herbarium there, the personal relations established with the staff will be of much value to me. In London, to see the laboratories of botany and plant pathology, to gain ideas useful in Adelaide, and to know the men working on my own and allied sciences, I visited the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, and Bristol; the Imperial College at South Kensington, and the University College, Gower street; the Agricultural College at Wye, in Kent; the laboratories of the Ministry of Agriculture at Harpenden; the Rothamsted Agricultural Research Station; and the Lea Valley Market Gardeners' Research Laboratories at Chestnut. The professors and directors of all were exceedingly kind, and showed me library and laboratory equipment, and much of the research work in their laboratories. I stayed at Harpenden for a week, and worked in the library and laboratories there, obtaining notes and specimens of plant diseases. I also attended meetings of scientific societies, and on the spring foray of the British Mycological Society at Bristol I met several inspectors of the Ministry of Agriculture.

### On the Continent.

"At the end of May I went to the Continent on a trip which combined work on plant pathology, general education, and a week in Switzerland as a holiday. In Paris I visited the Laboratoire de la Station de Patologie Vegetale; La Laboratoire de Cryptogamie; Le Museum Nationale d'Histoire Naturelle; and the botanical laboratories at the Sorbonne. M. Foex and Professor Ducommet took me to a French wheat farm, to obtain specimens of wheat diseases required for work in South Australia. In Germany I spent a few days inspecting books and botanical teaching diagrams at the offices of various publishing firms, and in selecting those required at the University of Adelaide. I went to Holland, where the International Conference of Phyto-pathology and Economics Entomology commenced on June 23. Representatives of 26 nations were present. The Dutch Government and University officials did everything to render the conference valuable to the visitors, who saw much of Holland's intensive agriculture. On returning to England I again visited Rothamsted experimental fields; worked at the Ministry of Agriculture's laboratories; and bought more apparatus in London with the £50 granted by the University of Adelaide. I then received a cablegram, advising me of an extension of leave that I might



Dr. H. Heaton

the world in general, and our own conditions and circumstances in particular. In these days of world economy, if one part of the world suffers all the rest suffer with it. Hence the chaos and depression in Europe hits Rundle street and Wallaroo. If, for large masses of people are too poor to buy goods, under-consumption paralyses production and trade. If Europe goes down—and who shall say she is not going down at this moment—then Australia goes with her, to rise later on as a minor planet circling round some new sun—the Orient or America.

Assuming, however, that Europe comes to its senses and shirks the final act of suicide, Australia's line of development will probably be along lines already laid down. First there will be the question of population. Most of our easily cultivated and fertile spaces are filled, and further rural expansion can probably be made only by resuming land or by spending large sums in opening up and making "safe" new areas of inferior land or small rainfall. Our industrial expansion is limited by the supply of available new capital and the extent of the market. Finally, insofar as we concentrate on Great Britain for our supply of migrants we rely on a population which is overwhelmingly urban and industrial, and one from which therefore we cannot draw many land workers. If we want settlers accustomed to working on the land, we may have to turn elsewhere for the supply.

### SUBSIDY FOR EXPORT.

In production we still are predominantly a primary producing country. Hence, while we may do as we wish in our desire to build up manufactures, we should ask at every step, "Will this action injure primary production?" The matter is largely one of cost of production, and is especially important in view of our need for export markets and the threatening slump in the price of wheat. Russia is re-entering the wheat market; Central Europe is prostrate and cannot buy; hence our farmers may have to face a period of low prices.

A country such as ours, which exports about half its primary products and one-third of its total output, and which wishes to encourage exports while limiting imports should not regard all customs revenue as a fund for general expenditure. Some of

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