

UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Mr. George Herbert Bourke, B.A. (head master of Alberton Public School), is a graduate of the University of Adelaide. He holds high qualifications as an educationist and has been a constant student during his career.



Mr. G. H. Bourke, B.A. head master of Alberton School.

The first head teacher was the late Mr. Alfred Hardy, who held the position to the time of his death in 1919, a period of 27 years. The high prestige so firmly established by him has been well maintained by subsequent head teachers.

By 1922 the number of scholars at the school had increased to such an extent that additional accommodation was found necessary. An up-to-date infant school was built and opened the following year. The school was then raised to class II, standard and Mr. F. Gartrell was head master.

Between 900 and 1,000 scholars are now enrolled, including 322 children in the infant school.

Receiving his early education at Hahndorf College, Mr. Bourke entered the Teachers' Training College in 1893. On leaving there he was appointed head teacher of Square Mile School, situated near Mount Gambier. While there Mr. Bourke took a leading part in the first three south-eastern public schools' exhibitions and concerts. His school was particularly successful and gained many prizes.

His next appointment was at Whyte-Yarcowie. During his term there Mr. Bourke inaugurated the Yarcowie Agricultural Bureau, of which he subsequently became honorary secretary and chairman. While holding these offices he urged the people of the district to plant more trees round their homesteads. A believer in the motto "Practice what you preach," Mr. Bourke planted trees in the playground of the local school and incidentally convinced the Forestry Department that trees would grow well in that district. A fine forest reserve near the school is in a flourishing condition.

On being transferred to Freeling Mr. Bourke had the honor of opening the new school there. Living up to his reputation as an enthusiastic gardener and a lover of flowers, he planted trees and hedges and established a fine school garden. Murray Bridge was his next promotion. From there he went to Peterborough and later served a term as head teacher at Cowandilla.

Successful Experiments

Subsequently he had charge of Brompton School, after which he was appointed to Woodville. Last year he was placed in charge of Alberton. He gained his Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Adelaide in 1924.

During his stay at Alberton Mr. Bourke has conducted experiments in latest methods of education. Many successful innovations have been introduced to make school life more attractive to the children. The school is overcrowded, but it is expected that the building will be remodelled and two new rooms added during the next 12 months.

Mr. Bourke has always been a keen supporter of sport of every kind. Fine football, cricket, basketball, and soccer teams have been formed among the scholars. The boys are fortunate inasmuch as they have Mr. Roy Brown (captain of West Torrens Football Club) on the teaching staff.

A feature of the school is the fine spirit of relationship existing between teachers and scholars.

Mr. Bourke speaks highly of his staff of teachers, which he considers one of the best in the State.

CANBERRA STAMP

SECOND PRIZEWINNER

Young Man of Prospect

Interest in philately and a natural aptitude for artistic designing have led to Mr. John Owen Lyons, of Olive street, Prospect, being awarded second prize of £50 in the competition for a stamp commemorative of the opening of the first Federal Parliament at Canberra on May 9, 1927.

Mr. Lyons is an ardent stamp collector, and modestly admitted that he had acquired a "fair collection."

This, he said, helped to guide him in choosing a design in connection with the competition, first prize of £100 for which was awarded to Mr. Ronald A. Harrison, of Elwood, Victoria, who is a son of the former Commonwealth note printer.

That Mr. Lyons possesses more than an ordinary amount of artistic invention is indicated, however, by the fact that he submitted the successful design for the Brighton Soldiers' Memorial Arch at Brighton.

Mr. Lyons is the second son of Mrs. and the late Mr. J. B. Lyons, of Prospect. He is employed as a structural



Mr. J. O. Lyons

South Australian who won second prize in the competition conducted by the Commonwealth for a commemorative Canberra stamp.

draftsman in the department of the Chief Engineer of the South Australian Railways, and is engaged in connection with reorganisation work at Islington.

He is attending the University with the object of graduating as a Bachelor of Civil Engineering. Mr. Lyons is also attending the School of Mines, where he is learning architecture.

He is a student member of the Institute of Engineers of Australia and of the South Australian Institute of Architects.

Mr. Lyons, who is 26 years of age, was educated at Christian Brothers' College. He joined the clerical staff of the Chief Mechanical Engineer at Islington in 1914, but later turned his attention to the professional branch.

Amateur boxing and physical culture occupy much of his leisure. He competed in the lightweight division of a boxing tourney promoted by the Railways Institute this year.

ALCOHOL FROM STRAW

Farm Waste Can Be Converted

NEW INDUSTRY LIKELY

In the near future, with the aid of science, much that has been regarded as waste will prove to be sources of revenue. Thousands of tons of straw go to waste within a radius of 100 miles of Adelaide each year, yet it has been proved that there are great possibilities in its use as a producer of alcohol.

Alcohol is regarded as the liquid fuel of the future. It has been proved in Adelaide by the Department of Chemistry at South Australia, under Dr. W. A. Hargreaves, that an abundance of alcohol can be derived from straw. The process through which it was put was too expensive for it to be commercially successful.

Dr. Hargreaves obtained alcohol at the rate of 50 gallons to the ton of straw, but

it is thought that as much as 80 gallons to the ton is procurable, but money is needed to pursue the experiments to a successful conclusion.

It is the cellulose in the straw which makes it so adaptable. From it is formed a kind of molasses—from which alcohol is cheaply made—and then it ferments and from that comes the alcohol. However, the stumbling block is getting sufficient molasses from the straw.

Paper pulp may be made from straw, and in Victoria strawboards are made from it. First-class paper pulp has been made from straw by the Chemistry Department in Adelaide, and it is possible for this State to produce sufficient paper pulp to supply its own needs and more.

Co-operative Principle Best

Paper pulp making and alcohol producing could be worked in conjunction, but it would best prove successful if it were worked on a co-operative principle. Farmers would have to co-operate and establish a mill or factory in the various centres, the same as is done with the dairying department of the farm.

Laboratory experiments have shown that 80 per cent. of cotton cellulose may be converted, so that assuming such a yield could be economically obtained on a large scale, one ton of straw would yield 80 gallons of alcohol.

South Australia is in a favorable position compared with other States for the supply to a central factory of large quantities of straw. If 500,000 tons of straw are produced in this State and used for making alcohol, and assuming that 80 gallons to the ton were obtained, South Australia could produce 40,000,000 gallons of alcohol each year. In straw South Australia has a great asset and there does not seem a more promising prospect of producing motor spirit than through the treatment of it.

No Planting Cost

A feature is that there is no cost of planting. It is grown now for wheat, so that the only additional expense would be the reaping and cartage. Vegetable matter lends itself to the production of alcohol, but it is in straw alone that the successful treatment will be made.

Land is too valuable to put apart for the planting of vegetable matter for the manufacture of alcohol only. With wheat and alcohol to be derived from the one source the cost of placing straw at the factory is greatly lessened. Waste fruit and damaged grain could be used for the manufacture of alcohol, but an industry cannot be built up on such capricious sources of supply. However, with the establishment of factories it is possible that something might be done to use surplus and waste fruit, although the cost of collection and transport would not make such material extraordinarily cheap.

NEWS 23 9 26

EIGHT MONTHS ABROAD

Old Friendships Renewed

MR. BEVAN RETURNS

Looking the personification of health, Mr. Frederick Bevan returned to Adelaide this morning after eight months spent in England. Mr. Bevan has been a teacher of singing at Elder Conservatorium for 28 years, and his recent trip was his first real holiday for 22 years.

"When I arrived at Euston Station in London," he said, "I was met by Mrs. W. J. Trafford Cowan, who, as Miss Ethel Huntke, was a pupil of mine at the Conservatorium. I experienced a long series of pleasurable thrills as one or other of my own generation recognised and greeted me."

"Many of these old friends were found at the Royal Academy of Music and the Royal College of Music in London, and these two institutions saw me frequently. I had a feast of orchestral music conducted by Sir Henry Wood, who is a live wire, and who stands pre-eminent as an orchestra director. The Academy Opera Class gave a week of grand opera at the Scala Theatre in London, and exceedingly fine work was done.

Soloist at 68

"Australian voices compare most favorably with English. I also attended the Handel Festival at Crystal Palace. The outstanding tenor soloist is Ben Davies, who confesses to being 68 years old. Clara Serena I heard at Crystal Palace and her singing was most effective."

The day before he left London Mr. Bevan was presented to Their Majesties at Buckingham Palace. "First," he said, "I had 10 minutes' chat with the Queen and I reminded her of the fact that I had sung at her wedding. This was when I was a Gentleman of the Chapel Royal at St. James' Palace and as such was a solo singer."

"Her Majesty was most interested and asked all sorts of questions about Adelaide. Then I spoke to the King, who remembered me as the composer of the ode of welcome, 'Hail, George Our Prince,' which was sung when, as Duke of York, he visited Adelaide University. 'How long are you going to be in London,' said

King George. 'I shall be leaving for Australia tomorrow, sir,' I replied, and he said, 'Well, I'm jolly glad you were able to come here today!'"

Met Many Relatives

A motoring tour with Mr. and Mrs. Cowan through the English lake district and to Shakespeare's Stratford-on-Avon country was a delight. "I could have spent another five years in London," confessed Mr. Bevan, "but at the same time there was a strong impulse urging me toward Australia."

"I came out by way of America, and in Montreal found a whole lot of nephews and nieces, of whom I had heard, but never seen. Another batch of relatives—more than 100 of my sisters' descendants, were in Toronto, and a nephew, who sent me a marconigram which I received in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, came all the way from Detroit to meet me."

"In New York I was delighted to meet two former Adelaide students of mine who are making a success of things. Clytie Hine, who is the wife of Mr. John Mundy, a cello player, is doing remarkably well in Mozart opera, and Otto Heggie is one of the star actors of New York, who is unspoiled by success."

REG. 24 9 26 MUSIC IN LONDON.

MR. FREDERICK BEVAN'S TRIP.

"I went to London for a holiday," said Mr. Frederick Bevan, when interviewed on Thursday by a representative of The Register. "I didn't, I really didn't, go to gain impressions of English music, or to compare the teaching abroad with the teaching at the Conservatorium. I didn't even have a commission to enquire into the milk trade, or the traffic, or any of those things, as most people seem to do. If I tell you I just met Tom, Dick, and Harry, and we had a very good time together, it won't mean anything to the public, but it means everything to me."



MR. FREDERICK BEVAN.

Merely to see London again, Mr. Bevan explained, was full of thrills uncommunicable by the mere catalogue of things seen and heard. Before his appointment to the Adelaide Conservatorium, he had occupied his place in the musical world of London for many happy years, and to re-visit England after 22 years' absence was to renew precious associations.

"London is still the same London," he said, questioned on changes. "The most wonderful place in the world. I wouldn't give 'that' for New York, for all its modern splendours. I came back through Canada and the United States, I saw Niagara and went all through the Rockies, but for calm beauty there is nothing that I have seen like the countryside of England."

When he left Adelaide last year Mr. Bevan was not in sufficiently good health to take much interest in anything but holiday-making, but as soon as he felt well enough, he availed himself of London's opportunities to hear great music, and see great teachers.

"I saw much of the work of the Royal Academy and the Royal College of Music," he said, "and I came back not dissatisfied with our own Conservatorium. Our pupils can hold their own with those I have seen anywhere. I was particularly interested in the orchestra work of the Royal Academy, which is in charge of the great Sir Henry Wood. He is a marvellous conductor, and to see him working away with his coat off at rehearsals was an unforgettable experience. The Royal Academy has a whole week of opera at the new Scala Theatre, and splendid work is done. They did 'Hansel and Gretel,' 'Faust,' and other works. I also heard the St. Matthew Passion under Sir Henry Wood—the full version, which lasted from half-past 2 to half-past 6, and was so beautiful that one did not wish to stir."