

UNIVERSITY JUBILEE.

VISIT TO URRBRAE.

PROGRESS AT WAITE RESEARCH INSTITUTE.

As the Waite Research Institute at Urrbrae is conducted under the direction of the Council of the Adelaide University, it was a happy thought upon the part of the authorities to arrange a visit of inspection during the Jubilee celebrations.

A large number of delegates availed themselves of the opportunity to spend the morning at Urrbrae on Wednesday, and a more delightful day could not have been experienced for such a visit. Following upon a congenial season and with the approach of spring, the fields and other parts of the beautiful property were showing at their best, and served to indicate what a vital and progressive part the University is playing in scientific agricultural education for the benefit of the Commonwealth. The visitors marvelled at the transformation of a countryside, which, less than two years ago, was for the main part a forest of gum and peppermint trees, but is now a verdant picture of cereal growth. In the absence of a world tour of the Director (Professor A. V. Richardson), the Acting Director (Professor J. A. Prescott) received the distinguished party, which included the following:—The Chancellor (Sir George Murray) and Miss Murray, the Vice-Chancellor (Professor W. Mitchell), Sir William Cullen (Chancellor of the Sydney University) and Lady Cullen, Sir John MacFarland (Chancellor of the Melbourne University), the Misses Lily and Eva Waite (daughters of the late Mr. Peter Waite), who presented Urrbrae to the University), Sir Mungo MacCullum (Vice-Chancellor of the Sydney University), Sir Henry Barraclough, the Ven. Archdeacon Whittington, Mrs. W. R. Mortlock, Mr. J. T. Mortlock (who gave £2,000 towards the equipment of new laboratories), Mr. W. J. Young, C.B.E., and others.

Institute's Activities Explained.

In the presence of the large assemblage Professor Prescott explained how the institute had been founded through Mr. Waite's generosity for the purpose of investigation into scientific problems underlying primary production. He went on to say how developmental work was at present restricted to plant problems. Investigation into plant disease was in charge of Mr. Geoffrey Samuel, and the work was an offshoot of the Botanical department of the University. In addition to acting in an advisory capacity for the State Government in this connection the institute had been asked by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research to undertake investigations into certain plant diseases, of which tomato wilt was to be the chief problem. The Federal authorities were constructing a glasshouse for this purpose, and providing an annual grant for three years at least to enable additional assistance and equipment to be obtained. In regard to agriculture and field experiments Professor Richards was ably assisted by Mr. H. C. Trumble, B.Sc. Permanent rotation plots had been designed for the study of the most suitable rotation for a 20-inch rainfall. In addition, manual experiments were conducted on wheat, oats, and barley, as well as experiments dealing with the time of sowing and rate of seeding, and variety tests of these three cereals. These experimental areas provided raw material for laboratory investigations. Rotation plots were particularly valuable in the laboratory because examinations of the soil could be made, and already much interesting information had been obtained in regard to what happened when virgin land was ploughed, fallowed, or under crop. They hoped some day to have a bacteriological laboratory in order to make full investigations into this important question. It had been laid down that virgin land was sour land, and it was one of the problems for them to ascertain why it should be sour and why it should take some years to come into productivity. Plant breeding, which had been carried out by Professor Richardson for some years, had been continued, and Mr. I. F. Phipps was taking a special post-graduate course at Cornell University in order to equip himself for this work. Furthermore, Professor Richardson had made special enquiries in Europe in order to enable this aspect of the work to be fully developed in the near future.

Pot Culture House.

Special interest was taken by the visitors in the pot culture house, in which experiments are being made to determine for South Australian conditions the water requirements—expressed in terms of rainfall per unit of dry matter—of the principal farm crops and fodder plants. Professor Prescott showed the party a striking illustration of how little is known of the nutrition of plants. In two glass jars were growing broad bean plants, seeds of which had been raised simultaneously. By the addition of one part of boracic acid to 20,000 parts of water, the growth of one of the beans was much more striking and healthy than the other. In another pot was growing subterranean clover, which plant Professor Prescott said, was a case of

South Australia's gift to the world. Although it was a weed in Europe a new agricultural strain had been evolved originally in the Mount Barker district, and now there was a world-wide demand for the seed. Its habit of burying itself under the ground made it valuable under semi-drought conditions. Another item of interest were young plants of saltbush growing in pots. It is very different in its young succulent stages to the brittle woody nature of the more advanced growth under arid conditions. In regard to the "old man" variety—a term which amused those who had not heard it before—the professor remarked that they had scoured the Commonwealth in order to procure seeds of it. They had been so scarce that they had thought they would have to send to California for them, but fortunately they had been successful in getting a few in Australia. In regard to wheat culture and its water requirements, the maximum production was three bushels to each inch of rain. South Australia was getting one bushel. Experiments in this respect were not conducted under field conditions, but at Urrbrae they had a record of temperature, humidity, and evaporation, but later on experiments would be made by which they would be able to link up this with field work.

Agricultural Chemistry.

The professor said that he was in charge of the agricultural chemistry work in which he was assisted by Messrs. C. S. Piper and R. M. Jacobs (Lowrie Scholar). The present laboratory was equipped for the systematic study of soils, and they were co-operating with the Lands Department in matters of soil classification. Investigations had been made into forest soils at Kuitpo and volcanic soils at Mount Gambier. This work would be extended to include the most important soil types to be found in settled areas linking up eventually with the work of Government departments as a soil survey of the State. Arising out of this would come the broader aspects of soil classification and fundamental chemical and physico-chemical problems.

Future Developments.

The Acting Director pointed out that their present work was carried on in scattered laboratories—two in the basement of the mansion, and three in stable buildings. Facilitated by the generosity of implement manufacturers, who had between them provided a complete farm outfit, funds had thereby been released for development, which included a new glasshouse, implement shed, and fencing. Early in the year Mr. J. T. Mortlock had generously given £2,000, which had been reserved toward the equipment of new laboratories, which they hoped would shortly be constructed.

Tour of Inspection.

Three separate parties were taken over the laboratories and grounds by Professor Prescott, and Messrs. Samuel and Trumble, and many eulogies were heard concerning the splendid practical work being carried out. Morning tea was provided in the dining room, and those who were responsible for the dispensing of this hospitality were Mesdames J. A. Prescott, Trumble, Harvey, Johnston, and F. W. Eardley, and Miss W. Peake.

COMMONWEALTH CLUB.

UNIVERSITY DELEGATES ENTERTAINED.

Several of the visiting delegates to the University Jubilee celebrations were entertained by the Commonwealth Club at luncheon at the Adelaide Town Hall on Wednesday. The guests at this well-attended gathering included Professor J. A. Gunn (Melbourne), the Ven. Archdeacon Whittington (Tasmania), Professor W. Mitchell (Adelaide), Professor Geoffrey Duffield (Canberra), Professor Ross (Western Australia), the Revs. G. O'Neill and J. Murphy (representing the National University of Ireland), and Col. C. Scater, D.S.O. (British Columbia). The President of the club (Mr. Stanley Skipper) was at the head of the table, at which also were Mr. Acting Justice Richards, Sir William Sowden, Sir Edward Lucas, Senator Newlands, Dr. A. A. Lendon Barr, Gen. S. Price Weir, Messrs. W. B. Carr, Robert Burns (editor of The Register), and Mr. P. McMahon Glynn, K.C.

Living and Potent Force.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast of the guests, expressed pleasure at the opportunity given the club to associate itself with the University Jubilee celebrations and entertain a number of distinguished delegates. They represented a

living and potent force in the community, and members were paying some small tribute to all that was contained in the University.

Professor Mitchell, in response, said that so many of the delegates were living privately, and consequently their representation at this gathering was comparatively small. This function was to introduce four delegates. The first would be Dr. Duffield, who represented Adelaide, Reading, and Canberra; then Professor Ross, who had been a pillar of the Western Australian University since its foundation; later, Professor Gunn, the head of the Workers' Educational Association in Melbourne, and whom, notwithstanding his youth, the great University of Liverpool has deputed to represent it; and, finally, the Rev. J. Murphy (master of Newman College, Melbourne).

Solar Research.

Professor Duffield said that when he first undertook the duties of lecturing he had been obsessed by the fear that he might be called upon to give a lecture that he had not prepared. (Laughter.) It had been his privilege to attend Adelaide University about 1900, and he left later with valuable knowledge picked up from Professors Rennie, Bragg, and other lecturers. The University had grown enormously. One saw developments which were marked indeed, and one was proud to be connected with such a virile institution. Many would remember the name of Professor Lamb, of whom he had seen a great deal at Cambridge and Manchester. The professor always carries in his heart the welfare of Adelaide University. The Braggs, father and son, by virtue of their connection with Adelaide University, added lustre to this city. It had been at Manchester that he first became acquainted with astral physics and the development of the inorganic universe. He hoped some day there would be a university in Canberra on the same status and commanding the same respect as other similar institutions throughout the world. It was hoped that the solar observatory at Canberra would fill a gap in the chain of such institutions throughout the world. They occupied there a position in south latitude which provided them with an unexplored field of stars. They hoped to be able to add to the knowledge of the development of worlds—from infancy to old age as it were. They hoped to be able to find some connection between solar and terrestrial phenomena, which would be of real value to the agriculturist and the people of Australia. He personally owed much to the University of Adelaide and to the professors whose example and inspiration had been great in his own case. He liked to meet old schoolmates who called him by his Christian name.

Gratitude for Adelaide University.

Father Murphy said that he envied Professor from its building, required a good foundation of primary and secondary education, and Western Australia would ever be under a debt of gratitude to the Adelaide University and the State for what they had done for the western State before an institution had been founded there. A university could have much power for good in a country, and Adelaide had displayed remarkable judgment in the selection of its staff.

Lavish Endowment.

Father Murphy said that he envied Professor Duffield's facility for being unprepared. (Laughter.) He had been very much impressed by what he had seen in Adelaide, and especially by the extraordinary arrangements made to look after them. He had been asked in his form of consent connected with the University's invitation whether he would like to bring any members of his family, and of course, he had replied in the negative. (Laughter.) Nearly every country in the world was apt to be overridden by the lady, or gentleman, who arrived for a few hours, took in a few impressions—and wrote a book. (Laughter.) However, he had been astounded by the growth of the University of Adelaide and the "City of Culture." He hoped he was not preaching heresy when he said its commercial greatness would not lose anything by its association with University men. One thing that had almost startled them was the astounding lavishness with which they had been endowed in regard to the University. It gave those who came from Victoria a kind of feeling that that particular germ—in spite of their bacteriological department—might be allowed to cross the border. They were very proud in Victoria of Newman College—the youngest of the colleges, and it would interest some of their friends—whose accent told where they came from—that it had been paid for before it had been opened. They could not have the real university spirit unless they had a large measure of residential life. Sometimes people objected that it was too costly to go into residence, but that did not always apply. He wished every success to the University of Adelaide.

A Link With Business.

Professor Gunn said the advance of Liverpool University had been greatly achieved because there had been a link between business men and the university departments. Although the university was only 24 years old they had 57 endowments for professorships. They must aim at the culture not only of the soil, but also of the mind. They should endeavour to turn out from their universities not mere graduates, but those who had an outlook on life, which would entitle them to be called educated men. In regard to the demand for university gradu-

was in black and silver chenille embossed georgette, with pink rose. Miss Bennett was in an ornamental striped skirt and black bodice. Miss R. Bennett wore scarlet and gold embossed velvet. Mrs. J. McKail was in blue beaded georgette. Mrs. John Crampton wore black marocain. Miss Ellie Warren was in powder blue with overdress of silver lace. Miss Maisie Hutton was in tango and white embossed georgette. Miss Delano wore sapphire green and silver tissue with silver rose on the corsage. Miss Tolley was frocked in primrose georgette. Miss J. Moncrieff was wearing a black marocain toilette. Miss Oricks wore scarlet and gold embossed satin. Miss Yvonne Waite chose black chiffon velvet. Miss Mann was wearing green embossed velvet. Miss E. Wemyss was frocked in heliotrope brocaded silk. Miss Janet Fenton's blue georgette had pink roses round the hem. Mrs. A. G. Price was in primrose flowered georgette trimmed with fur. Miss Nell McLaren was frocked in pink georgette beaded in crystal.

Others present were the Chancellor (Sir George Murray), Sir Josiah Symon, Captain R. A. I. Brooke, Sir Archibald Strong, Dr. Harold Davies, Professor Wood Jones, Professor Campbell, Mr. W. R. Bayly, Mr. Rex Wallman, Mr. W. Foote, Mr. and Mrs. Eardley, Mr. J. Glover, Mr. P. Lane, Mr. G. Pearce, Misses Johnson, Angel, and Kelly, Mr. Harold Parsons, Mr. Brian Muller, Mr. R. Best, Misses Margaret and Isabel Hackett, Mr. I. Paltridge, Mr. J. Norris, Mr. Max Jacobs, Mr. George Letcher, Mr. George Krichauff, Mr. Alan Irish, Mr. Douglas McKay, and Mr. Patterson.

ADV. 20.8.26.

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Tom Bridges) celebrates his fifty-fifth birthday to-day. He arrived in South Australia on December 4, 1922, and assumed office the same day. Prior to his appointment to the Governorship he had a notable military career, extending over thirty years. He served with distinction in the Great War and also in the Boer campaign. He was created C.M.G. in 1915, C.B. in 1918, K.C.M.G. in 1919, and K.C.B. in 1925. He



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has British, French, Belgian, and American military decorations. In 1917 he became military member of the Balfour Mission to the United States, and was head of the British War Mission in that country in the following year. Soon afterwards he was appointed special military adviser to the Earl of Reading, when Viceroy of India. For some time he was military attaché at the Hague, Brussels, Copenhagen, and Christiania, and he also rendered important service as head of the British Mission to the Allied armies in the Orient until 1920.

ADV. 23.8.26

INTER-STATE SPORTS.

The Melbourne express carried a large number of sportsmen and sportswomen away from Adelaide last night, their programmes of inter-State games having been completed. Among them were the Victorian and New South Wales women's hockey teams, and the Victorian, New South Wales, and Queensland lacrosse teams. Some of the Western Australians left for Perth in the morning by the East-West express. Several members of the Adelaide University baseball team returned from Sydney by the express in the morning.

REG. 23.8.26

Dr. A. J. Lewis was a passenger for Melbourne by the express on Sunday night. As a Fellow of the Rockefeller Institute, he is on his way to America, where he will continue his medical studies. He will later visit England.