

REAFFORESTATION.

Western Australia Active.

Some interesting particulars in regard to the afforestation work being carried out by the Western Australian Government in the south-west and other portions of the State, were outlined by Mr. S. L. Kessell, Conservator of Forests (W.A.), who is on an official visit to Adelaide in connection with sandalwood matters. Mr. Kessell was educated at the Adelaide High School and the Adelaide University, and after studying at Oxford, succeeded Mr. C. E. Lane-Poole, now Commonwealth Forestry expert, as Con-

afforestation of sandalwood—with which an extensive trade was maintained with China—in the eastern goldfields, where the rainfall was as low as 8 to 10 inches. Mallet bark, which had valuable tanning properties, and which had been ruthlessly exploited in past years, was also engaging the attention of the department, and there was every prospect of extensive sowing of this valuable species on land now lying idle. "The re-establishment of our cut-over areas," the speaker concluded, "which by uncontrolled cutting and frequent firing, were being rapidly converted into waste lands, is now a profitable source of rural employment, and, incidentally, the operations of the department are proving a valuable source of revenue, which last year exceeded £200,000."



MR. S. L. KESSELL, Conservator of Forests in Western Australia.

MAIL 17. 12. 27

EIGHT NEW LAWYERS

University Students Admitted

Eight former students of Adelaide University who graduated bachelors of laws this year were admitted to the Bar today by the Full Court, consisting of Sir George Murray (Chief Justice), Mr. Justice Angas Parsons, Mr. Justice Napier, Mr. Justice Richards, and Mr. Justice Piper.

Those admitted were Mr. George Vincent Culshaw, Misses Sheila Lamont Maddeford and Mabel Laura Goodhart, Messrs. Geoffrey David Hollidge, William Charles Gillespie, Edward Benjamin Beauchamp, Reginald Albert Symons, and John Arthur Leslie Mangan.

In that order their admittance to "the honorable practice of this court" was moved by Messrs. T. S. O'Halloran, K.C., Herbert Solomon, J. Howard Vaughan, S. H. Skipper, J. L. Martin, H. Thompson, H. B. Piper, and E. Povey.

Sir George announced that the following substitutions had been made in the board of examiners:—Messrs. C. A. Edwards for Mr. Justice Piper, G. S. Reid for the late Mr. Paris Nesbit, K.C., and A. S. Blackburn for the late Mr. B. A. Moulden.

Mr. Justice Angas Parsons was appointed vacation judge.

MAIL 17. 12. 27

Prof. Richardson

"Is eminent in his science" is what "Johns" in his new "Who's Who," says of Prof. Arnold E. Victor Richardson, M.A. (Adelaide), D.Sc. (Melbourne), who has just returned from a trip abroad. Prof. Richardson is the head of the Waite Agricultural Research Institute in connection with the University of Adelaide. The notable South Australian came in for high encomiums this week in Parliament when the University Agricultural Education Bill was being considered.

One of this State's benefactors, perhaps the greatest in relation to agricultural science and development, was the late Peter Waite of Urrbrae. All South Australians will agree with the observation of Mr. T. Butterfield, former Commissioner of Crown Lands—"For all time Australia must owe a debt of gratitude to the founder of the Waite Institute."

The eyes of the agricultural scientific world are upon the Waite Institute, which is under the able direction of Prof. Richardson, who is a native of Adelaide. He attended Roseworthy Agricultural College, then Adelaide University, and afterward was for 14 years Superintendent of Agriculture in Victoria.

Seven years ago Dr. Richardson, who is the Waite professor of agriculture in Adelaide University, received the degree of Doctor of Science at Melbourne University for original research work on the water requirements of Australian farm crops, and also on wheat and wheat breeding investigations.

servator in Western Australia in 1922.

Western Australia was fortunate in having extensive hardwood forests so close to the seaboard, Mr. Kessell said, and these were recognised as one of the most compact and valuable hardwood forests in the world. Western Australia was the one State in the Commonwealth which was still maintaining a considerable export trade in timber. This had its disadvantages, in that the forests were being cut much faster than they were growing, and timber that was now being exported might some day be required for internal requirements. "Our timber industry is an important source of rural employment," he continued, "and although limitations of output in certain districts may be necessary with the object of securing sustained yields, the future position is now being safeguarded by very vigorous reafforestation measures. In 1918, a modern Forests Act was placed on the Statute Book, and since then steady progress has been made towards the regeneration and protection of cut-over forest areas."

No Extensive Planting.

In the opinion of Mr. Kessell, Western Australia is fortunate in that its reafforestation scheme does not involve an extensive planting programme. It was rather a matter of control of conditions with a view to aiding natural regeneration. He explained that the department at one time had much to learn concerning silviculture of local forest trees, but it could now be claimed that operations had definitely emerged from the experimental stage, and the work of regeneration was assuming proportions sufficient to justify faith that in the future they would be able to reach the primary objective of all foresters—that of sustained yield. Extensive areas of prime forest country had been carefully mapped out, and last year topographical surveys were carried out over 300,000 acres, involving approximately 3,000 miles to traverse. More than 30 working plans had been prepared, laying down the detailed operations for 600,000 acres. A large number of resident overseers and workmen had been established in the forests, and these men were being trained in the principles of silviculture. Last year approximately 10,000 acres of hardwoods were treated for regeneration, and it was hoped to double the area treated during the next few years.

Hardwoods Only Considered.

Replying to a question, Mr. Kessell said that softwoods played a much less important part in Western Australia than in South Australia, and, in view of the large hardwood resources, the annual planting was being maintained at about 1,000 acres a year. He thought South Australia was to be congratulated on the afforestation work being carried out, and the large acreage of valuable softwood forests successfully established.

Sandalwood and Mallet Bark.

Other activities of the western Forestry Department extended to the control of the sandalwood industry in that State, and much interesting experimental work was in progress in connection with the re-



LATEST PORTRAIT of Sir Langdon Bonython, who for 39 years has been president of the School of Mines and Industries.

REG 19. 12. 27

Trustees' Report.

The McCaughey Bequest.

The seventh annual report of the A.I.F. Canteens' Fund Trust, of which the trustees are Mrs. Alfred Deakin, Col. W. H. Hall, Major-Gen. Sir C. B. White, Sir Nicholas Lockyer, and Messrs. H. P. Moorehead, and G. Swinburne, has been presented to the Federal Parliament. The trustees, who also control the Sir Samuel McCaughey bequest for the technical education of soldiers' children, state in a summary of the report:—

The McCaughey Bequest.

This noble bequest (which is likely to yield £600,000) is probably the finest tribute paid by any single citizen of the British Empire to the memory of its fallen and disabled soldiers. Already 4,709 soldiers' children have been or are being assisted. A total of about 13,000 children will be aided by the bequest. Funds will be available to aid them in expert technical training, whether as artisans, or for business or professional careers. The bequest is sufficient to assist materially in the technical training of each child of every deceased or totally disabled Australian soldier. Assistance includes provision for school fees, books, fares, and sustenance allowance at junior and senior technical schools, commercial, accountancy and agricultural colleges, and at universities. Cash rewards, totalling £41,000 to date, have been provided for trade apprentices—of whom there are already nearly 2,000—as an incentive to efficiency and good conduct, and special assistance is extended to deaf and dumb, blind, crippled and mentally deficient children. Of the beneficiaries receiving assistance, 49 are taking courses at universities, 50 at teachers' training colleges, 147 at agricultural colleges, and 645 at commercial and accountancy colleges.

Canteen Funds.

During the past seven years, the sum of £745,000 has been distributed in 49,587 grants to seriously disabled soldiers and dependants of deceased soldiers in need of assistance. The funds are now exhausted, and the trustees will be unable to entertain any further applications for assistance. The percentage cost of administration has been £1 12/3. The funds have involved no charge upon the Government or public in respect of contribution, management, or collection. So far as the trustees are aware, Australia is the only country whose profits from the war canteens have been wholly distributed among the representatives of the original contributors.

ADV. 21. 12. 27

AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION.

BILL PASSED BY THE COUNCIL.

ENTHUSIASTIC SUPPORT.

In the Legislative Council on Tuesday the Minister of Agriculture (Hon. J. Cowan) moved the second reading of the Agricultural Education Bill, providing for an additional grant to the University of Adelaide for the promotion of research in agriculture. He said the grant was to increase annually from £5,000 in 1927-28 to £15,000 in 1936-37.

Sir David Gordon said the Bill was one which members could support with enthusiasm. Even in the lifetime of the members agriculture had been improved wonderfully by the introduction of science. There was no knowing to what extent production could be increased through the work of the Waite Institute. It might be a good thing if the Government could see their way clear to exempt from income tax gifts to the University and such institutions as Urrbrae.

The Hon. W. G. J. Mills said it was time some such measure was introduced to deal with pests which were hindering production.

The Hon. J. Jelley said he hoped the amount set down—£104,000—would be spent wisely. Other speakers had eulogised the experimentalists, but there was a chance that they might "take it easy" later on, and public men must take an interest in the institution. The State would get a good "quid pro quo" for the expenditure.

The Hon. T. McCallum said the farmer was indebted to nobody so much as himself. It might be a good thing to give the farmer a measure of help to make his own experiments. He did not deny the value of science as applied to practice, but the improvements in agriculture in South Australia had been due largely to the farmer himself. He would nevertheless vote for the Bill.

The Hon. T. Pascoe said if the Waite Institute could not show a handsome return for the expenditure Mr. Waite's bequest would have been an absolute failure. He had every confidence in the work that was being done there. Experiment farms could not pay until they ceased to experiment, as the most valuable knowledge often came from the failures.

The Hon. J. H. Cooke said the farmer could not be backed up in the world's markets by such artificial means as tariffs. His best chance was to increase the productivity of his holding. The Hon. W. H. Harvey said South Australia could only progress in agriculture by the production of tangible results by those making the necessary enquiries. The passing of the Bill would be an epoch in the history of the State. The Bill was passed through all its stages without amendment.