

PLANS OF RESEARCH COUNCIL.

The Vice-President of the Executive Council (Senator Pearce) announced in Melbourne on Monday the details of a plan for an extensive and fundamental investigation into problems associated with the production of wool and mutton. The work will be carried out by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research in cooperation with the University at Adelaide, and an agreement as to general lines has just been concluded between these two bodies. From ever since the council has been provided with evidence of the need for a carefully planned systematic investigation into such questions as composition of the wool, the points of view of their protein, mineral, and vitamin contents, the regeneration of depleted natural pastures, and the relations between growth of stock and nature of pasture, and zoological type of country. At first the applied work will be limited mainly to wool and mutton.

No Early Results. In planning this work the council is looking very far ahead. The work is far from being spectacular, and cannot be expected to yield any immediate results for some years, but of the imperative need for such a development in Australia there can be no doubt. The council has been singularly fortunate. The Council has secured Professor T. Brasford Robertson to take charge of this activity, devoting his whole time to it. Professor Robertson's work on biochemistry, and particularly on problems of growth and nutrition, has already gained him very high scientific standing. His earlier investigations were conducted in California in the laboratory of the distinguished Dr. E. C. Snell. Since 1929 he has occupied the Chair of Physiology and Biochemistry in the University of Adelaide, and has developed one of the finest biochemical schools in the Empire. The whole of his technique, as well as his high training and wide experience, are the asset of the council, which is about to erect a substantial laboratory in the grounds of the University. In this laboratory fundamental research on the breeding animals will be developed, and the University will place at its disposal all the facilities which it provides for its own various departments.

At the Waite Institute. At the Waite Institute this work will be linked up with field investigations on sheep. On his recent visit to England Professor A. E. Y. Richardson, director of the institute, not knowing of the council's intentions, drew up a comprehensive scheme in association with the Empire Marketing Board for an investigation into the mineral deficiencies of pastures. Throughout the Empire there is a widespread feeling that this type of work if animal industries are to develop as they should and must. A hand-out for capital and annual expenditure was offered to the Empire Marketing Board. This offer has now been transferred to and accepted by the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. A fusion made of the various projects with Professor A. J. Prescott (formerly of the agricultural survey work of Professor T. G. B. Osborne) on problems of nutrition of fodder grasses and plants which he has been working on some time on a reservation at Koonoorewa (S.A.), there is no doubt that a powerful research will be conducted, and accumulating knowledge on those very important questions of nutrition. Professor Robert Pearce is visiting various sheep growing centres and is consulting practical men problems which have to be faced. Precisely what the future developments will be it would be idle to attempt to forecast, but, said Senator Pearce in conclusion, if in this work the council can secure the widest interest and cooperation, and also receive the constructive criticism of pastoralists generally, and of those State Government departments which are concerned with the primary industry. It is an essentially national research, "long-lated" in the sense that it looks well into the future, and is of a type that Parliament has decided to see undertaken when it brought the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research into being.

REC 15 3 27 Canon W. Hey Sharp, M.A., of Gordon, New South Wales, who has resigned the office of Registrar of the Australian College of Theology, lived in Adelaide more than half a century ago (writes "Ecce-vain"). He came from England in 1878, and was assistant master of the Australian College School for about five years. While here he married the second daughter of Canon (afterwards Archbishop) George Henry Farr, M.A., E.D., who had been head master of the school for nearly half a century. In 1878 Canon Sharp left St. Peter's on his appointment as Warden of St. Paul's College in the University of Sydney, where he remained for 30 years, and then relinquished the position he is now relinquishing. He has been a Canon of St. Andrew's Cathedral, Sydney, Canon Sharp, who is in his eighty-second year.

Kingston-upon-Hull, Yorkshire. His father was William Sharp, M.D., F.R.S., of Horton House, Rugby, and his mother was a daughter of the Rev. J. Scott, of Hull. Exhibitions to Rugby School took Oxford he became scholar of Lincoln College, Oxford, in 1866, graduated in arts in 1868, and took his M.A. degree in 1871, the year following his ordination by the Bishop of Ely. For a year he was curate of Silcoe, Bedfordshire, and then until his departure for Australia, assistant master of Oakfield, Rugby. For five years he was examining chaplain to Bishop Barry, of Sydney, and in 1893 he was appointed chaplain to the Archbishop of Sydney. Three years later he was made a Fellow of the Australian College of Theology, and in 1897 he was elected to the Anglican Church, New Zealand, is a brother-in-law.

REC. 15 3 27

ELDER CONSERVATORIUM

Inaugural Address.

The year's work at the Elder Conservatorium opened on Monday evening with a most interesting and highly successful concert in the hall, when the inaugural address was given by the Director (Professor Harold Davies), matter for serious thought, and a review of the rather faulty educational system of the big hall, to gather the audience together at the back and speak close to the speaker's ears, as they can be heard at close range untroubled by the usual echoes. In addition to the students most of the staff are present.

The Professor opened his address by welcoming the new students, who this year numbered 120. He wanted them to feel absolutely at home in the old family of the Conservatorium. He hoped old students, old and new, would feel as did that it was a privilege to belong to such a school. The name and fame of the Adelaide University were held in high respect in the world, and the Elder Conservatorium was an integral part of that University—matter for serious thought, and a review of the rather faulty educational system of the big hall, to gather the audience together at the back and speak close to the speaker's ears, as they can be heard at close range untroubled by the usual echoes. In addition to the students most of the staff are present.

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The opening school of the Conservatorium will take place on Monday evening. The list of students is being prepared, and portions of the programme will be an inaugural address by the Director (Professor Harold Davies) on Monday, March 28. Among the operative numbers which Mr. Davies has arranged for inclusion for the use of the Conservatorium opera class is a one-act opera by Nicholas Gatty entitled "Prince Florio", which is a well-known figure in the musical life of London, as pianist, composer, and musical critic. Apparently no mention of this institution in the official programme mapped out for the Duke and Duchess of York's visit to Adelaide. Balls, dinners, and other social entertainments are being given if the Cinderella art will have to remain in the background.

ADELAIDE'S PREMIER 'CELLIST.

Chat with Mr. Harold Parsons.

Twenty Years at the Conservatorium.

One of the most self-effacing of musicians in Mr. Harold Parsons, Mus. Bac., son of Mr. Stephen Parsons, who is undoubtedly South Australia's greatest exponent of the violinello. Adelaide has just caused the proud of this young artist, who has not only won personal success, but is engaged in a lifework of striving to impart some measure of his musicianship to other aspirants in the realm of the cello. For 20 years Mr. Parsons has been connected with the Elder Conservatorium of Music, and has gradually emerged from brilliant student days to a highly qualified

MR. HAROLD PARSONS, Mus. Bac.

position. No more popular performer ever appears in public, for a deep sense of the poetical, allied to sound and brilliant technique, stamp this executant as an unusually well-equipped master of his instrument. As an organist, too, Mr. Parsons has won considerable recognition, and since Mr. Harold Wynn's departure for England, he has taken charge of his student duties at the Conservatorium. When Dr. Davies declined to relinquish the post of organist at Kent Town Methodist Church, Mr. Parsons—who was then organist of Stow Church—was invited to accept the vacancy. With theory classes, Junior Orchestra, and Junior Kuesenbein, this instructor has little leisure.

Memorable Visits Abroad.

In the course of an interview with a representative of The Register yesterday, Mr. Parsons was asked what his aim was in taking up music seriously. He remarked: "In my youthful days we had a family orchestra. My father was a very capable violinist, and my mother a good pianist. Other members of the family supplied violins and flutes, but there was no cello. The late Mr. Stevens was one of our neighbours, and I suggested that I should try the cello, so he began my studies. His instruction was very thorough, and I attended lessons with him very happy ones. When Mr. Kuegelberg arrived in South Australia, I was enrolled as his student. His instruction was very thorough, and I attended lessons with him very happy ones. When Mr. Kuegelberg arrived in South Australia, I was enrolled as his student. His instruction was very thorough, and I attended lessons with him very happy ones."

"Did you not go abroad to study?" was enquired. "Yes, in 1905 it was decided that I should enlarge my musical outlook on the Continent, as well as in London," replied Mr. Parsons. "The occasion for my suggestion that I should endeavour to place myself under Professor Hugo Becker's guidance was in 1904, when I was in London, and spent a few months there prior to going to Frankfurt-on-Maine. When I entered the Cello Conservatorium, Professor Hugo Becker had closed his institution, and I attended these classes. I also had private lessons with him in Frankfurt, and in London. He was very kind, and I was appointed to the position of organist at the Conservatorium which I now hold. My studies there have been very happy ones. Among those there have been very happy ones. I had the happiness of being associated with in chamber music concerts are—The Duke and Duchess of York, Mr. Bryceson Teague, Mr. H. Heinicke, and Mr. Eugene Alderman, Miss Nora Kyffin Williams, and Mr. Gerald Walens."

"In 1913 the Council of the University granted 12 months' leave in order that I might visit Europe," was asked. "I went to Berlin, and had lessons with my old teacher, Professor Becker, who was the master of the cello. He was Professor at the Royal College of Music. My few months were very busy ones. He sent me attending classes and taking private lessons, I had much to learn, and on more than one occasion I attended concerts afternoon and evening.

"Genuine Music Lovers." "When did you make your first appearance in ensemble playing?" was asked. "I will remember that ordeal," said Mr. Parsons with a reminiscent smile. "It was a performance of the Overture to a piano trios by Haydn. My old teacher, Mr. Kate Reinecke, now the wife of Dr. Forthby, of Stratford, was the pianist, and the late Mr. Eugene Alderman was the violinist. We were all very young, for it must be about 30 years ago."

"What effect has your performance of ensemble music at the Conservatorium during the past 20 years had upon musical taste of Adelaide audiences?" was inquired. "A keener sense of appreciation and a growing desire for the truly beautiful form of music" was the reply. "Chamber music is, in many respects, the highest ideal to which one may attain in instrumental music. For example, where could one find any compositions more spiritualized or artistically perfect than the Beethoven string quartets. In connection with the Beethoven Centenary, while critics and writers on music are so earnestly discussing the life and work of Beethoven in the perspective of the 100 years past, the unanimous consensus of opinion is that the great master is greatest in his string quartets, not even excepting such colossal works as the Choral Symphony or the Solemn Mass."

"Is the standard of music as performed here, as high as that of the other Australian capitals?" "I have not had opportunities of hearing ensemble performances in the other States, but that I am hardly in a position to answer this," said the musician. When asked whether the works of the modern school of composers are as favourably received by musical audiences as those of the old masters, Mr. Parsons replied: "Generally speaking, yes. Our audiences consist of genuine music lovers, who are keen and anxious to note the development which is going on in the musical world."

A Tribute to the S.A. Orchestra.

"What of orchestra work in Adelaide?" asked the reporter. "I have been much impressed with the marked advance made since our present conductor, Mr. W. H. Foote, has had the word in hand," was the reply. The wind instrument sections of the orchestra are most difficult to handle, and in this branch Mr. Foote is undoubtedly a past master. This fact, coupled with his boundless energy and enthusiasm, has been the means of accomplishing much in orchestral work in Adelaide. Visitors to South Australia from the other States and from abroad are always most eulogistic, and speak in flattering terms of Mr. Foote and his orchestra. To mention two only—Dame Mella and Percy Grainger—the opinions of such world-renowned artists as these must be highly prized. Works have been performed, and are to be performed this year, which are, as yet, unheard in the other States. The concert of the season will be a Beethoven programme, in keeping with his centenary."