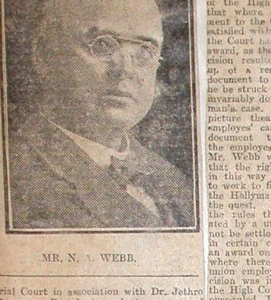
MR. DEPUTY-PRESIDENT WEBB'S RETIREMENT.

A Fine Record of Service.

On Monday, February 27, Mr. Noel A. Webb will cease to be Deputy-President of the Federal Arbitration Court.

Mr. Webb has had a distinguished career as a public servant. For six years he was Deputy-President of the State Indus-



MR. N. A. WEBB.

trial Court in association with Dr. Jethro Brown as President; and the reports of the tribunal's activities while these two gentlemen conducted their affairs are most worth-while notice. The work of Dr. Jethro Brown as President brought the South Australian Court into great prominence, and his judgments are quoted in nearly all international works on the subject of wage fixation. It was thus inevitable that the work of his colleague should also be brought into notice, and Mr. Webb's decisions and awards are largely quoted in text books on the subject. The period was one of almost complete industrial peace in South Australia, and the work of the Deputy-President won general respect and confidence. Mr. Webb's intellectual energy was not confined to the work of the Court. In various public emergencies his faculty for thorough investigation of facts and his judicial temperament were called into requisition. When South Australia was threatened with serious trouble in the timber industry, Mr. Webb was asked to save the matter to him, and the South Australian Government notified that it would be bound by his decision. He was also appointed to enquire into several large and important matters, the principal of which was the Government timber purchases, and the general management of the Wheat Scheme. In all this work he rendered service which was of great value to the State. It was, therefore, with satisfaction that the public learned that the work which he had done as a State-Judge had been rewarded by a call to higher service, and that he had been offered the position of Deputy-President of the Commonwealth Court of Conciliation and Arbitration. Mr. Webb has occupied this position for four and a half years. During that time he has been associated with Mr. Justice Powers (the President of the Court), and Sir John Quick (the Deputy President), and the work of the Court has been extraordinarily heavy. The amazing volume of work accomplished during these years is testified to by many bulky books of reports. Many important cases fell to the lot of Mr. Webb. The first great case which he dealt with concerned the timber workers. This industry had been previously considered by the Court, but no general award had been made. The timber trade was being carried on under a multiplicity of awards and agreements. Mr. Webb set about the task of bringing them into one code. All parties in the case believed long frequently said that this was an impossible task, but Mr. Webb showed that she was not so. He said that Mr. Webb had a stretcher placed in the Court, and hardly left his chambers for months, until at length the task was completed.

Simplifying Court Processes

The timber workers' award has been judicially referred to as a masterpiece of industrial legislation. It was in this award that the practice first appeared of separating the rates of pay for journeymen and skill. This practice is now generally adopted in all awards, and has greatly simplified the work of adjusting wages, and resulted in a great saving of time for the parties. Many of the clauses of the timber workers' award are now common to all awards. It was in the timber case that Mr. Webb's attention was called to certain defects in the registration of trade unions, and he has since, from time to time, examined the constitution of many unions, with the result that the work of registration of unions has been almost completely revised and put in order. The timber workers' case was the beginning of a long series of cases tried by Mr. Webb, several of which were of great magnitude. These include the clothing trades' case, the theatrical cases, including musicians and actors, the printing trades cases, carpenters and joiners' case, rubber cases, liquor trades' cases, and many others.

Highly Important Decisions.

A huge army of the workers of Australia is working peacefully under Mr. Webb's awards. His decisions on questions of law have also formed a prominent feature of his work, and have resulted in a considerable widening of the jurisdiction of the Federal Court. The most famous of these decisions is the well-known Cinema Case. There had been a decision of the High Court in Hollyman's case that where employes presented a document to the Court stating that they were satisfied with their wages and conditions, the Court had no jurisdiction to make an award, as there was no dispute. This decision operated in the case growing out of a respondent presenting such a document to the Court, and asking that its be struck out of the case, and this was invariably done on the authority of Hollyman's case. The Cinema Theatre was a picture theatre cited in the theatrical employes' case, and it presented such a document to the Court. As most of the employes were women and children, Mr. Webb was impressed with the view that the rights of wage-employes might in this way be easily invaded, so he set to work to find a new way round the Hollyman case, and he succeeded in the quest. In his judgment he laid down the rule that a dispute could be created by a union, that this dispute could not be settled by the employes, and that, in certain cases, the Court could make an award on a dispute by the union even where there were no members of the union employed. This revolutionary decision was immediately challenged before the High Court, but that Court promptly over-ruled Hollyman's case and upheld Mr. Webb's decision on all points. The cinema case is one of the most important decisions affecting the jurisdiction of the Court recorded. This case was followed by the Rialto case, in which Mr. Webb laid down the rule that in a proper dispute the Court could order a respondent to pay the award rate to employes who were not members of the union. This is sometimes commonly called the common rule case. At first it was thought by some to be beyond the powers of the Court, but now the general consensus of legal opinion is that Mr. Webb's decision is the natural corollary of the cinema case. The decision in the Rialto case has not been challenged and is now generally followed. These cases will be the basis of the jurisdiction of the Court until the constitution is altered.

News. 15·2·27

RESIDENT MEDICAL OFFICERS AT ADELAIDE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Dr. F. M. Hamp

REG. 16·2·27

MAGISTERIAL CHANGES.

Mr. Sabine, P.M., Granted Long Leave.

Arrangements have been made for Mr. E. M. Sabine, P.M. at Adelaide, to take eight months' long leave, and he will sail during the first week in March on a holiday trip to Great Britain and the Continent. It is the first long leave that Mr. Sabine has had extending over a period of 20 years' service, nine of which have been in the capacity of Police Magistrate at Adelaide.

MR. E. M. SABINE, P.M.

Mr. Sabine has had an honoured career in the public service of South Australia, and many of his friends have already wished him bon voyage on a holiday that all believe he deserves. Mr. Sabine was appointed Police Magistrate at Adelaide following the elevation in 1918 of the late Judge Altichelt to the position previously held by the late Mr. Commissioner Rose sell. Mr. Sabine was appointed in 1918 to succeed Mr. W. Johnstone, S.M., at Mount Gambier, and was later transferred to Port Pirie, his Adelaide appointment following this transference. Mr. Sabine was admitted to the Bar in 1896, and has always been regarded as a very capable man. H.M. Muirhead, S.M., taking charge of No. 2 Police Court. Mr. Haslam has had extensive Police Court experience in the past, and it is thought that he would fittingly carry out Mr. Sabine's duties. The work of the Adelaide Police Court has grown to a great extent during the past few years, and the time of two Magistrates is usually occupied.

Local Court Magistrates.

It was said in Law Court circles on Tuesday that the statement of the Attorney-General (Hon. A. W. Styles) that three new Stipendiary Magistrates were appointed to overtake the congestion of work at the Local Court, was incorrect. Actually only one additional Magistrate had been appointed. Three new Stipendiary Magistrates (Messrs. Kelly, Sanderson, and Nesbit) were actually appointed by the Government, but they were only to relieve existing vacancies, caused by the death of Judge Mitchell, and the retirement of Mr. W. J. Hiscle, S.M., at Port Augusta. Mr. Nesbit was appointed to Port Augusta, and Mr. Sanderson to Mount Gambier in lieu of Mr. H. M. Muirhead, who was transferred to Adelaide No. 2 Court to assist Mr. L. H. Haslam was appointed to the Local Court Bench. This appointment was occasioned by the elevation of Mr. Paine, S.M., to the judicial position now occupied by Judge Mitchell. Mr. S. B. Bonnin, who was stationed in the Wallaroo district, was transferred to the Adelaide Local Court, and Mr. C. Kelly was appointed to that area. Therefore, it would appear that Mr. Rossiter's aid is the only additional appointment to the Local Court Bench.

REG. 16·2·27

News has been received in Adelaide that Dr. Carl I. Streich, M.B.C.P., has passed the D.P.H. examination recently held in London.

NEWS. 15·2·27

STROKED WINNING CREW

Letter from Rhodes Scholar

DR. L. THYER AT OXFORD

Dr. Lewis Thyer, the South Australian Rhodes Scholar for 1924, was stroke of the winning crew in the race for coxedfours in the following letter:—

He spent his Christmas in Oxford doing some research work, and so was privileged to attend the special Christmas Eve service at Magdalen.

"From my end of the world I have good news for you. We won the Torpids race for the first time Magdalen has won anything since I have been up, and we hope it is a forerunner of future successes.

"There were eight crews entered for the event, which made two heats in the first round, two semi-finals, and a final. We drew against Hertford in the first round, the day was foggy, and the first heat was rowed in a most absolute obscurity. It the time it came to our turn, bows were for the course. We were much too good for Hertford, and had a comfortable win by four lengths.

Won Final by Two Lengths

"In the semi-finals next day we met Oriel, who had also won their heat easily in the first round, and whose time was only three seconds slower than ours. Oriel is fashioned all the round heats. However, in the semi-finals we rowed our best form, and defeated Oriel by five lengths. Merton won the other semi-final, and we met them in the final. They gave us the best race, but we passed the post two lengths ahead of Merton.

"Great was the rejoicing. We celebrated with an excellent dinner that evening, to which we invited other members of the boat club. Dons and two men of each Merton crew. The Magdalen chef provided an excellent menu.

"We have a coach of our coach, Mr. Lee, with a fine silver pot, and are ourselves to be presented with our oars, which is a great honour.

Christmas at Magdalen

"The pre-president of Magdalen invited me to the carol singing in college. It was a charming ceremony. In the hall was a huge Christmas tree provided by the Dons, with whom I lodge. They are the first dignitaries in Oxford.

"The early part of the evening was spent in singing carols, the choir excepting from "The Messiah." Then came an interval for refreshments, in which the choir boys had an excellent tea. Dons, without the high table, the place usually set apart to the Dons, while the Fellows and guests of the night had supper at the high table. Then followed the dance pies and old-fashioned port wine negus formed the basis of the supper.

"Dancing had to stop in the gallery, as they are never allowed in the hall proper on these occasions. Presents were then given to the choirboys. At 11 o'clock Christmas Eve lights were lit, and all other lights turned out, while carols were sung. It was a lovely spectacle, and singing was perfect.

"Just before midnight 'Adeste Fideles' was rendered in Latin. Then, as the clock struck 12 the whole choir sang 'Gloria' for Christmas Day. There was general handshaking and wishes for a happy Christmas exchanged, while the bells in the tower burst into a merry peal."

ADV. 15-2-27

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ADELAIDE, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1927.

EDUCATION CONFERENCES.

The world to-day, and especially the British portion of it, cannot be accused of remissness in the matter of child training. There is no subject more fully discussed and widely discussed, and discussion acquires exceptional value when representatives from interchange between different communities of knowledge and the ideals based on knowledge. Plato's conception of a perfect state of human society, from which ignorance, discord, and disease would be banished, judging from recent developments is approaching nearer and nearer towards full realisation in the modern world. What was partially accomplished in mediæval Europe by the use of a common language in the profession of a common religious faith and a common culture is in process of accomplishment once more with differences united to the altered ideas of modern world has no counterpart though members than one at a time are able to