

THE UNIVERSITY.

PROFESSOR OF ECONOMICS.

MR. L. G. MELVILLE SELECTED.

It was announced on Thursday that at a special meeting of the Council of the University of Adelaide to consider applications from England, Australia, and New Zealand for the Chair of Economics recently created, it was unanimously resolved to appoint Mr. Leslie Galfreid Melville, B.Econ., and fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, London, who has for the past five years been Public Actuary for South Australia. He will take up his new duties on June 1.

Academic Distinctions.

Mr. Melville, who is only 27 years of age, was appointed Public Actuary early in 1924, in place of Mr. R. R. Stuckey, who succeeded Mr. H. F. Peacock as Under Treasurer. Born at Marsfield, New South Wales, he was educated in part at the Sydney Church



Mr. L. G. Melville.

of England Grammar School, and in 1918 gained his leaving certificate with first-class honors in mathematics, English, and physics, and won the Barker Scholarship and the Horner Exhibition, both for mathematics. In 1919 he entered the University of Sydney as an undergraduate in the faculty of engineering, and won various distinctions, including the George Allen Scholarship for mathematics, and Professor L. Cotton's prize for field work in geology. During 1920 Mr. Melville took the second year course in science, and obtained further academic distinction, carrying off Mr. H. C. Russell's prize for astronomy, the Norbert Quirk prize for mathematics, and the Barker Scholarship No. 2. In the same year he entered the State service as a member of the actuarial staff, and in December was successful in the Institute of Actuaries examination, part 1, sections A and B, while in 1923 he qualified as an associate of the Institute of Actuaries, and last year as a fellow of it. Mr. Melville, during his University career, took a leading part in social activities, and was a member of the Sydney University debating team for the inter-University debates held in Adelaide in 1923. He is a staunch supporter of the League of Nations, a member of the board of the Y.M.C.A., lecturer in statistics in the commercial course, and a member of the board of commercial statistics at the University, administrator of the Police Pension Fund, and actuary to the South Australian Public Service Superannuation Fund, in addition to Public Actuary (a position which relates chiefly to friendly societies). Mrs. Melville is the oldest daughter of Mr. C. A. Scales, of Robe-terrace, Medindie, and there is one son. Mr. Melville is highly esteemed by all who know him.

Eulogy by Premier.

The Premier (Hon. R. L. Butler) stated last night that the Government were extremely sorry to lose the services of Mr. Melville, who was, perhaps, one of the most brilliant economists and actuaries in the Commonwealth to-day, but they heartily congratulated him upon his new appointment, and were glad that his services would not be lost to South Australia. He had rendered exceptionally valuable service in helping to prepare the case put before the Disabilities Commission in the appeal to the Federal Government for a special grant to the State. His evidence in that regard was especially good.

REC. 1-3-29

TO FILL CHAIR OF ECONOMICS

Young S.A. Actuary To Go To University

BRILLIANT CAREER

MR. L. G. MELVILLE, the Public Actuary of South Australia, has been appointed Professor of Economics at Adelaide University. He is only 26, and will be one of the youngest Professors of Economics in the world. The new Chair of Economics was endowed only this year.

The appointment was made at a special meeting of the University Council yesterday. Applications were considered from England, Australia, and New Zealand. Mr. Melville's appointment was decided on unanimously.

Mr. Melville will begin his new duties soon.

His appointment will be popular, particularly as he is Australian-born. Educated at Sydney Church of England Grammar School and Sydney University, he had a brilliant scholastic career.

Lecturing at University

In 1924, when he was 22, he was appointed Public Actuary of South Australia, succeeding Mr. R. R. Stuckey, Under-Treasurer. He was probably the youngest actuary in Australia holding such an important position.

He had been lecturing on statistics at the University for some time. In July he received advice of his election as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries, London.

The institution of a Chair of Economics is the result of several years' agitation; but through lack of funds the Council of the University could not endow it before this year.

When Professor Osborn took up an appointment at Sydney University, the Council decided not to continue with the Chair of Botany, and funds were made available towards a Chair of Economics, which is now a popular subject at the University.

Premier's Praise

The Premier (Mr. Butler) said last night the Government were very sorry to lose the services of Mr. Melville, who was one of the most brilliant economists and actuaries in the Commonwealth, but it heartily congratulated him upon his new appointment.

He had rendered very valuable service in helping to prepare the case put before the Disabilities Commission in the appeal to the Federal Government for a special grant to the State.

NEWS 4-3-29
ALSO REC.

CONSERVATORIUM REOPENS

Farewell to Miss Maude Puddy

To celebrate the opening of Elder Conservatorium for the year, an annual commencement ceremony will be held tonight, when students, as well as members of Elder Conservatorium Association, past and present, will attend.

The ceremony will take the form of a review of the work of last year, and a forecast of the interests for the present year. Dr. Harold Davies, Mus. Bac., will give an address, the subject of which will be "Life and Work."

Opportunity also will be taken of bidding farewell to Miss Maude Puddy, who will leave on Thursday by the Otranto for a trip to Europe.

A dance following supper will bring the function to a close.

NEWS 4-3-29

KANGAROO ISLAND

Visit by Mr. C. T. Madigan

ROCK FORMATION STUDIED

Mr. C. T. Madigan (Acting Professor of Geology at the University of Adelaide) has returned from a trip of a fortnight to Kangaroo Island, where he has investigated rock formations. He had made interesting discoveries on a previous visit.

In an interview today he spoke of what he had seen, and incidentally referred to various phases of the island and its attractions for tourists.

"Following my recent discoveries," he said, "I located rocks of an age new to the southern parts of South Australia. They occur along the northern coast of Kangaroo Island, which is extremely difficult of access owing to its rugged nature.

"One cannot see much of the coast from the road, and must tackle dense scrub and cliffs, which make geological work arduous. Extending my previous enquiries, I discovered fossiliferous boulders containing archaeocyathinae in a conglomerate formation.

Fossils in Limestone

"One of the oldest known types of fossils in South Australia is in the limestone from Sellick's Hill to Normanville, and in the northern Flinders Ranges. These are rare and are nowhere developed so well as in this State.

"I was anxious to find the original rock from which the boulders came. Now I have confirmed my previous opinion that this lies under the sea to the north of Kangaroo Island. Formations containing these boulders were traced to Middle River, where still older formations were encountered."

Referring to the roads on the island Mr. Madigan said that they were on a plateau-like surface. The Middle River track was a one-way road, and at times several miles from the sea. It ran from Kingscote 40 miles away. The council merely grubbed the last 20 miles and lent a grader, with the result that three or four families did the rest of the work.

Fishing and Farming

"The island is fascinating, and is unsurpassed for fishing—as I have proved," continued the speaker, who had made large hauls of crayfish, bream, whiting, schnapper, yellowtail, and sweep from rocks and boats.

"There is a pleasing atmosphere of optimism. People seem full of energy. Most of the island consists of dense, unreclaimed scrub, and various improved methods of scrub-rolling and burning are being tried. The horses versus tractor problem is at its highest, and it looks as though the tractor will win.

"The power of regeneration in the scrub is remarkable. Fields have been rolled and burned, and then have actually carried a crop. If left for two or three years they become quite indistinguishable from surrounding bush. Much of the plateau is covered with a mantle of ironstone gravel, and there is reason to hope that subterranean clover can be induced to establish itself in this country.

"At present not much can be done owing to the scrub, and there being few agricultural areas. There would be a bright future for the pastoral industry if the clover could be introduced. Sheep cannot live in the scrub. The Bell family took 250 sheep to the island in the early days, but all of them died on the northern coast. The island will not support them."

NEWS 11-3-29

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

Resume Classes Tomorrow

Since examinations in November University students, with the exception of those attending the Conservatorium, have been on vacation.

Teaching at the Conservatorium was resumed on February 18, and the first term in other classes will begin tomorrow.

Mr. F. W. Eardley (registrar of Adelaide University) stated this morning that the number of entries received for the various sections compared favorably with that of last year, when the post-graduates, under-graduates, non-graduates, and Conservatorium students numbered 2,340.

REG. 6-3-29

RESEARCHER IN MARINE BIOLOGY WANTED

Science and Industry Scholarship Offered

A studentship in marine biology, tenable at an approved institution in England is offered by the trustees of the Science and Industry Endowment Fund to graduates (or people of equivalent training) who are likely to develop into first-class research workers.

The studentship is of the value of £300 a year for two years. Travelling expenses are provided.

The successful student will be required to give the trustees an option over his or her services for three years after the conclusion of their training at salaries of not less than £400, £450, and £500 for each year, respectively.

Applications will close on April 22, and the winner will have to be prepared to leave Australia in August.

Further information may be obtained from the secretary to the trustees, 314 Albert street, East Melbourne.

ADV. 11-3-29

UNIVERSITIES ABROAD.

FORTUNATE AMERICA.

RETURN OF DR. C. W. PENNYCUICK.

After an absence of 12 months, Dr. C. W. Pennyquick, accompanied by his wife, returned to Adelaide on Saturday by the Orford. Dr. Pennyquick, who is on the staff of the University, has been engaged in research work in connection with colloidal metals and their application to biology and agriculture at the University of California. He also undertook similar investigations for a few months in Vienna.

"It was my first visit to the United States," said Dr. Pennyquick, "and I was tremendously impressed by the abounding prosperity of the country. It was evident on all sides. It struck me as being almost indecent, it was so general, so solid. The universities there are in a happy position. They have ample funds and elaborate buildings. Millionaires are fond of endowing chairs; they have more money, often, than they know what to do with. Recently Princeton University appealed for 3,000,000 dollars (about £600,000) and the sum was immediately subscribed. On the other hand, there is a general disregard of the law. Not only is the prohibition decree quite openly flouted, but there is an appalling amount of 'graft' throughout the country. The acceptance of bribes has become a mere matter of course.

"In England I was impressed by the attitude of the people in regard to trade. They are determined to regain their lost position of supremacy, and are making great efforts in this direction. Germany seemed very prosperous indeed; but Austria is still visibly suffering from the effects of the war and the peace. The loss of her territories has been a sore blow to her, and she is apt to consider President Wilson to blame for her unhappy present position."

REG. 12-3-29

AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES ARE RICH

English Institutions do More Solid Work

When Dr. G. W. Pennyquick, of Adelaide University, was abroad he compared university systems in America, Europe, and England, and engaged in chemical research under the Rockefeller Foundation. He returned to Adelaide by the Orford on Saturday with Mrs. Pennyquick.

American universities were very rich, he said. England's institutions were not so wealthy, but their research work was carried to a more logical conclusion.

Germany seemed prosperous and her universities were well endowed. The reverse was the case with Austria.

ADV. 12-3-29

UNIVERSITY CLASSES RESUME.

After the long vacation, which began in November, the University students begin work for the new year this morning. The number of students enrolled for the different sections compares favorably with that of last year, which was then 2,340 post-graduates, under-graduates, non-graduates, and Conservatorium students.