

FIGHT AGAINST CANCER.

From CHAS. NEWLING.—A deputation asked the Chief Secretary to provide £5,000 for cancer research. Quite recently the Federal Government bought 150 grains of radium, costing £100,000 (a vastly greater sum than that spent by European countries with ten times the population of Australia). A specialist was also imported at £2,000 a year to show its use. Is each State now to be asked for thousands of pounds to carry on this cancer research work? Why any further research work at all? For years it has been carried on, and the cause of cancer is definitely known. It is diet, in at least 90 per cent. of cases occurring in the alimentary canal or its associated parts. Cancer in the early stage in operative cases may be successfully cured by the surgeon. In internal inoperative cases "we know no more about its cure than was known three thousands years ago" is declared by an eminent cancer expert. We do definitely know that radium will cause cancer, as those experts who have lost their limbs and lives testify. Radium has been used in research on cancer for more than 20 years. I have read much concerning the findings of the most able research workers. I have read of its disastrous results. Of its so-called scientific benefits I know little, and I know of no one who knows more. I regard this enormous expenditure of public money as a waste. Though the leader of this deputation to the Government stated that its object was to find out "the nature and cause of cancer," there are volumes of evidence from all civilised countries of research work during the past 25 years, which has definitely shown the cause of cancer. The only cure for cancer is proper food.

from the adjacent uncultivated mountain country. The greater part of the rice crop was sown under irrigation in small areas, surrounded with levee banks. An incredible amount of labor was used in planting and harvesting the rice crop. Every spear of rice was transplanted, and the whole of the crop at harvest was cut by hand. With Australia's broad fields, labor-saving machinery and few people, the Japanese system seemed crude and impossible, but in point of fact, the fields were so small that the use of farm machinery was impracticable. The more one studied the environment of these people and their immense numbers, the more difficult it was to see what other methods of cultivation they could use. Apart from the developments which might possibly be made by the use of machinery, the Japanese had greatly increased the yield of rice per acre during the last 40 years. The most spectacular increase in yield of rice was due to the intensive efforts of the rice breeders, who by cross-fertilisation and selection had evolved varieties highly adapted to the varying soil and climatic regions in Japan.

The Silk Industry.

One of the most remarkable industries of the Orient was that of silk production, and its manufacture into the most beautiful fabrics of the world. The total production of silk in China, Japan, and Korea was about £175,000,000 per annum, and that of Japan over £30,000,000 per annum. The improvement brought about in the silk industry was a remarkable triumph for Japanese applied science. Much attention had been given to the breeding of superior races of silkworms. All known varieties of silkworms were introduced into Japan and vigorously tested for silk producing capacity. After exhaustive trials a few strains were finally selected which proved superior in producing quantity and quality of silk. The sericultural station also discovered that certain diseases inimical to silkworms could be detected in the cocoon stage by the use of ultra violet light. These diseases in the silkworm brought about a physiological condition which affected the color of the cocoon when examined under ultra violet light. By the use of these means pure strains, free from hereditary disease, could be isolated with certainty. The average length of silk on the cocoon had been increased from 500 to 700 metres by selective breeding. Concurrently with the improvement in silkworm production came the intensification of mulberry culture. New types of mulberry had been developed, which produced larger yields of higher-grade leaf than the types formerly used. The production of raw silk exceeded £60,000,000, and was thus about the same value as the wool industry of Australia.

Tea.

Tea was obtained from the leaves of *Camellia theifera*, a dense bushy shrub with dark-green foliage. Almost all the tea produced in Japan was green tea. Three crops of leaves were usually gathered each season and picked by hand by women and children. After each picking the bushes were trimmed back with shears, thus giving the rows the appearance of carefully trimmed hedges. Landscape gardening was introduced into Japan from China in the sixth century, and development was gradual until the 14th century, when it became fashionable to have a classical garden. Immense sums were expended on gardens in the neighborhood of Tokyo, Kyoto, Kobe, Nikko, and other places. Huge rocks often transported great distances from the seashore or volcanic areas, and richly-tinted rocks from the mineral districts, were highly prized. One curious feature met with throughout Japan was the dwarfing or "nanization" practised on trees of all kinds. The Japanese were very expert at this art, which consisted of an attempt to check the natural development of plants by taking advantage of every trick or device that would enable them to take advantage of deformities. The principle appeared to be to retard the circulation of the sap by stunting the supply of water, confining the roots, bending the branches, clipping vigorous shoots, keeping them confined in pots, planting the trees in pots of insufficient size, refrigerating the ground, grafting—anything which would check natural development, until finally Nature gave up the unequal contest and yielded to art. The results were often remarkable, and one often found a perfect specimen of a maple or a pine tree 10 to 12 inches high, which would sell for hundreds of yen.

Japanese Flowers.

The Japanese, from the highest to the lowest, had a genuine passion for flowers. The flower season began with the blossoming of the plum trees (*Prunus mume*), the harbingers of spring. The blossoms burst about the middle of February. As a result of many years of careful selection and export cultivation, there were now thousands of varieties of chrysanthemum, varying in color from pure white to almost every conceivable shade, and varying in size from half-inch to huge masses of bloom. One of the strangest sights

at the chrysanthemum shows throughout Japan was to see six or more kinds of flowers of various colors growing on one stem. The Imperial Chrysanthemum Garden Party was held in November at the Imperial Palace, and one of the most interesting sights was the thousands of chrysanthemum plants of every possible variety set out in long avenues for the inspection of visitors. It constituted the finest collection in the Empire.

Agriculture in Java.

Java was one of the most important territories for tropical agriculture. No other country could show such a wide range of products or such a high standard of intensive cultivation. Java was probably one of the most fertile regions of the world. The combination of fertile soil, liberal rainfall, and uniformly high temperature, was unusually favorable for crop production. Nowhere in the world did density of population interfere less with the beauty of the landscape than in Java. What from the train appeared to be groves and tracts of forest were in reality villages, the houses of which were hidden by leafy foliage. Two classes of agriculture were practised—(1) Native which provided for the necessities of the local population, and (2) estate agriculture, for the most part a capitalistic industry which specialised on export products, sugar, rubber, coffee, tea, quinine, copra, and cocoa. Apart from the rice crop, which occupied eight million acres, or 25 per cent. of the total area of Java, the most important crop was sugar, the annual production of which amounted to 1,800,000 tons. The Dutch Government maintained a large Department of Agriculture, with strong scientific branches to foster and develop agriculture through the medium of research extension and demonstration. A unique feature was the extent to which private agricultural research institutes had been developed for each of the important estate crops, sugar, coffee, rubber, tea, tobacco. Although Java was smaller than England, contained no Manchesters or Sheffields, and had no minerals or secondary industries, it had a population of 33 millions, which it was able to feed from the produce of the soil and at the same time export £60,000,000 worth of agricultural products. This fine result was a great achievement for the Dutch, and a magnificent example of the effective harnessing of the wonderful natural bounty of tropical soils and the development of the natural resources of a country by the application of science.

went to the south of New Zealand, where he studied the glacial features of the fiords, and afterwards travelled to England via North America.

Sir Douglas said to-day that an American party had made preparations to commence almost immediately an extensive exploration of the South Polar regions, and members of the party should now be assembling at Dunedin, which would be the headquarters. There was a great deal of exploratory work yet to be done in polar regions, south of Australia, and he was hopeful that further investigations would be possible in the near future. The regions concerning which more information was desired were not a great distance from Australia, and they constituted a great continent twice the size of Europe. There were immediate economic possibilities and it was difficult to determine what the future held in store when the indications of the extensive mineral wealth were definitely established. Traces of minerals had been found to exist on the continent, which would always be a region of great interest to Australia.

The Commonwealth Government, he added, had decided to take steps to assist in sending an exploratory party, but the arrangements could not yet be disclosed. Asked for his opinion of the flights over the North Polar regions, Sir Douglas said that nothing of importance to the scientific world had been attempted. The purpose of the flights had not warranted the risks taken by those who had offered their lives and money in the ventures.

ADV. 27-9-28

THE UNIVERSITY OVAL.

A meeting of ratepayers of Adelaide will be held in the Town Hall to-morrow afternoon, to consider an application from the University for a fresh lease of the University Oval for a term of 21 years. The oval is held under two separate leases. The first, which was granted in 1908 for 6½ acres, expires next year. In 1919 a lease of an extra 2½ acres was granted for 10 years. At present the University boat shed is outside the leased area, and the authorities desire to surrender their present leases and take out a new lease for 21 years for the whole of the area, including that upon which the boat shed is built.

REG. 27-9-28

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

Cancer Treatment and Research.

Dr. Basedow was informed by the Premier that the quantity of radium for cancer treatment received from the Commonwealth Government for the Adelaide Hospital under a temporary arrangement was 106 milligrammes. The complete proportion to be allotted to South Australia was not yet known, and it would depend on the facilities provided at the Adelaide Hospital for research work and treatment.

REG. 27-9-28

His Excellency the Governor (Sir Alexander Hore-Ruthven, V.C.) presided at a meeting of Executive Council on Wednesday morning, and later at Government House presented letters patent of Knight Bachelor to Sir John Melrose and Lieut.-Col. Sir Henry Simpson Newland, C.B.E.

MAIL 29 9 28

BARRISTER AND SOLICITOR

Venture of Adelaide Woman

Although graduating in 1923, Miss Thelma E. Bleby was not admitted to the Bar until April, 1925, when she attained her majority. After more than three years of experience with legal firms in Adelaide she has decided to launch out on her own, and will begin practice in Eagle Chambers, Pirie street, on Monday.

Miss Bleby was for two and a half years with the firm of Baker, McEwin, Ligertwood & Millhouse, and since 1927 with Cleland & Teesdale Smith.

She is the second daughter of Canon Bleby (rector of St. Paul's Church, Pulteney street); and graduated in law when she was 19 years of age from the University of Adelaide.

Miss Bleby will be the third woman who is practising alone in Adelaide. Miss Dorothy Somerville and Miss Sheila Madford are the others.

REG. 26 9 28

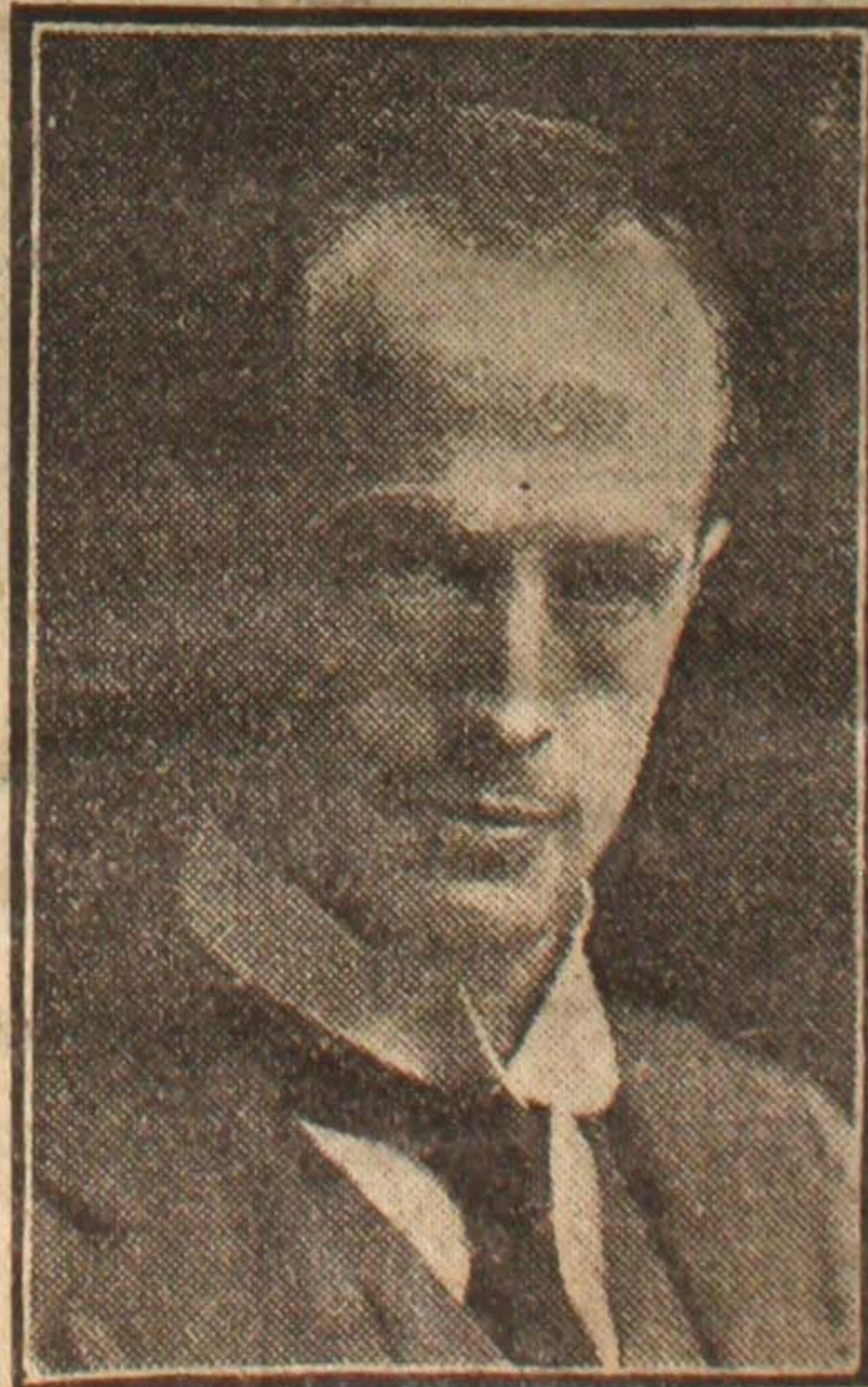
POLAR EXPLORATION.

Federal Government's Plans.

Chat With Sir Douglas Mawson.

PERTH, Tuesday.

After having made enquiries in England with regard to the possibilities of the continuation of exploration of Antarctic regions, Sir Douglas Mawson, the Australian explorer, reached Fremantle to-day on the Mooltan. Sir Douglas left Adelaide early in January to attend meetings of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science at Hobart. He then



SIR DOUGLAS MAWSON.