

# The Advertiser

ADELAIDE: THURSDAY,  
MARCH 7, 1935.

## CARE OF ABORIGINES

The annual meeting of the Aborigines' Friends' Association, held yesterday, will remind the public of the debt it owes to this philanthropic body, which, on society's behalf, has been laboring for many years to do the best that can be done for the survivors of the Stone Age whose lot happens to have been cast in our own State. It says much for the duration of the association's patient and unflinching efforts that its latest annual report is the 76th. Its attention is not restricted to the natives in South Australia, but extends to those of the whole of the continent. For long years its work was hampered by public indifference, which lay upon it "with a weight heavy as frost and deep almost as night." And even today the association is constrained to speak of a reproach still uttered abroad, and which "only a national policy can roll away," that we are indifferent to the fate of the aborigines. In a comparatively small way, we have begun to experience that "menace of color," of which Professor J. W. Gregory has written so suggestively, and which presents, we are now told, a problem that Parliaments, Federal and State, will have to face in the near future.

To the solution of this problem, the Association has already contributed in a number of ways for "educational purposes"; and its present report is concerned with the happenings of the past twelve months in its own particular field. With gold the price it is at present, the mining industry has naturally received an extraordinary stimulus throughout the continent, and reports have not been over-scrupulously invidious of that territory. The report has not a little to say about the havoc played with the Dilliba waterhole by adventurers in search of "Lasseter's lost reef." The waterhole, an ancient "soak," had long been frequented by the Dilliba tribe of the 100 miles from Hermannsburg, in the Ehrenberg Range; and its destruction has necessitated a movement for providing the natives with a new reserve in the vicinity of Haast's Bluff. One of the most important of the far northern mission stations is that of Hermannsburg, under the control of the "Fitz Roderick" Mission. It is more than 90 miles from Alice Springs, and eminently adapted as a place for the segregation of full-blooded blacks—a policy necessitated by the plan of reserving Alice Springs for whites and half-castes, exception being always made for full-bloods when in employment. But the Hermannsburg Mission has a larger population than its present one. The Federal help already accorded for its maintenance must be on a larger scale; and representations to this effect have already been made to Canberra. Happily for the provision of one urgent requirement, public generosity has responded to the appeal. It is for little more than £100 is now raised, to complete the fund being needed to furnish the mission with a continuous supply of water, thus freeing it from dependence on unstable creeks and waterholes. It is calculated that a pipe line from the Koolunga Springs, for the first time, will enable the station for the first time to defy recurring droughts. The readiness with which money has been subscribed for this work, is a proof at once of the open-handedness of Australians when their sympathies are moved, and of the approval of the work done quietly and almost unobserved by self-sacrificing and tireless laborers on the outskirts of the far-flung vineyard. Missionary endeavor among the Australian aborigines is carried on in no special degree, as was demonstrated when Mr. E. E. Kramer, the missionary of the Aborigines' Friends' Association, after relinquishing through ill-health a post involving long years of arduous labor among the aborigines in Central Australia, recommended the Frodo River

mission, which represents the United Methodist Church, as the organization best fitted to carry on the task, a recommendation enthusiastically adopted by the association.

But let the philanthropic and religious agencies be ever so zealous and energetic, it is after all the public which, through its administration, commands the larger part of the hapless people whose territory we have appropriated without even yet making adequate provision for their necessities. This, as we are reminded by the present report, can never be done till the natives are supplied with reserves, free of the danger of confiscation or curtailment the moment they are wanted for other purposes. No doubt there is a plausible ground for resuming reserves of which such inconsiderable use is made that they are little better than breeding grounds for rabbits and swarms of dogs, and a menace to neighboring property. But any attempt, while admitting the difficulty of the problem, demands a solution less drastic than resumption. In the case of Tennant's Creek Reserve, it is still more emphatic in its protest against depriving the natives of their means of subsistence.

You take my house, when you do take the prop  
That doth sustain my house; you take my life  
When you do take the means whereby I live.

One hesitates to ascribe to callousness what may be due to thoughtlessness, but in either case the effect was the same to the hapless natives at Tennant's Creek as for the prospectors, were transferred to a district almost destitute of native game, and with no permanent water supply. Had this bleak wilderness been subjected to an official investigation, its character must have been as apparent as it is to the members of the association, and the Federal Government would have been less ready to break its pledge that "no one would be permitted to exploit the native reserves for commercial purposes." The fact that the Government is the one they endeavor that no reserve will be deemed sacrosanct, and that, in addition to the loss of their homes, the natives will live in daily apprehension, as the association points it out, of the forfeiture of their ancient ceremonial rites and sacred places. That this would be a serious deprivation, is evident from what the voice of science, speaking through Professor J. B. Cleland, chairman of the Board of Anthropological Research at the Adelaide University, has to say as to the part played by ceremonialism in the restraint of vicious impulses, and the danger of destroying it before time is allowed for the incorporation of Christian principles and practices in tribal life.

## "Hear As Much Music As You Can"

Addressing new students of the Elder Conservatorium at a luncheon yesterday, Professor Harold Davies, the director of music at the Conservatorium, expressed a big union of past members of the Conservatorium. It had been proposed to him that a good time for the members of the Conservatorium was during the State's Centenary celebrations and the diamond jubilee of the University of Adelaide, next year. Professor Davies told the students that they were beginning their careers in a time when there were marvellous things you can do, and that his interest in absorbing and hearing as much music as you can, he added. He referred to the team work of students and the value of the University. Every pianist should have a good singer to work with, and every violinist a pianist.

Professor Davies proposed the toast of the "New Students," Mr. Harry Wilson, the toast of "Conservatorium Common-room Committee," and Mr. Hardman the toast of "Faculty of Music." Mr. F. J. Bevan replied to the last toast.

WITH one of his magnificent offers to advance the educational status of the colonists of South Australia, Sir Thomas Elder has given £1,000 towards establishing a new class of evening classes, so eloquently advocated at the meeting two nights ago. It is to be known as the "Elder" class, and the colonists, prompted by the same public spirit, will emulate as early as possible the example set by Sir Thomas Elder.

## £1,000,000 CHEMICAL WORKS

### Big Industry Projected For S.A. PLANT AT PORT Negotiations Reach Advanced Stage

If negotiations which are at present being conducted between the State and Federal Governments and Imperial Chemical Industries reach a successful issue, an industry will be established in the neighborhood of Port Adelaide which will involve an initial outlay of about £1,000,000, and give permanent employment to 400 workmen.

It is proposed to utilize long-lying tidal land on the east side of the river extending almost as far as St. Kilda, for the recovery of salt from sea water, and to establish at Fort Adelaide a chemical factory for the production from the salt of commercial sodium for the Australian market. At present large quantities of the chemicals which will be manufactured are being imported.

#### Purchasing Site

The negotiations now proceeding concern the purchase of certain properties near the Port River for the proposed works, and the lease of river frontages for wharves and for other purposes. The negotiations have been protracted by the need for consulting four State instrumentalities which have an interest in the land in question, the Agricultural Board, which owns portion of the land, the Mines Department, the Engineer-in-Chief, and the Department of Agriculture. Land on the east side of the river occupied by the Port Adelaide rifle range is also included in that which is to be purchased, and is owned by the Commonwealth Government. The Minister for Defence was visiting his visit to Adelaide this week.

The project was first brought officially before the public of the Government about two months ago, when Sir Lennox Rawls, Australian representative of Imperial Chemical Industries, and an expert chemist, specially from London, interviewed the Premier. Since then the Government has given the scheme all the encouragement it could offer, consistently with preservation of the State interests concerned. A commercial representative of the departmental activities interested in the land was formed to treat with the officials of the company, and when an agreement had been reached, the report will be transmitted to Imperial Chemical Industries, in London, for its approval. The next step, it is hoped will be the establishment of the industry.

#### Value To State

When the Premier's comment was sought yesterday, he said the establishment of the industry would do much. It would provide a large amount of permanent employment, in addition to that given by the building of the works.

"Evidently," he said, "the company has selected South Australia for its purposes, and it is not without cause. It would provide a large amount of permanent employment, in addition to that given by the building of the works."

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## Australian Delegates To Soil Science Conference

CANBERRA, Thursday.—The Acting Prime Minister (Dr. Page) announced today the Cabinet had appointed Prof. H. C. Richards, professor in the University of Queensland, and Mr. Geoffrey Samuel, formerly of the Waite Institute, South Australia, to represent Australia at the international conference of Soil Science at Oxford, England, next July and August.

Prof. Richards was in England on other business. Mr. Samuel is at present on the staff of Rothamsted Experimental Station in England.

## MORE MONEY FOR AIR FACILITIES

### Prof. Shann Supported

MELBOURNE, Thursday.—Agreement with the views of the professor of economics at Adelaide University (Prof. Shann) at a Commonwealth Club luncheon in Adelaide, that more money should be spent on air facilities in Australia was expressed today by the Minister of Defence (Mr. Parkhill) after his return from Adelaide.

Mr. Parkhill said he had adopted this policy, and as funds became available the Defence Department would increase its expenditure on the air arm, particularly civil aviation.

It was to get the latest information about machines, aerodromes, and commercial services that the Controller of Civil Aviation (Capt. E. C. Johnston) had been sent abroad, he said.

Dr. L. C. E. Lindon was granted an honorary commission by Executive Council today to inquire into and report on the state of the various neuro-surgical clinics in Great Britain and on the Continent.

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## PROF. WOOD JONES POSES PROBLEM

### Conspiracy Between Life And Chemical Elements?

MELBOURNE, March 7. In the span of an hour tonight, Professor Wood Jones traversed the whole development of natural science from the time of Aristotle. His address, "Unity in Nature," was delivered at the annual conference of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, and their friends, in the Central Hall, Adelaide. Three and a half centuries before Christ, had conceived a unity of plan in all animal life, Professor Wood Jones said. The idea had lapsed until in 1643 Sir Thomas Browne had shown that the whole of the animal kingdom was graduated, as on a staircase, in a regular succession from the simplest forms of animal life to the most complex.

"The conception of evolution had remained Browne's 'staircase,' but it had become a moving staircase. It was an interesting speculation that the living and the non-living staircases were part of the one great ladder of life."

Why, he asked, are there about 100 chemical elements, were carbon, hydrogen, and oxygen—the three essential components of living matter—distributed universally.

"Most people who are not hide-bound would say, 'What is the point, yes, we can see unity running through all the organic and the inorganic world,' Professor Wood Jones said. They would say, 'In each we see a purpose. We believe that the evolution of the inorganic was the precursor, whether by chance or by purpose, or organic evolution.' But one must go further. 'What is the purpose? The idea is particularly fitted for the sustenance of life? Why would nothing else have been done? It is a good thought. If we are to grant that there is a conspiracy between chemical elements and life, we must grant the order, 'include it within the creative purpose of evolution,' added Professor Wood Jones.

Dr. R. C. Bald, formerly lecturer in English at the Adelaide University, has been appointed to a similar position at the Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Dr. Bald had a brilliant university career. He graduated at the Melbourne University, where he took the M.A. degree, and won many scholarships and exhibitions. He then went to Cambridge, where he took the B.A. and Doctor of Philosophy. Dr. Bald is at present in England, completing researches in English literature, which were begun at the Folger Institute, Washington, U.S.A.