

Advertiser, June 10/11

Advertiser, June 10/11

Advertiser, June 14/11 430

"ADELAIDE UNIVERSITY WILL NOT BE BEHIND."

When Professor Henderson was giving evidence before the Education Commission on Friday, Mr. Ryan (chairman) asked if he could give an account of the research work that had been done by members of the Adelaide University professorial staff. "I want to show to staffs of other universities that our men have not been living in a sleepy hole, and that you have, in your spare time, done scientific work of value," said Mr. Ryan. Professor Henderson said he would be pleased to supply a list. When it was published he was sure Adelaide would be found not to be behind other universities. Any citizens who have watched the careers of the professors of the Adelaide University will admit that there is much to be placed to the credit of the men of science. Professor Bragg's researches into radio activity have stamped him as an authority on the subject; Professor Mitchell's "Structure and Growth of the Mind" is a standard psychological work; Professor Henderson himself has risen to fame by his publication "Life of Sir George Grey," which was favorably reviewed by London journals; Professor Jethro Brown has to his credit "The New Democracy," which gained for him the degree of Doctor of Literature of the Dublin University; Professor Chapman has made exhaustive enquiries into the matter of tides and tidal influence; Professor Darnley Naylor has published "English and Latin Idioms," and engaged in original work in classical literature. Then there are the papers of Mr. Howchin and Dr. Stirling and Dr. Douglas Mawson. Surely the list will bear comparison with any other that may be brought forward.

ABOUT EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor Henderson, who is chairman of the University extension lecture movement, was questioned about the value of the lectures by the chairman of the University and Higher Education Commission on Friday. The professor said the movement in this country was in a very flourishing condition, when compared with the movement in other places. He was giving a course that seemed rather dull, but he could fill the house a second time. Adelaide people made good audiences, and in the South-East the attendances recently had been better than ever before. Requests from the country for lectures were so numerous that the professors had been unable to comply with them all in the time at their disposal. It was exhausting work, and could not be done constantly. The lectures did good, because a lot of teachers who had gone out into the country received the benefit, and the stimulus of the lectures at a time when going on with the University work seemed unnecessary. Mr. Ryan asked if he would advise the Government to grant a few hundred pounds a year to obviate the necessity of charging admission to the lectures, and Professor Henderson said he doubted if it would be a wise course. Mr. Price had assisted country institutes a little, but people should not be led to think the lectures were brought to their doors, so to speak. If the lectures were made free they would be taken as entertainments, and people would not prepare for them. He believed in a small Government grant to municipalities, but things should not be made easier than they ought to be made.

PRESERVING OUR FAUNA AND FLORA.

If all the distinctly Australian species and varieties of fauna and flora at present in existence are to be preserved for the educational advantages of future generations of the human family prompt action with this end in view will have to be taken. For years past the successive Governments of this State have had the matter brought under their attention by scientists, with the result that a reserve has been established at Kangaroo Island. In November of 1909 an influential deputation waited on Mr. E. H. Coombe, at that time Commissioner of Crown Lands, with a request that the area of 60 square miles set apart on Kangaroo Island as a reserve for the Australian fauna and flora should be increased to 300 square miles. The Minister was sympathetic, and expressed regret that the course which the Government were then invited to take had not been adopted years earlier, when it would have been much easier to proclaim an extensive reserve than it then was. Although he was not sanguine that it would be practicable to comply fully with the request of the deputation he thought it would be possible to extend the reserve to 140 square miles. Yesterday the request that the whole area of 300 square miles previously asked for should be granted was renewed by representatives of 27 Australian societies and twelve corporations and district councils who waited on Mr. Vaughan. That they were enlisted in a worthy cause will be readily admitted. In the Commonwealth are many species of exceptional zoological interest, which are not represented in any other part of the globe. Some of these are already becoming rare, and from large districts have totally disappeared. It would be extremely regrettable if species, which may conceivably prove of inestimable value to the future biologist, and which would certainly be interesting to students who do not specialise in any particular branch of science, should be allowed to become extinct. Yet this is one of the inevitable prices which must be paid in connection with advancing civilisation and the growth of population unless some means are adopted to prevent such an undesirable consummation. The total loss of any one of the several forms of the marsupial group would be a distinct misfortune.

In Australia, as in other lands, there are not lacking evidences that whole families have disappeared. Indeed, nature unassisted seems to expend no more care in preserving the type than in protecting the individual. Tennyson wrote truly—

So careful of the type—but, no,
From scarp'd cliff and quarried stone
She cries—"A thousand types are gone,
I care for nothing; all shall go."

Evolutionary causes determine the disappearance of species and the emergence of new forms. But in these modern days when smallbore rifles and shotguns have been brought to a state of perfection not dreamed of a generation ago, the destruction of wild animals and birds proceeds at a rapid pace. Nor is there reason for surprise that in settled districts animals which may be considered a nuisance, or which have a commercial value, should be raided. Even the love of sport would account for a thinning out of some kinds of living creatures apart from any consideration of profit, while settlement without any deliberate attack on the native animal life does not leave the latter unaffected. If this be so in regard to the fauna it is still more largely the case in respect to some at least of the flora. Australia is rich in botanical species of a primitive order, which do not occur elsewhere, while there are other kinds which although found outside the Commonwealth have acquired distinctive features. "Forms belonging to early stages in plant evolution," says Mr. Knibbs, "exist upon this continent, which otherwise can only be studied as fossils in rocks of long past

Register, June 10/11

Register, June 14/11

MAWSON EXPEDITION.

ANOTHER £20,000 WANTED.

SYDNEY, June 13.

For the purpose of promoting public assistance to the Mawson antarctic expedition a meeting, convened by the Lord Mayor, was held in the town hall to-day. Among the speakers were the Lieutenant-Governor (Sir William Cullen) and Professor David. The latter explained that £20,000 had been collected in England. At least another £20,000 was required to fit out the expedition. He appealed to the public to show that they were in earnest in the endeavour to collect the money. If they did so the Federal Government would be almost sure to come to their assistance. Professor David mentioned that Dr. Mawson would take with him an aeroplane, to be worked by Lient. Williams. The meeting resolved that the newspapers be asked to open public subscription lists.

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION LECTURES.

Professor Henderson, giving evidence before the University Commission on Friday was asked to give some information about the extension lecture scheme, of the board of which he was President. He said the movement was flourishing, and a great many people in Adelaide were interested in the lectures. At present he was giving some that were rather dull, yet he found he could fill a house a second time with them. He had been to the south-east during the last two years, and there found the interest in the movement growing. The audiences at Narracoorte, Mount Gambier, and Millicent were now—in the third year—larger than ever before. Requests from country districts for lectures were now so numerous that the staff was not able to comply with them all. It was very exhausting work, and it was impossible for a man to keep at it indefinitely when he had also his ordinary duties to perform. The professors did what they could, and had various groups, which they took in the holidays, as well as the lectures in the city. He thought the extension lectures in the country did much good. There were a lot of teachers in the rural districts, for instance, going on with routine work, and it was a considerable stimulus when such came in contact with persons perhaps a little on the ideal side. The Chairman (Mr. Ryan, M.P.), asked Professor Henderson whether he would approve a Government grant to enable free extension lectures to be provided. The witness replied that that was a debatable question. The Price Government had extended free railway passes for the lecturers. He doubted whether more should be done, and that education be taken to people's doors and given to them without effort on their own part. If it were made free some in the country centres would regard the lectures as a sort of entertainment, and would not take the trouble to benefit by them that they would if they had to pay a small fee. He would approve a small sum being voted to the local governing bodies to help on the extension lectures, but the conditions should not be made easier than they ought to be in connection with the imparting of the instruction.