

A BRITISH SCIENCE EXPEDITION.

ADVANCE PARTY AT ADELAIDE.

When the P. & O. branch liner Ballarat approached the Outer Harbor on Saturday afternoon she was observed to be flying a mysterious flag, in addition to her usual number. It was chiefly blue, with gold lettering, which could not be deciphered at a distance. Customs and wharf officials and various shipping men all had to admit they could offer no suggestion regarding its significance. It subsequently proved to be the colors (red, blue, and gold) of the British Pacific science expedition, 1922, and these were the words blazoned on it on one side. The reverse bore the names of the advance party of the expedition, who were on board. The party are all specialists in particular branches of science. They are Messrs. Lucius B. Conolly, F.R.G.S. (leader), Albert E. Church, F.R.G.S. (ornithology), R. A. Prescott, F.R.G.S. (mammals), Hugh Morton Frewen, F.R.C.I. (entomologist), and B. A. C. Finday (topography). A representative of "The Advertiser" was fortunate in meeting the party together on board, Mr. Conolly, the leader, acting as spokesman. Each looked the kind of man one would select for an adventurous expedition of this kind.

Mr. Conolly said the people of Australia had already been made aware of the main objects of the expedition. There was great interest in England concerning the island of New Guinea, which is 1,490 miles long, with a maximum breadth of 430 miles, and the opinion was that the island would become one of the most wonderful and valuable parts of the Empire. The wide scope of their scientific investigation would probably be the means of discovering many ways in which the country could be developed, apart altogether from the value of their work to science. The main expedition would necessarily be a large one, probably embracing about 32 Europeans, with about 400 native police and carriers. The main object was the thorough practical scientific exploration of the unexplored portions of British New Guinea.

"These are facts," said Mr. Conolly, "of which you have probably already been made aware. We have a strong committee supporting the project, of which the Earl of Plymouth is the chairman and the Earl of Darnley vice-chairman. Mr. Neal McNeill is directing at the headquarters, Newman-street, London. We are the preliminary expedition of the British Pacific Science Expedition, 1922, and we carry letters of introduction to the Governor-General, the Prime Minister, and the Governors of the various States of the Commonwealth. Our duties are to make all necessary arrangements for the official reception and recognition of the main expedition, both in Australia and New Guinea. We intend making Melbourne our headquarters in Australia, and will stay there between a fortnight and a month. It is then probable that we will go to Cape York to study the mining and geological conditions there, which are very similar to those prevailing in New Guinea. After spending some months in Australia we shall go on to New Guinea and sail round the coast from the Dutch boundary on the south, up the Fly River to where it is joined by the Strickland River, and there select a base camp for the main expedition. That accomplished, we shall return to the mouth of the Fly and continue eastward, touching at Port Moresby and Samarai, selecting camps for the expedition where necessary en route. From Samarai we shall go north-west up the coast to a point about 50 miles east of the Dutch boundary on the north coast, and there select the main base camp for the expedition. We shall take about 30,000 ft. of film of such parts of the country we encounter likely to be of special interest. We have received the greatest possible encouragement from many wealthy people in England and from the English and Continental press. We are prepared to spend £80,000 on the work, which will occupy about four years."

Mr. Conolly was asked if any provision had been made to allow the addition of local men to the expedition. He pointed to a pile of letters which had just been brought on board, and said, "These are applications I have just received. We have room for three more members. We have received many applications, but the men who join us must be either ex-public school or ex-service men, sound in health, and of independent means, for our advance party are financing themselves."

The party stated they were greatly indebted to the captain of the Ballarat (Captain S. C. Warner) and his officers for the kindly assistance given to them in every way during the voyage out.

RHODES SCHOLARSHIPS.

The statement for the academic year 1921-22 has just been issued by The Rhodes Trust, London. From an Australian viewpoint, the report is very satisfactory. During the year 72 Rhodes scholars took up residence, while the number actually in college for either the whole or some part of the academic year was 300. There were 158 from the British Empire and 144 from the United States of America. Of the 17 subjects taken by the students, law, natural science (including medicine), and modern history, were favoured in that order. The examination results contain the following successes by Australians:—B.Sc. Degree—H. I. Coomba (S.A.), natural science. B. Litt. Degree—P. M. Hamilton (Vic.), literature humaniores; D. M. Sandral (Vic.), modern history. Final Honours Schools, Second Class—Natural Science—C. E. G. Beveridge (Vic.), and S. Howard (S.A.) physiology. Jurisprudence—K. A. Burton (W.A.), H. T. Stables (W.A.), and V. H. Trestt (N.S.W.). Modern History—W. S. Kent Hughes (Vic.). Theology—F. W. Paterson (Q.). Third Class—Modern History—A. W. Whelan (N.S.W.). Shortened Honours Courses—Modern History—C. S. Rayner (Tas.), with distinction. Diplomas—Education—P. M. Hamilton (Vic.). Satisfied examiners. Academic Distinctions at Oxford—W. M. Jones (N.Z.), H. L. Brose (S.A.), A. O. Ponder (N.Z.). Admissions to Read for Advanced Degrees.—B.Sc.—W. M. Jones (N.Z.), A. O. Ponder (N.Z.). B. Litt.—R. N. Kershaw (N.S.W.), W. A. Merrydees (Vic.). Athletics.—The following represented Oxford against Cambridge:—Rugby football, A. W. L. Row (Q.), T. Lawton (Q.); hockey, W. M. Jones (N.Z.); lawn tennis, R. R. P. Barbour (Q.), A. S. W. (N.S.W.); relay races, W. S. Kent Hughes (Vic.), P. M. Hamilton (Vic.), S. Howard (S.A.); lacrosse, W. S. Kent Hughes (Vic.); water sports, T. Lawton (Q.); English Amateur Championship (440 yards), W. S. Kent Hughes (Vic.). Publications.—H. L. Brose (S.A.), translated Alex. Mozkowsky's "Einstein, the Searcher," and Hermann Weyl's "Space, Time, Matter." The academic year 1922-23 started with 262 Rhodes scholars in residence.

Register Jan 31st

OBITUARY.

The news published in The Register on Tuesday from our Hobart correspondent of the capturing of a flat-bottomed boat on the Arthur River 30 miles inland from Stanley, by which Dr. J. L. Glasson, M.A., lost his life marks the termination of a brilliant scholastic career. Dr. Glasson (who was the eldest son of Dr. and Mrs. J. Glasson of Kadina, and grandson of the late Mr. Langsford, of Norwood) was in his thirty-fourth year; but during his short career he had signally distinguished himself. His early death is a distinct loss to Australia. When the late Hon. T. Price M.P., inaugurated the high school movement in South Australia and linked with it the system of exhibitions and bursars (by means of which advanced scholars of our public schools were able to pursue their studies at colleges and high schools), he gave much-needed encouragement to the youths of both sexes to exercise the gifts with which Nature had endowed them. There is a long list of successes gained by these scholars in the educational realm, which has become a fine asset to the State as well as being advantageous to the students themselves. Conspicuous among these gifted scholars of our public schools was the late Dr. Glasson. He won an exhibition while attending the Norwood State School, which gave him three years at Prince Alfred College. Here he made good use of his opportunities by winning scholarships which passed him on to the University, and soon the degrees of B.A. and B.Sc. were secured by him. He was the first to obtain the

Science Research Scholarship awarded in this State, which enabled him to proceed to Cambridge. While at this university he wrote a thesis which secured him the M.A. degree. Returning to South Australia, he was associated with Professor Kerr Grant, and later obtained the Doctor of Science degree. He was next appointed lecturer in physics at the Hobart University, and at the same time was made consulting physicist to the hydro-electric works at Risdon, near Hobart. Wishing to prosecute further science research work he returned to Cambridge. He came still more into prominence by contributing a thesis known as "Glasson's Rays" in the Philosophical Works of England. He was fortunate in working with the greatest scientists of the day, viz., Professors Bragg, J. J. Thomson, and Rutherford. In 1922 Melbourne University claimed his services, which have been spoken of in the highest terms. At the end of last year he went for his vacation to Tasmania. The late Dr. Glasson married Miss Elvie Scott, of Launceston. He has left a widow, son, and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Glasson, of Kadina lost their second son (John Langsford Glasson) in the late year. Very general sympathy is expressed by their large circle of friends.

Advertiser 31.1.23



Dr. Glasson.

Register 1.2.23

CAUGHT IN THE RAPIDS.

DR. GLASSON'S FATE.

The following additional particulars of the boating tragedy on the Arthur River, in Tasmania, in which Dr. Glasson lost his life, are from The Age, of January 30:—A sensational experience befell a party from Stanley on the Arthur River on Sunday. The whole party was capsized in the rapids, and after they had struggled ashore and assembled, Dr. J. L. Glasson, of Melbourne University, who, with his wife and family, was a guest of Mr. H. S. Baker, of Stanley, was found to be missing. Search parties were organized, but without success.

The party consisted of Mr. M. Brumby, Council Clerk of Stanley; Mr. H. S. Baker, solicitor, of Stanley, and Dr. J. L. Glasson. They journeyed on Saturday to Arthur River sawmill, where they met Mr. Raven, from the Museum of Natural History, New York, and his assistant (Mr. Anderson), who were collecting marsupials, &c., for the museum. The five arranged a trip up the Arthur River in a flat-bottomed boat, owned by Mr. Raven. It took some hours to travel past the rapids, and it was about 6 p.m. on Sunday when they began the return journey. The boat was travelling at a great rate through the rapids when it struck a snag and all the occupants were upset in the river. Brumby managed to get ashore, and Baker found himself close to a rock upon which he was able to climb. Anderson got ashore on the opposite bank, and Raven and Glasson got hold of the boat and were carried into the middle of the stream. After a little time Raven found he was alone. With the aid of a knife he managed to divest himself of some of his clothes, and finally he was able to scramble ashore. In the meantime those who had gone ashore knew nothing of what was happening downstream, and when Raven joined them they were horrified to find that Glasson was missing. A search

was made along the bank, but no sign of the missing man could be found, and when they put back to the sawmill a search party was organized.

On Friday another party went out, and the police engaged in dragging operations, but the latest reports were that they were unsuccessful.

Advertiser 1.2.23

Additional Examinations

Colonel Frederic Dougan Bird, C.B., a leading Melbourne surgeon who has retired after 40 years in active practice, has been spending a few days in Adelaide prior to his departure by the steamer *Ulysses* to-day on a health trip to England. Colonel Bird was lecturer on surgery at the University of Melbourne from 1896 until about two years ago, and for a long period his services were availed of by the University of Adelaide as an examiner in anatomy and surgery. He is a past president of the Medical Society of Victoria, and was President in Surgery at the Medical Congress held in Adelaide in 1905. In 1914, with the rank of lieutenant-colonel, accompanied the first Australian expedition to the war, and rendered distinguished service with the R.A.M.C. in Egypt, the Mediterranean, Macedonia, and England, being mentioned three times in dispatches. Colonel Bird was accompanied to Adelaide by his son, Mr. Dougan Bird, who will return to Melbourne to-day.

Advertiser 3.3.23

WAR ON LECTURES.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNABLE TO LISTEN AND WRITE.

Student braves of London are on the warpath. The first shot was fired by the students from "Vincula," the University of London magazine:—

"The average lecture is lunacy. The undergraduate, struggling with increasing studies, is in the grip of a system which wastes his time, gives him writer's cramp, and works his mental ruin. Drug manufacturers who endow university chairs must find the bread thus cast on the waters coming back to them after not so many days in the form of an enormous demand by exhausted students for sedatives and cotton-wool for use during lectures, and tonics for use afterwards. It is amazing that this madness should have existed so long. Note-taking is the root of the evil. Students cannot take notes and listen to the lectures. Text-books give all the information that most lectures do."

The big guns of the professors are vigorously replying to the bombardment. "If reading books is all that is necessary, then surely the need for a university disappears," says Professor L. N. G. Dixon. "Plato and Aristotle lectured, and it looks as if a habit, some 2,400 years old, continuous through all that time, had something in it," contends Dr. Ernest Barker. Dr. Johnson is also quoted. "Lectures," he said, "were once useful, but now, when all can read, and books are so numerous, lectures are unnecessary."

Register 3.3.23

OBITUARY.

The friends of Mrs. Edward Denys (nee Otilie Uffindell) will learn with regret of her death on Sunday, January 21, at the residence of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Uffindell, of The Olives, Lower Mitcham. Apart from her attractive personality and exceptional musical talent, Mrs. Denys endeared herself to many fellow-students by her cheerful disposition and keen appreciation of all the latest developments in the world of music and art. A winner of the gold medal for senior pianoforte (Association Board) in 1906, she was awarded the Elder Scholarship for three years at the Adelaide Conservatorium, where she studied under Mr. Bryceson Trehearne. She has left one little daughter (Clare).