

the like. He believed we were blundering along to something better and not worse, and summed up "that language ranks highest which goes furthest in the art of accomplishing much with little means, or, in other words, which is able to express the greatest amount of meaning with the simplest mechanism." We had already seen how the desire for ease had simplified pronunciation, the same desire had shortened words, and without producing any serious consequence, namely, "cupboard" and "blackguard," "England" for "Engaland," "idolatry" for "idololatri." The English had still a few verbal inflexions, and, to be frank, they were often a nuisance. Who had not boggled over "either you or I are wrong," "either you or I am wrong?" Dean Alford proposed as a solution, "either you or I is wrong." In fine, we could pay too dearly for the devices of inflexional languages. There was, however, one thing to fear, namely, the danger of making language tame and monotonous. Even the most stubborn of anti-Latinists would admit the musical charm (save when spoken at Oxford) of Horace's Odes. Jespersen's last chapter was devoted to the origin of language, said the lecturer, in conclusion. He summed up with this formula:—"The evolution of language shows a progressive tendency from inseparable irregular conglomerations to freely and regularly combinable short elements." The aborigines of Tasmania had no words representing abstract ideas; for each variety of gum tree and wattle tree, &c., they had a name; but they had no equivalent for the expression of "a tree." English showed traces of ancient love of superfluous vocabulary when it was said with meticulous care, a flock of sheep, a pack of wolves, a herd or mob of cattle, a bevy of larks (and ladies), a covey of partridges, a shoal of fish. So with Mohicans. The Zulus had words for "red cow," "white cow," &c., but no word for "cow." The natives of Tierra del Fuego had 20 words, some four syllables, to express "he or she." It was not surprising that a vocabulary of 30,000 words had been drawn up. Certainly we need not envy them such a word as "mamihlapinatapai," which signified "to look at each other hoping that either will offer to do something which both parties desire but are unwilling to do." The evidence in general seemed unquestionably to support the conclusion which Jespersen drew from it. "Language," he said, "began with half-musical unanalyzed expressions for individual beings and solitary events. Languages composed of, and evolved from, such words and quasi-sentences are clumsy and insufficient instruments of thought, being intricate, capricious, and difficult. But from the beginning the tendency has been one of progress, slow and fitful progress, but still progress towards greater and greater clearness, regularity, ease, and pliancy."

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR.

Retirement of Professor Mitchell.

In his address, delivered at the Commemoration Day ceremonial at the Adelaide University on Wednesday, the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) referred to the retirement from the Chair of Philosophy of Professor Mitchell. He said the appointment was made in 1894, and that the University was extremely fortunate when it attracted that gentleman to the position. (Applause.) Had he not come to Adelaide he would, the Chancellor believed, have succeeded the late Professor Lawrie in the Chair of Education in the University of Edinburgh. Apart from the distinction he had brought to the University by his reputation as a philosopher Dr. Mitchell had experienced a stimulating influence upon its growth and development, which it was impossible to measure. (Applause.) Elected a member of the Council in 1896, he shared, with Sir William Bragg, the credit of having initiated the arrangement with the Government under which the University undertook to provide, without charge, two years' tuition for all the teachers in course of training for the Education Department of the State. It was Professor Mitchell, too, who advised the abolition of the old rigid course for the degrees of B.A. and B.Sc., and the substitution of a higher standard, that might be taken at any time. Long before he was appointed Vice-Chancellor in 1916, Dr. Mitchell was our recog-



PROFESSOR MITCHELL, Vice-Chancellor of the University, who upon having resigned from the Chair of Philosophy, has been appointed Emeritus Professor of Philosophy.

nised authority on the theory and practice of education, and he still held our confidence in that regard. He was happy to say that Dr. Mitchell was not severing his connection with the University. (Applause.) He would continue to hold the office of Vice-Chancellor, and he would still be Professor Mitchell, for the Council had conferred upon him, as a mark of honour, the title of Emeritus Professor of Philosophy.



MR. A. W. PITT, Who has also been promoted to an inspectorship.

—A Scholastic Career.—
Mr. Arthur William Pitt, M.A., B.A., who is a nephew to his newly appointed fellow-inspector, Mr. Hand, is only 30 years of age, and, as his degrees and career indicate, has been a hard-working and highly regarded member of the State educational staff. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. Pitt, of Toorak. He began his scholastic career at the Rose Park School, where from 1898 to 1901 he was a pupil teacher. He then spent two years at the Teachers' Training College, and as a consequence was appointed assistant master at the Norwood School on January 1, 1904. After two years he was transferred to Port Pirie, and in 1908 he was promoted to the staff of the Adelaide High School, where he remained until 1913, when for a short time he took over as assistant master at the Moonta High School. On February 2, 1913, he was returned, at his own express wish to the primary ranks, and thus became chief assistant master at North Adelaide. He held that position until 1916, when he was appointed head teacher at the Victor Harbour School. Mr. Pitt was selected for that promotion because it had been found necessary to conduct a small high school in conjunction with the primary school in that district. Mr. Pitt offered his services to the Australian Army, and for some time served as a private with the 8th Battery in France. On the signing of the armistice he was given the rank of sergeant under the educational scheme conducted by the A.I.F. in France. He returned to Australia in July, 1919, and was given command of the Edwardstown School, from which he was promoted to Port Augusta as head teacher, where he remained until the time of his appointment as inspector. That school was made a higher primary school in January of the present year. Mr. Pitt took his B.A. degree in 1906, and in 1915 he became an M.A.

Wilton), and had requested him to endeavor to induce the directors of the Science Congress, to be held presently at Wellington, to make forestry a subsection. The president of the League had been appointed to represent the League for consultation or otherwise during the congress. There was every reason to believe that the authorities thus addressed were in sympathy with their objects. Meanwhile they had the satisfaction of reflecting that at a previous meeting of the association the various forest leagues were formed into a Federal body. Since that step was taken the movement had advanced. The official report of Mr. Walter Gill, the Conservator of Forests, to whom Australia owed so much for his practical zeal in promoting forestry, showed that about three-quarters of a million forest trees had been planted last season, and that the total ascertainable value of the property of the Forest Department was £400,000. That amount, although substantial, was not nearly adequate, but the fact was not the fault of the conservator. Mr. H. H. Corbin, the well-known eminent scientific and practical forestry expert, would convince anyone who might cherish a lingering doubt on the point that an economic relations should be preserved between the national debt and the national forests. There was some gratification in the knowledge that forest conservation and extension had proved to be profitable to the Government, as witness Kuitipo among other forests; and that experiments such as those being promoted by the Zinc Corporation at Myponga showed that there was money in forestry for the private investor. Any landlord who planted half-a-dozen acres of pines on the birth of each of his children and vested the proceeds as a dowry for the child, would find that he had made important provision for the little ones after years. (Applause.)
Sir Douglas Mawson spoke on "Railways and Timber Freights." He said the question of forestry and agriculture were closely related. In South Australia they had great need to press for the cultivation of forests. It was important that timber should be sold to the best possible advantage. It was not so easy to place timber on the market as was sometimes supposed. Local timber had to compete with the timber cut from the large reserves of other parts of the world. But though that was the position to-day, a different state of things would obtain in the future as these great foreign reserves became used up. In the meantime some assistance would be required for the locally-grown timber. Some of the South Australian timber was of poor quality, but it could be comparatively cheaply cut in some instances. Timber in the Mount Lofty ranges, for instance, might be utilised for mining purposes at Broken Hill, if it could be supplied cheaply enough. The mine manager mostly preferred soft wood to stringy bark if the prices were equal. But if the Australian timber could be supplied cheaply enough it would be used. At present it was costly to get the timber from the Mount Lofty ranges to Broken Hill. They might reasonably ask the railway authorities to make some concession in the freight rates for Australian timber. If this encouragement were given it would have the effect of inducing landowners to plant trees. (Applause.)
Mr. H. H. Corbin dealt with the subject of "A million acres of forest land." He said every tree was worth potential money. They needed forests because they must have raw materials for every industry. The forests would produce some of these raw materials. Forests improved climatic conditions, and indirectly tended to assist production generally. Forests were useful in many ways. At present South Australia was roughly obtaining £400,000 worth of timber annually from abroad. The requirements were approximately £500,000 worth. Supplies from abroad were not assured. The only way to assure such supplies was to produce them locally. The State would not be able for all time to continue to get supplies from abroad. Lord Novar, when Governor-General of Australia, had said everything pointed to a world-wide timber famine in the near future, when few, if any, countries with timber reserves would have any left for export. So far as one could judge Australia would be the country which would first feel the pinch, just as she was able most quickly to make good her shortage. (Applause.) This opinion was corroborated by other authorities. Fire was destroying large quantities of timber in different parts of the world, and the ordinary demand was increasing continually. There could be no doubt that the supplies were gradually decreasing. South Australia should have a million acres of forest. In twenty years the requirements would probably be 70,000,000 cubic feet annually. An acre would produce 70 cubic feet a year. Therefore, to meet the probable demand of twenty years hence, a million acres of forest for prime timber purposes would be essential for their own requirements. The forests should be studied about in the heavy rainfall areas. That would only be 12 per cent. of the land within the 20 inch rainfall districts. (Applause.)

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In conferring the degree of Doctor of Laws upon Mr. T. Hewitson, S.M., at the annual commemoration of the University on Wednesday, the Chancellor (Sir George Murray) said it gave him more than ordinary pleasure to do so, as he and Mr. Hewitson were fellow students in the University from 1881 to 1884, and Mr. Hewitson was the first graduate to win the Stow Prize and the first to receive the degree of Bachelor of Laws in the University of Adelaide.

Mr. C. T. Maddigan, who is a Master of Arts of the University of Oxford, was admitted to the rank and privileges of the same degree in the University of Adelaide at the Commemoration gathering on Wednesday. The Chancellor (Sir George Murray), in making special reference to Mr. Maddigan's career, said he had the pleasure a few years ago of joining in his election as a Rhodes Scholar. Not long after he went to Oxford Mr. Maddigan obtained permission to accompany Sir Douglas Mawson on his expedition to Adelia Land, in the Antarctic. When he returned he went to the war, and afterwards to the Soudan. Now he was on the staff of the University of Adelaide.

Miss F. Batchelor, a daughter of Mr. H. E. Batchelor, of the "Hansard" staff and a niece of the late Hon. E. L. Batchelor, is the first lady to gain the diploma of education as the result of examinations conducted by the University of Adelaide.

Advertiser 15-12-22

THE LEAGUE OF FORESTRY.

AN IMPORTANT CONFERENCE.

A conference of the South Australian branch of the Australian Forest League was held at the Town Hall on Thursday evening, when Sir William Sowden (president) occupied the chair. There were present, in addition to members of the League, representatives of several other societies interested in the planting and conservation of trees.
The Chairman said soon after the beginning of the new year the committee of the League decided to invite to a conference all other bodies with kindred purposes. The responses were gratifying, and the gathering that night was the outcome. Eventually he hoped to see formed a Parliamentary committee on forestry, with the function of watching the interests of forest conservation and afforestation, as the Parliamentary committee for institutes attended to the welfare of those important institutions. There should be no partyism in such a connection. The Forest League had also communicated with the local representatives of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science (Professor